

Public Document Pack



Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

Monday, 20 January 2025 at 6.30 p.m.
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

S. Young

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Geoffrey Logan (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor Sandra Baker	Labour
Councillor Victoria Begg	Labour
Councillor Louise Goodall	Labour
Councillor Eddie Jones	Labour
Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones	Labour
Councillor Tony McDermott	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Mike Ryan	Labour
Councillor Aimee Skinner	Labour

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

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

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. MINUTES	1 - 8
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.	
3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	9 - 11
4. PERFORMANCE MONITORING	
(A) QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT 1ST JULY 2024 – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024 - Q2	12 - 24
5. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES	
(A) SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN HALTON IMPROVEMENT PLAN	25 - 35
(B) A REPORT ON THE WORK TO DATE ON DBV AND IMPACT	36 - 42
(C) NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAINING (NEET) AND WHOSE ACTIVITY IS NOT KNOWN TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY	43 - 50
6. COUNCILWIDE SPENDING AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2024	51 - 111

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, 11 November 2024 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Logan (Chair), Baker, Begg, Goodall, Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, Ratcliffe and Ryan

Apologies for Absence: Councillors C. Plumpton Walsh, McDermott and Skinner

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, B. Holmes, K. Appleton, C. Finch, D. Roberts and J. Dunning

Also in attendance: S. Walker – Department for Education and Councillor T. McInerney (in accordance with Standing Order No. 33)

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

	<i>Action</i>
CYP18 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2024 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
CYP19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CYP20 QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT 1ST APRIL 2024 - 30TH JUNE 2024 .	
<p>The Board considered a report from the Executive Director, Children's Services, which informed Members of the key performance indicators identified to measure progress against each of the priorities identified within the Children and Young People Plan.</p> <p>The format of the Quarterly Monitoring Report (QMR) had changed from previous reporting, in order to comply with the new corporate reporting template. The performance measures of the QMR had also changed, to correlate with</p>	

the priorities identified in the newly launched Children and Young People Plan.

It was noted that the quarter 1 QMR was presented to the Board at the September meeting in the old format with the old measures. The new formatted report included the quarter 1 data, but reported on the new measures, so is able to demonstrate to Members the format and allow for comments so that any amendments could be made in preparation for future reporting.

The following performance indicators were questioned by Members:

P2.2 – this was found to be a typographical error as progress had increased from 12% to 17%;

P2 3-6 – the information was not provided as it related to quarter 2 data which was not ready. This would be presented going forward in this new template;

P3 – 6 & 7 – challenges continued with the new Speech and Language provider as they struggled to recruit staff and because of this, clients had to be prioritised according to need. This has since improved and they were now fully staffed so an improvement was expected. It was suggested that a report on the Speech and Language Service be included on the next PPB agenda;

P5 1-4 – there were unprecedented numbers of school suspensions and exclusions last year. This was a national issue and was thought to be related to social, mental and emotional health issues with some children, resulting from the Covid period. Officers were working with schools on this issue, although it was noted that any solutions would take time to get through the system and show improvements. There was no evidence that school exclusions were related to the aspirations of a schools exam results. If a pupil was presenting with behaviour problems all schools were encouraged to flag this up with the Local Authority. This would be reiterated at the upcoming Governors' conference;

P 6.5 – management of those children being home educated (Electively Home Educated) was explained to Members. There were two dedicated Home Education Officers employed by the Council, who monitored the quality of education being provided at home by carrying out reviews. The recent Ofsted inspection did highlight that Halton's EHE service was robust. A School Attendance Order was explained, which was used when Home Education Officers

considered the home provision to be inadequate. Debate around social interaction, support for EHE children, safeguarding, home visits and taking exams took place.

The Chair commented that some secondary school curriculums did not offer any creative GCSE's. This was noted and Officers advised that a curriculum review was being conducted by the new Government.

RESOLVED: That the quarterly monitoring report (QMR) is accepted as the mechanism by which Elected Members can monitor and scrutinise progress going forward.

Executive Director
of Children's
Services

CYP21 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE HIGH COST PLACEMENTS

The Board received a report from the Executive Director, Children's Services, which provided an update on high cost placements within Children's Social Care.

Children's Social Care had seen an increase in the need to use residential provisions over a number of years due to a reducing number of foster carers and difficulties nationally to recruit foster families. This shortage of foster families has led to an increase in the use of residential placements and the age of children living in residential provisions has reduced.

The report provided details of the three highest cost placements and the circumstances surrounding these. It also outlined the efforts being made to engage with providers to establish provisions locally for children that meet their needs.

It was confirmed that the High Cost Place Panel was now in place and some results were being shown. In response to challenges from Members the following additional information was given:

- It was suggested that the High Cost Place Panel has central Government representation – this was currently not the case but the Director would look into the possibility of this;
- The imposing of rate/cost controls on providers – this had been looked into but no progress made so far, although it was still very much an ongoing conversation, so still on the agenda;
- It was recognised that a regional stance was needed in negotiating yearly uplifts from providers;
- The Council has appointed a commissioner

specifically for Children's Social Care placements and to date, this had seen some costs reduce and significant savings had been made; and

- It was suggested that a scrutiny topic group be established to look into this issue further.

The challenges faced by Children's Services was recognised by the Board as it was a high demand service competing in market with a low number of providers. To add to this, placement costs were continually rising year on year.

Officers would evidence the total amount of savings being made since the introduction of the Commissioner's role and present at a future meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

Executive Director
of Children's
Services

CYP22 ANNUAL REPORT - COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES 1ST APRIL 2023- 31ST MARCH 2024

The Board received the Annual Report – Comments, Complaints and Compliments, relating to Children's Social Care Services from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

The Annual Report, a statutory requirement, provided an analysis of complaints processed under the Children's Act 1989 Representation's Procedure and evidenced how feedback from service users had been used to improve delivery. A summary of complaints received during the 2023-24 period was provided on page 60 of the agenda.

The report also provided Members with an update and feedback on compliments made by clients and positive feedback from workers / professionals relating to Children's Services in the Directorate. The report demonstrated the positive impact and outcomes on the lives of people accessing services in this Directorate.

In response to a question regarding the turnover of social workers, this could be for many reasons such as promotions, some retiring and some leaving the profession, so there was always movement within this area. Halton was however, still committed to its Retention Strategy, as discussed in previous meetings.

RESOLVED: That the reports presented are accepted as the mechanism by which Elected Members can monitor and scrutinise Children's Social Care complaints and compliments.

CYP23 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Board considered a report from the Executive Director, Children's Services, which provided an update on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Plan, in particular the progress made against the targets set out in the Delivering Better Values (DBV) Grant.

DBV is a Department for Education (DfE) Programme working to identify and implement local opportunities to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND across 54 local authorities and aid local systems in their objective of achieving financial sustainability. Halton was identified as being eligible to apply for DBV grant funding and was awarded £1m, to primarily build resilience across all educational systems to support and include learners with social, emotional, and mental health needs. This additional funding presented a significant opportunity to positively transform inclusive practices across Halton.

The report described in detail the various projects and initiatives being delivered in Halton's schools under the DBV and the costs associated with these to date.

It was reported that Halton was taking a different approach to other local authorities in that it was using an innovative approach and targeting the funding into the schools themselves. This was being closely monitored by the Department for Education who were happy with this. All school settings were included in the Programme and positive responses had been received, after receiving feedback from many headteachers.

Further to questions, it was commented that the impacts of the program would follow, but long term impacts were expected. The data collated was analysed by Halton analysts'. The *Team around the School* also worked with the Programme, which added prevention and inclusion measures. It was also commented that an exit strategy was included in the Programme, as this was a requirement of the grant.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments made be noted.

CYP24 HALTON'S VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

The Board received the Headteacher of the Virtual

School's Annual Report for 2023-24, on the educational outcomes and achievement for Halton's Children in Care, and the School's wider work across Children's Services.

The Annual Report provided Members with information on the work of the Virtual School throughout the academic year and presented detailed analysis of how Halton's Children in Care had performed against each of the individual key performance indicators. This included a summary of the Virtual School's progress towards its identified key priorities for the academic year 2023-24, and the priorities for the School in 2024-25.

The following additional information was provided in response to Members questions:

- Pupil Premium Plus and Wider Funding – Approximately £356,972 was spent directly on the children and young people to improve their educational outcomes. The remainder of the £695,750 grant was centrally retained and spent on the School itself, which provided Education Psychology time, speech and language support and the staff within the Virtual School;
- Practical interventions could be made for children in care in certain circumstances and the Council could direct a school to admit a child;
- There were independent services available for children who were victims of crime and violence, depending on age, such as *Barnardos*. The Emotional and Mental Health Panel would also intervene in these situations;
- 'Growth' was a Charity that helped with young people not in employment, education or training (NEETS) and worked alongside the Council; and
- The Education and Health Hub, part of the Reconnecting Runcorn project would be available to offer services to care leavers in the future: <https://reconnectingruncorn.info/education-and-health-hub/>

It was noted that at the most recent ILACS inspection, the Virtual School had received exemplary feedback from inspectors.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) notes the information provided; and
- 2) accepts the Headteacher of the Virtual School's

Annual Report as an accurate account of the performance on the education outcomes and achievement of Halton's Children in Care.

CYP25 CHANGES TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE GUIDANCE

The Executive Director, Children's Services, presented a report outlining the recent changes in school attendance policies, following the release of the Department for Education's (DfE) *Working Together to Improve Schools Attendance* guidance, in August 2024.

The report highlighted the key changes in the following areas, as well as their implications and responsibilities of local authorities:

- Daily data sharing and monitoring;
- Enhanced multi agency collaboration;
- Increased fines and legal interventions;
- Support for pupils with mental health and SEND needs;
- Changes to attendance codes and registers; and
- The role of local authorities.

It was noted that the new measures were now operational across Halton's schools and all schools had fully complied. The new measures were designed to promote regular attendance, enhance monitoring and offer targeted support to pupils facing barriers.

Further to Members questions it was confirmed that there were 790 fines in total across Halton last year, 442 of those were in secondary schools. Members were reassured that the profits from fines were put back into the attendance support service for families. It was also confirmed that most fines came from term time holidays being taken. It was recognised that a significant amount of a child's schooling is lost when they are absent for 1-2 weeks each year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CYP26 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES 2024

The Board received a presentation on the validated school performance data which was published on 24 October 2024.

Performance outcomes for schools across Halton at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stages 2 and 5 were shared with the Board. It was reported

that the outcomes for Key Stage 4 had been delayed by the Department for Education (DfE) and were expected in December 2024.

The Board noted the following highlights:

- Good Level of Development – this was slightly down on last year to 61.2;
- Phonics – was consistently the same; and
- KS 2 – this had increased slightly to 59.6 (reading, writing and maths combined).

Members were advised that data relating to individual schools in their Wards could be found using the link in paragraph 3.4 of the report.

RESOLVED: That the outcomes presented be noted.

Meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

REPORT TO: Children, Young People & Families PPB
DATE: 20 January 2025
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: Public Question Time
WARD(S) Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE 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 RECOMMENDATION: 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**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

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

6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

None identified.

6.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**

None identified.

6.3 **Supporting Children, Young People and Families**

None identified.

6.4 **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**

None identified.

6.5 **Working Towards a Greener Future**

None identified.

6.6 **Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None identified.

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

10.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People & Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	20 th January 2025
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director of Children's Services
SUBJECT:	Quarterly Monitoring Report 1 st July 2024 – 30 th September 2024
PORTFOLIO:	Children and Young People
WARDS(S):	Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the key performance indicators identified to measure progress against each of the priorities identified within the Children and Young People Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 The Quarterly Monitoring Report (QMR) is accepted as the mechanism by which Elected Members can monitor and scrutinise progress going forward.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The format and content of the QMR was agreed by the Children, Young People & Families Policy and Performance Board in the meeting held on the 11th November 2024. It was updated to correlate with the priorities identified in the newly launched Children and Young People's Partnership Plan 2024 - 2027 and to comply with the new Corporate QMR reporting template.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The priorities identified within the Children and Young People Plan inform policy development within Children's Services.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Budgetary decisions over the duration of the Children and Young People Plan 2024-2027 will be informed by performance information.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

The Children and Young People's Plan is informed by Halton's Corporate Plan and reflects its key priorities for a Healthy Halton for Children and Young People.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

Keeping our children local to Halton and improving their educational outcomes will build stronger communities, create better employment opportunities that will support talent within Halton to remain in Halton.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The Children and Young People's Plan is informed by Halton's Corporate Plan and reflects its key priorities for all Children and Young People in Halton.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most in Need

The Children and Young People's Plan considers the support, services and opportunities within the borough for vulnerable children and young people and their families.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

Reducing travel requirements for educational placements, visits and family time will reduce our carbon footprint.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

Investing in organisations that wish to give back to the local Halton community.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Progress against each of the priorities identified within the plan will be tracked and inform future reports to the Policy & Performance Board

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The Children and Young Peoples Plan considers equality and diversity issues.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None identified

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

10.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

Departmental Quarterly Monitoring Report

Directorate: Children’s Services

Departments: Children Social Care and Early Help, Education

Period: Quarter 2 - 1st July 2024 – 30th September 2024

1.0 Introduction

This quarterly monitoring report covers the **Children’s Services Directorate’s** first quarter period up to 30th June 2024.

It describes key developments and progress against ‘key’ milestones and performance indicators for the service in line with the Corporate plan.

2.0 Data Quality Statement

The author provides assurance that the information contained within this report is accurate and valid and that every effort has been made to avoid the omission of data.

Where data has been estimated, it has been sourced directly from partner or other agencies, or where there are any concerns regarding the limitations of its use, this has been clearly annotated.

3.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Progress Against Objectives / Milestones

Appendix 2: Explanation of Symbols





Appendix 3: Progress Against Performance Indicators

Appendix 4: Financial Statement







Appendix 1: Progress Against Objectives / Milestones



Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P1	Safely reduce the number of children needing to be looked after by the Local Authority and improve safeguarding.







Milestone		Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
P1.1	Increase in the number of families accessing support through the Family Hub on a quarterly basis (Source – Early Help & Intervention)		Attendances in the hub overall in the last 6 months have increased compared to Q2 last year. Some of this could account for holidays during July and August and also the introduction of free childcare for children 9 months and over. This will have impacted on the younger aged children figures. The online digital hub is working really well and we have received positive feedback. Many families are accessing the app outside of 9-5 core hours which shows increased accessing opportunities for families are being taken up.
P1.2	Increase the number of successful PLO outcomes i.e. prevent Children entering care (Source – Children in Need)		During this quarter, 6 children were successfully stepped down from pre-proceedings, preventing them from entering care. In addition, during this period, we successfully concluded care proceedings for 33 children, with a notable outcome: 14 of these children were placed in family-based arrangements through Supervision Orders or Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs). In Q1 9 children were successfully stepped down.
P1.3	Decrease the number of Children in Care on a quarterly basis (Source – Children in Care)		356 in care at end of Q2 with 374 at the end of Q1
P1.4	Increase the number of partner led MAPS (Source – Early Help & Intervention)		Quality work is currently on-going with the partner led MAPS, so numbers are still not accurate. At the moment we only have school MAPS. Data should be available for Q3 onward. This work is also going to be monitored and scrutinised in the early help Partnership Board. An ongoing training programme and support is offered to partners to help them take the lead but few agencies are taking this up, The locality principal manager continues to deliver MAP and Eclipse training and also the teams offer 1-1 support to all external agencies. A task and finish group led by health is currently being established and will look at early help assessments across the board and the pathway into the front door.

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P2	Improve the stability of care placements.



Milestone		Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
P2.1	Reduce the number of children who moved between placements (Source – Children in Care)		10% at the end of Q2, 12% at end of Q1 with 10% at the end of Q4 2023/2024
P2.2	Reduce the number of children who are/were placed in out of Borough in residential care (Source – Children in Care)		Q2 16% in borough (84% out), Q1 17% in borough (83% out). Plans are in place to re-establish our in-area provision for Children in Care and Care Leavers throughout 25/26 to manage expectations. The sufficiency strategy and action is being overseen by the re-established sufficiency board.
P2.3	Reduce the costs of out of borough residential placement placements (Source – Children in Care)		Relaunched resource panel which sits weekly providing scrutiny and oversight value for money placement choices. Started to see cost avoidance opportunities. In house provision mentioned in P2.2 will help and looking at partnering with not-for-profit residential provider. High cost placement meeting has been established chaired by Zoe Fearon, Executive Director of Children's Services.
P2.4	Reduce the number of children who are placed in independent fostering agencies (Source – Children in Care)		Q2 – 90 children placed in Independent Fostering Agencies with 94 in Q1. Sufficiency Board will be looking at this area.
P2.5	Reduce the costs of out of borough independent foster placements (Source – Children in Care)		As above (P2.4)
P2.6	Increase the number of Foster Carers and kinship carers (Source – Children in Care)		Q2, 17% of all Children in Care are with a Kinship Carer, with Q1 being at 16%.

			Q2 and Q1, 63% of our Children in Care are with Foster Carers (28% of those being Kinship for Q2 and 26% for Q1)
--	--	--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P3	Improve SEND provision

Milestone		Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
P3.1	Increase the % of EHCP's completed within 20 weeks (academic year cumulative to end of quarter) (Source – Inclusion 0 - 25)		Rate at 63.5% by end of Q2 2024-25. Although slightly down on Q1 2024-25, the previous formal position (SEN2 2024) was 26.3%. Too early to say what final position will be but there is continued evidence that the formal SEN2 position will be greatly improved on the previous submission.
P3.2	Increase the % of EHCP Annual reviews that are carried out within 12 months (Source – Inclusion 0 - 25)		Rate at 67% by end of Q2 2024-25, showing significant improvement on Q1 2024-25 (60.9%), although position at end of Q2 2023-24 was 74.9%. Coordinators are currently working through those reviews requiring an update with a view to an improved position in Q3.
P3.3	Decrease the proportion of children subject to an EHCP placed in independent and out of borough provisions (Source – Commissioning & Placements)		There are plans in place to reduce this significantly through the use of renewed SLA's, and provider engagement with in borough settings. This is in the very early days but, it is hoped, will develop quickly.
P3.4	Decrease the spend on independent and out of borough (OOB) provision for SEND (Source – Commissioning & Placements)		A "High Cost Placement" meeting will be initiated shortly to review all placements in line with initial agreements and outcomes for children. This needs to be balanced with financial aspects, alongside the current progress of the child, and any associated detriment to a potential placement move.
P3.5	Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) – Increase the number of assessments done within 4 weeks of referral receipt (unless assessment to be undertaken within setting/school) (Source – Commissioning & Placements)		The LA and the ICB continue to work with the provider to improve across all aspects of the service, and the service has been realigned in terms of their priorities. The LA is commissioning additional resource to support Education Health Care Plans-related work and the ICB are utilising the service in more focused ways across special schools and SCLN.
P3.6	SaLT – Increase the number where treatment commenced within 12 weeks of referral receipt (Source – Commissioning & Placements)		Improvements have been made across staffing levels, discharge rates, assessment rates (across dysphagia, EHCP, MDT, YJS) and further improvements are expected within family hubs and other settings.

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P4	Increase number of children attending schools graded good or outstanding and improve attainment outcomes at all Key Stages.





Milestone		Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
P4.1	Increase the % of Early Years settings (pre-schools, day care, out of school clubs, childminders) with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding (snapshot end of quarter) (Source – Education 0 - 19)		Halton State-funded Nursery Schools maintain 100% 98% of all Early Years settings (pre-schools, day care, out of school clubs, childminders) were Outstanding or Met
P4.2	Increase the % of schools and settings with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Schools Secondary (Source – Education 0 - 19)		Halton State-funded Special Schools maintain 100% Halton State-funded Nursery Schools maintain 100% Published position at the end of Sept 2024: 83.7% Primary (up from 82% in Q1), and 63% Secondary. Ofsted have reported that data changes to inspection outcomes will take effect from December 2024.

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P5	Improve pastoral and behaviour support and reduce the need for children to be excluded.



Milestone		Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
P5.1	Reduce the number of incidents of Suspensions (academic year cumulative to end of quarter) (Source – Education 0 - 19)		Number of suspensions in September 2024 = 76 (September is the start of a new academic year) Suspensions result in missed learning so impact on a child’s attendance and can impact on academic achievement. Schools have the opportunity to bring to Team around the School (TAS) any children where they are struggling to manage behaviour concerns. TAS is a multi-agency group of professionals including health, early help, education psychologists, SEND and Education Welfare to provide advice and strategies to school to address behaviour concerns.
P5.2	Reduce the number of children subject to suspensions (academic year cumulative to end of quarter) (Source – Education 0 - 19)		Number of children receiving a suspension in September 2024 = 60
P5.3	Reduce the number of permanent exclusions (academic year cumulative to end of quarter) (Source – Education 0 - 19)		Number of permanent exclusions in September 2024 = 4 This is similar to last academic year.
P5.4	Increase the % of early EHCP reviews for SEND Children subject to exclusion (Source – Inclusion 0 - 25)		Four children with Education Health Care Plans were permanently excluded in Autumn and Spring term of 2023/24 academic year, out of which three of them had their plan reviewed with the 12 month statutory time limit. This implies that 75% of Education Health Care Plans of children subject to exclusion was reviewed within the statutory time frame.






Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P6	Improve attendance at school, college and in Early Years settings including sufficiency of places.

Milestone		Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary																											
P6.1	Child Care Expansion roll out - Increase the number of eligible working parents who access child care support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From April 2024, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds who access 15 hours childcare support. From September 2024, eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months to 3-year-olds who access 15 hours childcare support (Source – Education 0 - 19)	 New Measure for under 2’s	474 2YOs of working parents accessed funded hours 506 Under 2s of working parents accessed funding hours Figures from September headcount. Numbers refer to children accessing any funded hours for working parents, up to and including the maximum 15 hour entitlement. Under 2s eligibility began in September 2024. 2 Year Old eligibility began in April 2024, the number of 2 years old accessing funded hours for working parents was 503.																											
P6.2	Increase number of eligible children for the vulnerable 2- year-old funding accessing EY provision (internally collected termly information – may not match to published data from census) (Source – Education 0 - 19)		394 2YOs eligible for the vulnerable 2 Year Old funding accessed funded hours Figures from September 2024 headcount. 395 out of 437 target. 90% all attending Good or above Early Years providers																											
P6.3	Increase the % taking up of Early Years Entitlement for 3- to 4-year-olds. (Source – Education 0 - 19)		1260 3&4 year old children accessed Early Years Entitlement. 90.2% take up 1260 (on September 2024 headcount) out of 1397 (on Primary Care Trust GP registrations list October 2024) are accessing 3&4 Year Old Early Entitlement for 3 & 4 Year olds in Halton.																											
P6.4	Increased attendance at schools: a) Primary b) PRU c) Secondary d) Special (Source – Education 0 - 19)		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Autumn/ Spring 2022/23</th> <th>Autumn/ Spring 2023/24</th> <th>Autumn/ Spring 2022/23 – 2023/24 change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a) 94.03%</td> <td>a) 94.36%</td> <td>a) 0.34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) 46.93%</td> <td>b) 49.28%</td> <td>b) 2.35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) 90.54%</td> <td>c) 90.01%</td> <td>c) -0.53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) 87.45%</td> <td>d) 88.36%</td> <td>d) 0.93%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>From Nexus formal data release Autumn/ Spring attendance data 2023-24. Previous comparison data from formally released Autumn/ Spring data 2022-23. Attendance has increased on the previous year apart from Secondary where there has been an average attendance drop of 0.53%. Formal full year release is due in March 2025, with an early release of December available on nexus.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>September 2023</th> <th>September 2024</th> <th>September 2023-2024 change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a) 95.19%</td> <td>a) 95.58%</td> <td>a) 0.39%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) 91.90%</td> <td>c) 92.52%</td> <td>c) 0.62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) 89.36%</td> <td>d) 91.50%</td> <td>d) 2.14%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>From Wonde attendance data up until week 39 - 27th September 2024. Previous comparison data from Wonde data up until week 39 - 29th</p>	Autumn/ Spring 2022/23	Autumn/ Spring 2023/24	Autumn/ Spring 2022/23 – 2023/24 change	a) 94.03%	a) 94.36%	a) 0.34%	b) 46.93%	b) 49.28%	b) 2.35%	c) 90.54%	c) 90.01%	c) -0.53%	d) 87.45%	d) 88.36%	d) 0.93%	September 2023	September 2024	September 2023-2024 change	a) 95.19%	a) 95.58%	a) 0.39%	c) 91.90%	c) 92.52%	c) 0.62%	d) 89.36%	d) 91.50%	d) 2.14%
Autumn/ Spring 2022/23	Autumn/ Spring 2023/24	Autumn/ Spring 2022/23 – 2023/24 change																												
a) 94.03%	a) 94.36%	a) 0.34%																												
b) 46.93%	b) 49.28%	b) 2.35%																												
c) 90.54%	c) 90.01%	c) -0.53%																												
d) 87.45%	d) 88.36%	d) 0.93%																												
September 2023	September 2024	September 2023-2024 change																												
a) 95.19%	a) 95.58%	a) 0.39%																												
c) 91.90%	c) 92.52%	c) 0.62%																												
d) 89.36%	d) 91.50%	d) 2.14%																												




			September 2023 (*Wonde data was non-compulsory for 2023-24). Attendance has increased on the previous year for all schools types (Wonde data does not include PRU data).
P6.5	Reduce the number of children who are Electively Home Educated (EHE) including those open to CIN or CP. a) CIN b) CP c) SEND (Source – Education 0 - 19)		Children currently Electively Home Educated is 207. Number of children who are Electively Home Educated has been increasing year on year. This academic year we have put additional Education Welfare Support in place to support families who are home educating children. The Education Welfare Service support for Electively Home Educated was recognised by Ofsted in the last report as good practice and the service also received a gold award from the national Education Otherwise organisation for outstanding practice. The award is in response to nominations from parents who very much value the support they receive.
P6.6	Reduce the number of children who are missing education a) CIN b) CP c) SEND (Source – Education 0 - 19)		Children confirmed as missing education is 0. Children on the tracking list who currently do not have a school named on the data management system is 107. At the start of September there are a number of children who attend an out of borough school in a neighbouring LA or who have a school place following a transition point who don't turn up for school. All of these children are tracked by the Children Missing in Education Officer within the Education Welfare Service team to identify their whereabouts working together with schools and other agencies.
P6.7	Reduce the number of children Not in Receipt of Full time education (NIROFTI) . a) CIN b) CP c) SEND (Source – Education 0 - 19)		Children identified as accessing a part time timetable is 100. A part time timetable is put in place with the agreement of parent and school for a short time period to support a child who may be struggling for a number of reasons to access a full time offer at that time. This enables school to work with parents, the child and other professionals to support the child and address the barriers to attendance that were identified. A PTT cannot be used for behaviour reasons.
P6.8	Reduce the number of children accessing alternative provision or educated other than at school a) CIN b) CP c) SEND (Source – Inclusion 0 - 25)		Children in Care with an Education Health Care Plan identified as having home tuition was 1, and 3 others had no current setting as of September 2024. The total number of school age children with Education Health Care Plans accessing alternative provision or educated other than at school as of September 2024 was 26. Of this number, Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS) was 11, home educated or home tuition was 3, elective home educated was 11 and one child was in secure children home. In addition to the above, 12 school age children with Education Health Care Plans were identified as having no school/setting as of September, 2024.

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P07	Improve professional practice including the quality of children and families social work.



Milestone	Progress Q1	Data and any supporting commentary
P7.1 Increase the number of audits grades as good in the sub section 'Identifying & Responding to Need, Abuse & Thresholds' (Source – Safeguarding)		July 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% Early Help were graded 'good' -20% Help & Protect were graded 'good' August 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% Early Help were graded 'good' 22% Help & Protect were graded 'good' September 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% Early Help were graded 'good' 23% Help & Protect were graded 'good'
P7.2 Increase the number of audits grades as good in the sub section 'Providing Effective Help' (Source – Safeguarding)		July 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67% in Early Help were graded 'good' 10% Help & Protect were graded 'good' 0% Children in Care were graded 'good' 10% Care Leavers were graded 'good' August 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% Early Help were graded 'good' (33% Outstanding) 18% Help & Protect were graded 'good' 0% Children in Care were graded 'good' 25% Care Leavers were graded 'good' September 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% in Early Help were graded 'good' 8% Help & Protect were graded 'good' 40% Children in Care were graded 'good'

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67% Care Leavers were graded 'good'
P7.3	Increase the number of children who benefit from management oversight and supervision graded 'good' through the audit sub section 'Making Good Decisions & Management Oversight' (Source – Safeguarding)		<p>July 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67% in Early Help were graded 'good'(33% outstanding) 67% Help & Protect were graded 'good' 0% Children in Care were graded 'good' 10% Care Leavers were graded 'good' <p>August 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67% Early Help were graded 'good' 18% Help & Protect were graded 'good' 0% Children in Care were graded 'good' 50% Care Leavers were graded 'good' <p>September 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% in Early Help were graded 'good' 8% Help & Protect were graded 'good' 20% Children in Care were graded 'good' 67% Care Leavers were graded 'good'
P7.4	Increase the number of children's casefiles receiving an overall grade of 'Good' through the audit process (Source – Safeguarding)		<p>July 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% Early Help were graded 'inadequate' 20% (2 audits) Help & Protect were graded 'inadequate' 12.5 %(1 audit) Children in Care were graded 'inadequate' 0% Care Leavers were graded 'inadequate' <p>August 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33.3% (1 audit) Early Help were graded 'inadequate' 18% (2 audits) Help & Protect were graded 'inadequate' 40% (2 audits) Children in Care were graded 'inadequate' 0% Care Leavers were graded 'inadequate' <p>September 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% (1 audit) Early Help were graded 'inadequate' 33% (4 audits) Help & Protect were graded 'inadequate' 14% (1audit) Children in Care were graded 'inadequate' 0% Care Leavers were graded 'inadequate' <p>The continued number of inadequate gradings may reflect more robust auditing rather than a reduction in the quality of practice. Given the Quality Assurance measures in place, we are confident that this does not reflect a deterioration in practice, rather as an organisation we are beginning to form a shared understanding of what good looks like based on the Ofsted grade descriptors.</p>
P7.5	Increase the number of social workers accessing training through the Social Work Academy (Source – Social Work Academy)		<p>Training was reduced due to the summer holidays and annual leave taken by practitioners. Training resumed in September 2024, with a total of 124 practitioners from Children's Social Care and Early Intervention participating in assessment and analysis training provided by the Social Work Academy. Additional sessions, including training on visits to children, thresholds and analysis, chronology/history recording and its impact on the child, and consent training, were delivered to the Integrated Contact and Referral Team (iCart) and Duty and Assessment teams. In total, 78 practitioners completed these additional sessions.</p> <p>In total during Q2, 202 practitioners attended training through the Social Work Academy.</p>
P7.6	Increasing the number of permanent staff (Source – Children Social Acre & Early Help)		<p>Halton's head of workforce starts in September. This is a positive step forward not just in terms of recruitment but as this post will hold all the recruitment information in one place, co-ordinate adverts and organise our recruitment events. Halton continues to advertise, and has had some success in appointing to positions. Our one Halton approach has generated interest and we have appointed to our Children in Need & Child Protection principal managers positions. we are continuing to explore how Halton can stand out from other LA's as the competition for permanent qualified social workers remains competitive.</p>
P7.7	Reduce the number of agency workers and associated costs (Source – Children Social Acre & Early Help)		<p>Children's Social Care continue to serve notice on agency workers when the posts are appointed to. We have remained firm on adhering to the regional payrates since my commencement in post and have successfully reduced the pay rates for a number of agency staff who commenced with Halton prior to January and where offered pay scales above the regional agreement. We are moving to Connect 2 which should support the reduction in agency fees for agency staff.</p>




Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P8	Reducing Child obesity



Milestone		Progress Q1	Data and any supporting commentary
P8.1	Increase % breast feeding and initiation and maintenance at 6 – 8 weeks (Source – Public Health)		Initiation = 58.4% (23/24 average = 52%) 10-14 days = 50.5% (23/24 average = 42.9%) 6-8 weeks = 33.3% (23/24 average = 27.5%) All increased from Q1 and increase on 23/24. Higher than ever recorded at initiation, 10-14 days and 6-8 weeks.
P8.2	Maintain/increase the number of schools engaging in the Healthy Schools Programme which includes whole School approaches to tackling obesity. (Source – Public Health)		The new academic year started in Q2, so we have commenced Healthy Schools visits for 2024-25. We encourage every school to sign up. In the last school year, 88% of schools engaged, which we will aim to surpass this year. Ongoing work in 2023/24 to understand the needs of secondary schools, to increase uptake there.
P8.3	Increase the number of parents of children under 5 accessing the 'HENRY' Programme (Source – Public Health)		6 referrals to the HENRY Right From the Start course this quarter, which is slightly higher than previous quarter. 5 completed programme. HENRY will be incorporated in to the new Family Hubs 0-5 pathway, and additional staff to be trained in Q3, which will enhance capacity to promote and deliver more courses.

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P9	Improve access to positive opportunities.



Milestone		Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
P9.1	Increase the number of care leavers accessing the Care leavers group (Source – Children in Care)		We have a set group of 8 members for the Care Leaver forum who attend every meeting and have had a steady attendance to the Care Leaver groups and forum this quarter. We also have around 4-6 regular care leavers who attend the weekly drop-in service due to more consistent activities and support with transport. I also provide information and gain feedback through social media channels for those that cannot attend due to work commitments or who prefer to communicate remotely. We are currently looking at ways to improve our connections with our care leavers placed in Liverpool. We have also improved diverse cultural activities to encourage a higher level of participation for this cohort.
P9.2	Increase the engagement for CIN, CIC and Care leavers via Barnardo's contract (Source – Commissioning & Placements)		Barnardo's are currently operating a waiting list, which is due to a variety of reasons, including funding. A report has been generating outlining these concerns, and will be submitted to Senior Leadership Team and the ICB around the continuation of the contract, the scope of the service and the funding options available.

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P10	Improve Mental Health provision.


Milestone		Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
P10.1	Increase the numbers of Primary and Secondary school educators being trained as Thrive Licensed Practitioners. (Source – DBV Lead)		In summary to date 72.8% of schools have engaged regarding the project with 57.1% of schools having booked some or all of their Thrive training. The first induction trainings for Halton staff have now been delivered with 474 staff registrations. In addition we have also now brought on board the Educational Psychologist team who have purchased Thrive training and will be joining some of the Halton practitioner trainings so that they can support schools through their work.
P10.2	Increase the number of strengths and difficulties questionnaires completed for Children in Care and Care Leavers (Source – Children in Care)		Q2 – 64 recorded, Q1 55 recorded Collaborative work is being completed with Bridgewater and the Performance Team to improve the recording of this area in Eclipse.
P10.3	Increase the number of health assessment (initial and review) for Children in Care (Source – Children in Care)		CIC Annual Health assessments who have been looked after for at least 12 months (last 6 months aged under 5, last 12 months aged 5+) recorded on Eclipse. Q2 – 75%, Q1 74% Collaborative work is being completed with Bridgewater and the Performance Team to improve the recording of this area in Eclipse.


P10.4	Reduce the number of children who are accessing education under Section 19 (Source – Education 0 - 19)		Number of children accessing Section 19 education provided by the LA is 19. This is the start of a new academic year so numbers have reduced from the last quarter as year 11's have left. The year 11 did well in their GCSEs and the majority are now accessing a further education offer. The children attending the tuition centre do so because their physical or mental health needs prevent them attending their mainstream school where they remain on roll. The service provides a nurturing and supportive approach with EP support to help children with mental health issues whilst also providing an education and additional tuition to help children fill any gaps in learning due to missed school.
P10.5	Reduce the % waiting time for CIC to access MH provision (Source – Children in Care)		Currently data received from CAMHs shows <u>ALL</u> Children's waiting times. We will be requesting this data to be broken down into the different cohorts of children do that we can report on Children in Care specifically.

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P11	Strengthen the voice of children and young people.

Milestone		Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
P11.1	Increase the number of 'good' gradings within Children Social Care casefile audits for the child's voice and how it informs their plans (Source – Safeguarding)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2024 -67% in Early Help were graded 'good' -10% Help & Protect were graded 'good' -20% Children in Care were graded 'good' -67% Care Leavers were graded 'good' August 2024 -67% in Early Help were graded 'good' -18% Help & Protect were graded 'good' -40% Children in Care were graded 'good' -25% Care Leavers were graded 'good' September 2024 -75% in Early Help were graded 'good' -15% Help & Protect were graded 'good' -40% Children in Care were graded 'good' -33% Care Leavers were graded 'good'
P11.2	Increase the number of children and young people involved with the Children in Care Council (Source – Children in Care)		We now have a regular group attending all sessions and activities, this has gone from two members to eleven for the children in care council, with a further Five accessing remote through social media platforms, texts and emails. We have also established a Care leaver forum with regular attendance from six care leavers. We have regular meetings and more. Care Leavers can also access the service through social media and we have a drop-in service each Friday.

Corporate Priority	Priority 1 – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority 3 – Supporting Children, Young People and Families Priority 4 – Tackling inequality and helping those who are in most need
CYP P12	Improve pathways into meaningful employment with training and both Further and Higher Education

Milestone		Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
P12.1	Reduce the percentage of 16–17-year-olds not in education, employment or training or whose activities are not known to the council (Source Place, Planning, Policy & Provision)		<p>Average NEET (not in education, employment and training) & Not Known figure from July 24 – August 24 is 8.8% (287 young people) compared to 7.2% (235 young people) in the same period in 2023 and 8% (265 young people) in the last quarter.</p> <p>The increase since the last quarter at this stage in the academic year is predominantly from</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> young people who were in previously in employment and have left their job young people who were in education, have indicated they will not continue at that provider the following year, but don't have any other destination planned.


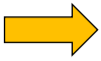

			The quarter figures does not include September 2024 as this is the start of a new academic year, therefore the whole cohort who were in pre or post 16 education become not known until their post 16 destination is confirmed. Whilst they will have an intended destination, there is a requirement to check they did start and are attending.
P12.2	Increase the number of good quality path way plans as identified through the audit process for Care Leavers (Source – Children in Care)		The timeliness of pathway plans is increasing each month, and the Social Work Academy is completing training with the Social Workers to improve the quality in this area. More specific analysis in this area will be provided next quarter.

Appendix 3: Progress Against Performance Indicators

	STRATEGIC ISSUES	BASELINE POSITION	OUTCOMES AT END OF YEAR 1	OUTCOMES AT END OF YEAR 3	INTERVENTIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
A	Develop and embed Family Hubs and extend their provision to include 19 to 25 age range with additional needs					
B	Wraparound Care Programme - Submitted a supply and demand analysis to the DfE, recruit a Wraparound care coordinator to lead on expanding the project.					
C	Pause Project - secure further funding from partners for 3-5 years submit funding bud					
D	Utilise the grant of £1m from Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme.					
E	Implement redevised structure for children and need service.					
F	SEND - Commission a specialist equipment provider to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND in Halton schools/settings.					
G	SEND - 'Tell it once' framework co-produced and launched.					
H	SEND - Complete a multi-agency joined up review of current ICT systems and processes understanding current ICT platforms used for information storing and sharing and how they interlink.					
I	Halton Alternative Provision Strategy and Alternative Provision offer co-produced with all system partners.					
J	Review the Neglect Strategy.					
K	Develop an Section 19 Policy and establish an Education Inclusion Panel to determine when the LA Section 19 duty applies and education offer.					
L	Halton Priority education Action Area Plan, £1.8M allocated across 3 years to tackle attendance and attainment.	Whats gone on in the quarter towards achieving that, what the update, i.e, meeting and outcome or decision making				
M	Deliver new statutory duties under the DfE 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance'.					
N	Submit a bid to the DfE for new post 16 provision in Halton					
O	Support the Right to succeed agenda - Halton Lea Cradle to Career 2024-26 for the design, delivery and reporting of a youth offer.					
P	Establish 'The Food Active Healthy and Active Futures Pledge', a whole school approach to tackling obesity.					
Q	National Child Measurement Programme (data provided annually)					

Appendix 4: Financial Statements

Progress Symbols are used in the following manner

	Performance indicator
	Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u> .
	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.
	Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People & Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	20 th January 2025
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director of Children's Services
SUBJECT:	Services for Children and Families in Halton Improvement Plan
PORTFOLIO:	Children and Young People
WARDS(S):	Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To share the submitted Services for Children and Families in Halton Improvement Plan and provide an update against the 12 key areas of improvement.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 Accepted as the mechanism by which Elected Members can monitor and scrutinise progress going forward.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 12 July 2024, Ofsted published a report rating Halton Borough Council children's services as inadequate following an inspection that took place between 13 and 24 May 2024. The council was given 90 days to prepare an improvement action plan in response. This was submitted 21 October 2024.
- 3.2 Following the publication of the Ofsted report a statutory direction was issued by the Secretary of State to Halton Borough Council and Steven Walker was appointed as Commissioner for Children's Services in Halton.
- 3.3 Progress against the improvement plan is overseen by the Improvement Board, independently chaired by Stuart Smith (Department for Education Improvement Advisor). The Board meets on a monthly basis and has adopted a thematic approach in its focus on the outlined areas of the overall plan.
- 3.4 The most recent update report was submitted to the improvement board on 29.11.24 which provided an overview on the 12 areas for improvement with a deep dive in A2 - Identification, response to and management of risk.

- 3.5 The Improvement Plan includes a 'BRAG' rating outlining the progress status of each of the areas for improvement as well as a 'BRAG' rating to measure impact. This will help evaluate and determine if the improvement activities are improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 3.6 Ofsted also monitor progress against the improvement plan and conduct a series of monitoring visits following an inadequate inspection judgement. The first monitoring visit to Halton will take place in January 2025.
- 3.7 Progress against the improvement plan is overseen by the Improvement Board and will continue to be reported upon to Children, Young People & Families Policy and Performance Board at regular intervals.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Areas for improvement will inform policy and service development within Children Social Care and Early Help.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Budgetary decisions throughout the improvement journey will be informed by the priorities identified within the plan. A Finance and Investment Board will track spend and the impact this is having on the outcomes for children, young people and families.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

The improvement plan was co-produced with colleagues from health.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

Keeping our children local to Halton and improving their educational outcomes will build stronger communities, create better employment opportunities that will support talent within Halton to remain in Halton.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The Ofsted inspection judgement of 'Inadequate' has a direct and indirect effect on the lives of both current and future children and families in Halton.

Keeping children safe is one of the most important things this council does and the improvement plan supports whatever action is required to ensure children and families receive the services they deserve.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most in Need

The Children and Young People's Plan considers the support, services and opportunities within the borough for vulnerable children and young people and their families.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

There are no specific implications for the environment arising from this report.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

The Ofsted inspection judgement of 'Inadequate' has a direct and indirect effect on the lives of both current and future children and families in Halton.

Keeping children safe is one of the most important things this council does and the improvement plan supports whatever action is required to ensure children and families receive the services they deserve.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are no new risk implications identified emerging from the recommendations in this report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues identified emerging from the recommendations in this report.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific implications for the environment arising from this report.

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

10.1 None.

ILACS Areas of Improvement

	Improvement Area	Comment	Activity Status	Impact Status
A1.	Partnership Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All subgroups are reviewing and completing the work plans to ensure they include the key priorities. Governance of the partnership is strengthened Scrutineer will review effectiveness of sub groups in driving our partnership working Work is being undertaken on the partnership training offer considering the pan cheshire approach for core training. Domestic abuse board is being re-established with identified links between the adults and children's partnership to ensure joined up approaches. Regular partnership events have been launched which will focus on themes of partnership working Neglect event scheduled for December 		
A2.	Identification, response to and management of risk	Please see additional report		
A3.	Quality of Social Work Practice – Plans, Assessments and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training, 1:1 support and targeted work has been undertaken by the SW academy. <p>Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment training has been delivered to the workforce throughout September 24 – a total of 110 staff members have attended this training. Review of the impact of the assessment training will be included within the thematic audits in December 24 to evidence changes to practice. <p>Plans and planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans and planning training has been delivered from the 22nd October 24, throughout the workforce. A total of 133 Staff members have attended the Plans and Planning training. A further 34 are expected to attend an additional session on November 22nd. Plans and planning will be audited in February 2025 to evidence impact. Audit continues to tell us that Plans sometimes lack detail on the actions and timescales need to be more specific. There is some evidence of plans changing to reflect needs of the families and children but this is not always captured in the documents on the child's record. The re-audit following the SWA support should see progress in quality. The template is being reviewed on the system. All training being delivered to practitioners has the golden thread of, Chronologies, permanence planning and VOC included. The audit framework evidences that auditors are considering practice standards in the auditing process and performance reports indicate improvements against the practice standards but there remains some inconsistencies in teams. SLIP partners are all scheduled with the start of support taking place on the 25/11/2024. Partners have been included in invites to sessions. We have a thematic audit programme that has been developed by the HOS Safeguarding and QA, and the programme includes additional audit activity around our improvement plan. As part of our improvement journey we have an independent auditor who supports practitioners with their audits, who has undertaken moderations and moderation of moderators and a thematic audit. In January we will have a different independent person who is able to deliver direct face to face support. 		

A4.	<p>The quality of help and support for children with vulnerabilities, specifically children aged 16 and 17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The young carers flag has been developed on the system to support the identification and review of their care needs. Audit of the quality of plans for young carers will be undertaken. • The Commissioned service has undertaken an audit on RHI and the quality of these, CSC has requested the audit report. A thematic audit on the 18/11/2024 this will focus on the use of return home interviews and how these are supporting and informing planning for young people. The audit will provide a baseline re practice. • An audit has been undertaken on Strategy meetings, to map progress against our identified improvements. The multi-agency audit was undertaken via the multi-agency partnership QAF. • The government has recently announced a review of CWD, the consultation is scheduled to conclude in January 2025. Meetings have progressed regarding the development of the 0-25 CWD service. Staff sessions are being coordinated by TDU. The threshold documents are being reviewed by the group to agree criteria and a review of CSC children identified as having a disability will take place once the criteria is agreed. The target date to go live in January 2025. There have been some delays to progress this service, however it is progressing. • Initial meeting and task and finish groups have been arranged to progress the 16/17 years homelessness approach unfortunately both were cancelled. They have been rescheduled and an action plan is being developed. • The homelessness policy is being reviewed. Research has taken place on other LA policies around this and this will help to form part of areas of improvement. We are separating the housing policies so we will have one that focuses on 16/17 homelessness and another which will be our 'positive pathway' strategy for housing for 16+. At the moment, one policy covers all and it is not clear or includes any firm offer from housing as it needs to also address intentionally homeless decisions. 		
A5.	<p>Assessment and support for those children living in private fostering arrangements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief dip sample audit was undertaken ahead of schedule to ensure appropriate checks. Two PF households were identified. • Information and leaflets are having a revamp to update the website • Partnership event took place in October where PF was one of the table top discussions • Discussion has taken place in the SCP meeting regarding briefing sessions • Training for reg 24 assessments has been identified and will be delivered to relevant staff within the LA • Police checks are not always happening in a timely manner and depend on the nature of the placement / arrangement being made. 		
A6.	<p>Timeliness of decision making</p>	<p>Service targeted support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Social Work Academy have carried out an intensive practice improvement plan within ICART (Safeguarding and early help) and the Duty and assessment teams over the past 12 weeks. • During this period, SWA has reviewed how services obtain consent, how SW's review and critically analyse/reflect on chronology's/history, visiting standards, analysis, direct work, the use of tools, How the voice of the child is obtained, Strategy meeting standards and S.47 enquires, 1:2:1 support for practitioners. A total of 24 1:2:1's have been completed with the staff within the ICART Safeguarding, Early Help and Duty and Assessment teams have been completed between the periods of 14th October – 18th November 24. • The SWA Principal Manager has been working within the Duty and Assessment team since the 4th November 2024, initially supporting 3 Social Workers who were due to leave the authority, then moving through the Duty and Assessment team to review all case files of the children allocated to 		

		<p>them. The primary objective is to review children’s case files allocated to the three workers who are leaving the Duty and Assessment Team (DAAT) to ensure continuity and reduce disruption to the children and families involved. The aim is to progress support for all children as appropriate. Considering case closure, transfer to CiN / CiC teams, step down to Early Help whilst identifying priorities that need to be completed prior to the current worker leaving. The Social Workers who remain in Halton are provided support and actions to encourage progression of the support provide to each of the children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions identified have been shared with the SW and TM/SM through a designed tracker which is updated and reviewed daily. 2 out of the 3 workers have now withdrawn their notice and plan to remain in Halton (as agency). • There have been a total of 142 cases reviewed across 5 workers since the work began on the 4th November 2024. • 64 were identified to transfer to Teams. • 41 were identified to step down to Early Help or close the Children’s Social Care. • 17 were identified to be Re-allocated to another worker to progress a plan for the child. • A review of the tracker was undertaken on the 15th November 2024 identified that 43 children have closed or transferred from Duty and Assessment. • The impact of the plan was initially measured through dip sampling on the week of the 7th October, while there is evidence in most areas that efforts are being made to implement the training provided. Further dip sampling has been completed on the 18th November 2024. Findings from the dip sample will be reviewed with managers of the team and further support will be provided to close the loop. <p>IRO progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure challenge focuses on improving outcomes for children non negotiables have been agreed has now been circulated and went live on the 01/11/2024. • IROs are escalating concerns through the agreed process in order to reduce impact for children. Escalations primarily focus on drift and delay for the child and delays in assessments being completed. • There has been continued improvements in respect of children being seen prior to their meetings, the quality of those visits will be reviewed. 		
A7.	Sufficiency of suitable placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The progress on our own children’s home has been delayed due to problems obtaining information for the area risk assessment prior to proceeding. This has recently been obtained and will now progress. • Engagement with Cotton Grass and Juno has resulted in soft blocking of beds. Cotton Grass for separated Migrant children and Juno for a three bed residential provision in Halton which is currently awaiting planning permission. • The review of placements team has been undertaken and strengthened, through the improvement planning. • The quality assurance of contracts and care is taking place with appropriate challenge to providers • Provider forum links are made and the commissioning HOS has developed relationships in this forum. Director for Childrens social care has requested an invite and this has been accepted. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of all current placements continues through high cost placement panel and resource panel and has resulted in some positive progress on both the identification and scrutiny over costs and care quality. Meeting with Foster 4 a number of targeted areas have been agreed and this includes, the recruitment of emergency carers and respite carers to support our edge of care specific carers recruitment for some of our most vulnerable children and carers to offer therapeutic homes stepping down some of our children from residential to foster carers. 		
A8.	Support for children in care family time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement has been made to utilise the family time assessment approach. This will be progressed in the next few months with training and support given to practitioners. The family time team Service manager to lead the service is identified. Future progress will include scoping of a specific venue for contacts. The adverts for the Family time team have been delayed, this has been clarified by the PSW. The children and YP survey is being re-circulated due to limited responses. 		
A9.	The quality of support, advice and guidance for care leavers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLIP are all starting their delivery programme week commencing 25/11/2024 DFE advisor for Care Leavers has completed the review. Feedback was positive in terms of our aspirations and recognition that our internal plans cover areas for improvements Care leavers app has been approved and will take three months for launch following design. Care Leavers have requested this in order to be heard and receive real time advice Re-design of the service has been completed and the structure change approved. Managers posts have been developed and most now recruited to. IRO post specifically for pathways plans is out to advert A number of approaches are being taken to improve the EET figures and support our children to achieve their aspirations. 10 young people have been identified to start supporting into jobs and apprenticeships, the exploration of work experience for 6 young people within the council and private industry, Care leavers will be running the café at Brookvale children's centre in conjunction with other services providing on the job experience with a view to returning to college and or seeking employment. CPB has been strengthened in terms of membership and the sub groups to drive the actions and service develops are being established. Identified areas of improvement by ourselves, OFSTED and the DFE are collated into this improvement plan and the CPB delivery plan. 		
A10.	The quality of visiting and direct work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A set up meeting took place with the life story work provider to review the IT systems that can support workers. A further meeting is taking place with another LA to look at how it works in reality The creation of the Family time team will allow for CSW to be trained in Life story work to undertake this with our children Work tools are being shared with staff across the service to support them to obtain and Analyse the views of children in order to develop plans. We are progressing the reflective space for practitioners that will be filled with resources Participation officer is engaging with a provider to explore the use of the app and the Care Leavers app development has been approved. 		
A11.	Social Workers & Foster Carers training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWA have set up the training offer for SW which includes, lunch time briefings on practice areas relevant to children and families. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research in Practice engagement is being tracked and managers pushing this as a positive resource for staff • Foster carers event attended and carers advised they can access any training being offered to SW. • Trauma informed approach and Systemic practice approach is being scheduled to promote confidence with our practice approaches. • Parenting assess training is being offered across teams for qualified social workers • AIMS training has been delivered to a number of staff • Jobs families has been approved and social work qualified staff in front line posts have been given an uplift to bring them in line with other areas. • Foster 4 have agreed the foster carer training package and feedback from carers has been positive • All carers are up to date on the TSDS training. • Thrive approach was offered to carers and schools. 		
A12.	The quality of supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit is demonstrating improved supervision and management oversight being recorded on records, however work continues around the quality of this • Further audit scheduled week commencing 03/12/2024 		

A2 – Identification, response to and management of risk

What needs to improve: The identification of, and response to, risk by social workers, so that children and young people receive a swift and robust response, including timely, effective strategy meetings and coherent multi-agency work.

Lead Officer: Katherine Appleton – Operational Director, Children & Families Service

Report Period	November 2024	Report By	Katherine Appleton, Director Childrens Social Care	Progress Status		Impact Status	
----------------------	---------------	------------------	----------------------------------------------------	------------------------	--	----------------------	--

Key Progress Updates

1. Strategy meetings are timely, prioritise the safety of children and identify an immediate response to risk.

CSC has undertaken an audit to review and findings are that the strategy requests were appropriate in all but one request, this is mirrored in the audit undertaken by the independent auditor and no challenge to threshold application was made during the Multi-agency audit. The timeliness continues to improve. The multi-agency audit was undertaken via the multi-agency partnership QAF and unfortunately did not receive all returns so it was not possible to triangulate findings. Police have undertaken an internal audit on strategy meetings across Pan cheshire, appropriate challenge has been raised and is being reviewed.

2. Social Worker frequency of visits reflects risks and children are seen and spoken to alone where appropriate.

Whilst there continues to be fluctuations in the frequency of visits and quality we are seeing improvements in respect of the performance data and timescales. Whilst teams report that social workers mostly visit children in response to risk or a particular event, social work records do not always reflect this intervention. SW teams report capacity as a reason for not updating records in a timely manner, however, caseloads in most teams are manageable although do flux. In order to support SW recording the pilot that was enabled to dictate from your mobile direct onto a child's record is being rolled out to all practitioners. SWA next area of focus is Voice of Child, this will involve the base line audit on the quality of visits and response to children, training, 1:1 support and re-audit.

3. Workshop and briefing on consent including how consent is clearly recorded.

Any children where consent is being withdrawn now needs agreement from the Service Manager prior to a decision to close. It is positive to note that since this commenced there has been only a small number of cases have been flagged. Other cases when explored further was the social worker incorrectly using no consent which was discussed with the social workers and practice leads for their learning.

It did become apparent that previous to the agreement that the service manager would have oversight a small number of cases were being closed down without risk fully being considered. To address this consent workshops have been completed with the team by the SW academy team and due to the falling numbers in no consent being the factor in NFA action cases this is telling us that SW /TM are understanding consent and considering risk where consent is being withdrawn, for example strategy being completed and views of other partner agencies being sought to agree next steps in line with risk.

Currently performance data from September in respect of assessments tells us that we have a number of assessment showing 'no consent' that were not presented to me for oversight so when exploring this further we have found that within the closure form that social workers complete if a 47 has taken place they are directed to select "Services ceased, other reason", a drop down box then provides 3 options

In all the cases in the September social workers ticked the box no consent to progress the closure so they pick the consent one even though parents have not withdrew and a full assessment has been completed.

This issue will be taken to the Eclipse task and finish group to agree another option.

The Social Work Academy conducted 5 consent workshops between the September 11th to September 13, 2024, with the ICART Safeguarding, ICART Early Help, and Duty and Assessment teams. ICART Early Help (EH): 6 participants (including Early Intervention Workers and manager). ICART Safeguarding: 8 participants (Social Workers and managers). Duty and Assessment Team (DAAT): 11 participants (Social Workers and managers)

On September 10, 2024, an audit dip sample was completed, focusing on: Evidence of informed consent in assessments and contact screenings, Practitioner persistence and challenge when consent was withdrawn, Management oversight where consent had been withdrawn. The audits evidenced the above in some of the sampled assessments and contacts, though additional work is necessary to ensure further improvements. One-on-one sessions have since been completed with 14 practitioners within the ICART Safeguarding, ICART Early Help, and Duty and Assessment teams. Additionally, "One Minute Guides" on consent have been re-circulated to the workforce through Team Managers. A follow-up audit dip sample is scheduled for November 18, 2024, to further evaluate the impact of consent practices within assessments and contact screenings.

4. Review of CSOG

Review of CSOG has been completed and has confirmed that it does not undertake the tasks it was intended to do. Multiple options were presented to the contextual safeguarding group for considerations. This was concluded in October so it is too early to determine the impact that the re-focusing of the group will have.

5. Recruitment of Contextual safeguarding workers

All the workers will be in post by the 16/12. It is soon to see the impact of this work. One worker has reviewed the children currently identified as at risk of Exploitation, they have reviewed the screening tool and presented recommendations to the contextual safeguarding group. They are currently working on developing a pen picture of all the young people who are identified as at risk of exploitation in order to identify trends and themes. It is acknowledged that this is a piece of work that CSOG will do moving forward in order to support the strategic group to track progress against the plans.

CICOLAS, the CICOLAS have been reviewed by CSC manager. These are relating to missing from care episodes. One was in relation to a strategy discussion due to an incident which occurred in our area, we arranged and attended the strategy meeting, chaired by the placing LA. Contacts to ICART in respect of CICOLAS have been reviewed by CSC manager. These are relating to missing from care episodes. One was in relation to a strategy discussion due to an incident which occurred in our area, we arranged and attended the strategy meeting, chaired by the placing LA. There is evidence of social workers in ICART contacting the CICOLA allocated social workers via email. I have asked social workers to contact via telephone to ensure we have any CE tools, risk/safety plans etc.

6. Family network meeting workers.

Two posts were advertised for the role of CSW with a responsibility for undertaking Family Network Meetings. They were initially advertised as 12 month posts. During the initial recruitment period we were successful in appointing for one post the worker commenced her post on the 14th October based within the Duty and Assessment Team. The second post was also recruited following further advertisement but this candidate withdrew. As a result of this the advert has gone back out and the closing date is the 24th November. The supporting templates were presented to DMT for approval and further amendments were requested. The current worker is undertaking direct work with families whilst the post starts to embed.

7. Family hubs support will be seen as an entitlement and offered to all families open to CSC.

Age 0-4

CIC - 8.8% attended at least once in last 6 months

CIN - 13.7% attended at least once in last 6 months

CP - 18.4% attended at least once in last 6 months

MAP - 14.4% attended at least once in last 6 months

EH Interventions - 17.3% attended at least once in last 6 months

The figures for CIC, CP, CIN and EH are not a complete reflection of the numbers attending, issues have arisen around the data for family Hubs, it is proving difficult to get a full data match between Eclipse and EIS. The data also does not reflect one to one work, for example on parenting or baby massage, when it is undertaken outside of the Families Hubs sites in family homes, or other locations. This usually recorded on Eclipse, and work is on-going to enable the full range of Family Hub work to be captured and reported. Currently work is being undertaken to find a more effective way of offering Family Hub registrations, recording of activities, and Family Hub Interventions. Data is also collected for all Family Hub workstreams in the Management Information for Family Hubs to DFE. The collection for the previous 3 Quarters is currently underway, and can be reported on in January 2025.

8. Develop and implement the Edge of Care service

Discussions have taken place with MerseyCare regarding the employment of the clinical lead and Mental health support worker. This has been received positively and a further meeting held to progress finances. MerseyCare will recruit the post and supervise the worker to ensure clinical supervision. The workers will sit in the team. The SLIP partners are undertaking further work in respect of the EOC model and our partners have been invited to these sessions. Foster 4 have been approached and advised to undertake some targeted recruitment work for respite and emergency carers that will support the service. The service manager has been identified and the jobs are ready to go to advert.

9. Monthly multi-agency meetings looking at referrals and responses

The ICART Audit of referrals is attached to this report. The quality of the written recordings on the audit will need to improve moving forward. The meeting is now chaired by the HOS.

10 Training regarding strategies and S47 is being written by Social Work Academy (SWA) and will be launched as a multi-agency piece of work.

The independent auditor has completed the audit on the quality of S47 investigations. The report is attached to this report. The findings of the audit will be shared with partners and support the training programme in respect of S47. S47 training is currently included in the working together training undertaken by the partnership.

11. Multi-agency training on consent and threshold application.

The training is due to commence in Feb 2025 but working together training touches upon thresholds and consent currently. In preparation, findings from the multi-agency audits in ICART will be used to formulate the training in conjunction with findings from our internal audits looking at assessments that do not result in further work and close.

Impacts & Evidence – What impact are we having or expecting, based on what evidence?

The schedule of thematic audit will support us in understanding the impact that improving practice is having for children and their families. The outcomes of these audits will continue to be reviewed and the LA will adapt our intervention to meet identified areas of development. Initial auditing work has highlighted some improved practice and performance data is supporting this. There are examples of good practice across the services and these are celebrated within teams. It is however to soon to see consistent improvements across services.

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	20 th January 2025
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director of Children's Services
PORTFOLIO:	Children and Young People
SUBJECT:	A report on the work to date on DBV and impact
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To assure the board of the progress today against the targets set out in the DBV Grant – Delivering Better Values covering the period of the third quarter October 24 - January 25 for the Delivering Better Value (DBV) project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Delivering Better Value (DBV) is a Department for Education programme working to identify and implement local opportunities to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND across 54 LAs, and aid local systems (alongside existing local and other DfE programmes) in their objective of achieving financial sustainability. Halton was identified as eligible to apply for DBV grant funding and subsequently a grant application was submitted on the 20th December 2023. Halton requested £1m of grant funding, primarily to build resilience across all educational systems to support and include learners with Social, Emotional Mental Health Needs. The initiatives outlined in our bid are designed to allow schools and settings to support SEND children effectively, without necessarily having to request an Education Health and Care assessment, alleviating the demand for specialist placements, and reducing both the risk of out of borough placement and permanent exclusions. We were notified in March that our bid was successful and that we had been awarded the full £1m grant. This additional resource presents a significant opportunity to positively transform inclusive practices across Halton.

- 3.2 Workstream 1- Behaviour Support- Thrive – Ahead (implementation phase) In summary to date 75% of schools have engaged regarding the project with 59% of schools having booked some or all of their Thrive training. All the closed Halton LP courses are due to finish in Nov / Dec. any outstanding school will now be booked onto open courses by Thrive. We have rolled out Thrive Awareness training to 134 professionals who will support Thrive. Our EYFS Team have now completed their training have started to be deployed to support settings. One example of this is an action from TATS – Team around the school. *Feedback from Thrive Awareness Training - Mary Murphy who attended the session, “That was really helpful and sounds like a really good approach.” Others in the session verbally said it had been helpful.*
- 3.3 Workstream 1- Behaviour Support - Team teach – Ahead (implementation phase) We are currently ahead in our roll out of Team Teach. All our Resource Bases have now been trained as well as a number of mainstream settings- 183 members of school staff have had Level 1 training and 33 Level 2. We also have more settings booked in for Spring 25. Our EP service (Educational Psychologist) are now trained This will give us the opportunity to be sustainable after DBV has finished. We had previously planned to give the trainers training to schools (via expression of interest previously). We also feel we will be able to suggest and deliver bespoke training for settings if the need arises from this change in approach. We had a workshop for 88 staff in November from Team Teach. This was designed to support schools who have only a few members of staff that need training. *Feedback on TEAM Teach: Very informative. Lots of useful information and tips to use in various environments and situations. Very informative, time for practical activities and discussion.*
- 3.4 Workstream 1- Behaviour Support Lead Practitioner – On Track (implementation phase) Team around the School Model (TATS) continues to have impact. This is in the form of a weekly professional meeting in which pupils at risk of exclusion are identified both by settings and other Halton LA data sets. The meeting is made up of EP, EWO, Specialist Teachers, Mental Health, Nursing, Locality Teams as well as Police, Youth Justice and Social Worker if applicable to the child. The newly appointed data analyst team members use the data to drive the meetings held. *Feedback from TATS meeting: Karl Landrum St Gerard’s Catholic Primary and Nursery School – “Thank you for the support and guidance that you all gave at TATs, it is helping the pupil, family and our own staff.*
- 3.5 Worksteeam 1-Behaviour Support EBSNA Pathway – On Track EWO and EP Services are now engaged to work with EBSNA children and families. This is a joint approach from both SASOs (School Attendance Support Officers) and Assistant EPs. Children

have been identified by a S19 or Education Inclusion Panel to consider school referrals. This panel and governance has been agreed. With our data analyst now in post we are using the Vulnerable Learners groups (meets 6 weekly) to identify and monitor this cohort and report impact. Impact case studies are currently been undertaken.

- 3.6 Workstream 1- Behaviour Support HD Unit – Co-Design Slightly behind should be pilot stage Secondary schools have been identified and sighted on the proposed SLA. Delivering Better Value (DBV), High Dependency (HD) Unit Pilot executive report has been written and in process of being signed off. The proposal is to have the Units up and running in Spring 2025.
- 3.7 Workstream 2 - The deliberate delay in Q1 and Q2 has now been caught up. We have now moved on at pace to ensure the time is made up to ensure implementation, but at the same time are sensitive to the needs of our stakeholders.
- 3.8 Workstream 2- Inclusion Quality Mark – on track The IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark), the launch took place in September at our DBV 'Learning Lunch' for Resource base settings. IQM met with all setting taking part in November to officially launch in with their team. This was well received. Schools will now be supported in a cluster by IQM to work through the award. One of our resource bases is already an IQM Assessor Centre and will support all involved. Feedback – N Abel SENDCO The Brow – following IQM Launch. *It was useful for Sarah to outline the programme timeline and for us to be given time within the session to review the SER. It was also insightful to listen to Richard talk about the team's IQM work at Woodside and to know that there are schools within the community to seek further support from with the IQM.*
- 3.9 Workstream 2 Inclusion Toolkit/ SA Framework – On track This links to Workstream 1 - Team around the School Model (TATS) which is now in now in place. To support the weekly meetings, a range of documents including a toolkit is being procured. This is an open access bank of resources that will support schools. It also includes a directory of local service which can be accessed and contacts for lead practioners in each field. This strand also feedback into the new digital Local Offer which is be created as part of PAP 2 on the SEND Area Action Plan for Halton. The launch of a new SEN Inclusion Matter Newsletter in September (4 weekly) has developed the lines of communication between all professionals and schools. DBV is also supporting the Local Offer becoming digital, again all stakeholders are involved in the development.
- 3.10 Work has also been carried out this quarter to ensure Provision and Placement panel is more robust in ensuring that INMASS in the last resort for our EHCP children and ensure we reduce the spending

from our High Need Block. This has involved the implementations of new paperwork, terms of reference of the group etc.... to provide more support and challenge for each decision made.

- 3.11 Workstream 2 Inclusion Lead Practitioner - On track This has been closely linked to the training of Halton Staff in both Thrive Approach and the ability for our EP service to offer TEAM Teach training. The Specialist Teacher Service are leading of the inclusive practice for each of their specialist areas. Our Resource Bases are supporting mainstream settings with inclusive practices. This was co-designed and a framework set at our DBV 'Learning Lunch' event in September. We have also held our first NASEN SEND Conference in November attended by 97 delegates from 86% of our school settings and 21 delegates to a bolt of session for EYFS. This was designed to link up all that has been offered so far by the DBV and also made links to the SEND Area Action Plan.
- 3.12 Workstream 2 Headteacher Coach and Influence Model - On track Our Principal EP (Education Psychologist) has now rolled this out. The outcome has been a hybrid bespoke approach in the form of both online and face to face – both group and one to one. We are utilising the existing cluster groups in the first instance to support Headteachers, followed by both in person and online meetings. This has been seen a real need by Headteachers. Further work for other SEND and SLT members are ongoing use other professionals in the system.
- 3.13 The next step is to explore an invest to save measure by establishing two High Dependency (HD) Pilot Units within secondary settings, initially for 1 year, explored by the Delivering Better Value (DBV) grant and funded by High Needs Block.
- 3.14 The pilot is to explore a possible cost saving measure to reduce out of borough placements as a result of permanent exclusions. If successful, this will result in the possible rollout of further HD Units through the Resource Base process, to support schools to reduce permanent exclusions.
- 3.15 High Needs Block spend has grown 46% in Halton since Financial Year ending 2020, with 78% of all spend coming from Maintained Special Schools (MSS), Independent and Non-maintained special schools (INMSS) and Mainstream settings.
- 3.16 Halton are supporting a higher proportion of their caseload in specialist provision than their statistical neighbours, particularly in INMSS, where 9% of Halton's EHCPs are supported compared to the national average of 5%.
- 3.17 Expressions of interest were received by Blessed Carlo Acutis and Sandymoor Ormiston Academy after presentations were given by

Charotte Finch (Acting Director SEND and Inclusion) at Halton Association of Secondary Headteachers meetings on two occasions. This was a borough wide pilot offer.

- 3.18 Due diligence checks were carried out by the SEND teams and the DBV (Delivering Better Value) lead Mike Stapleton-Chambers. Both school have also taken an active part in previous reduction of permanent exclusion projects including Team around the School.
- 3.19 Children identified for this pilot unit, will be children at high risk of exclusion or already subject to an exclusion within the school population.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The outcomes will work towards the objectives within the Children and Young People Strategy 2024-27.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The acceptance of the report by the Department of Education (DfE) will release the final £250,000 funding for the project. In total this will conclude the £1,000,000 grant funding.
- 5.2 Grant funding is on track and within budget.
- 5.3 The establishing two High Dependency (HD) Pilot Units is an investment to save project. The actual spend will come from the High Needs Block as an investment to save pilot.
- 5.4 The full costs will be calculated via coproduction with the host setting though the pilot and may be subject to change. Guidance will be given by Naheem Shafiq, Principal Finance Officer, who was part of the initial DfE (Department of Education) bid for the DBV (Delivering Better Value) grant. Early discussion/scoping with schools indicates that place funding should be between 100k pa- 120k pa, to support 4 young people. This will represent an investment, in order to save approximately £45k per child in each Unit, by maintaining the child in their local school, and avoiding the additional cost of INMSS and associated transport.
- 5.5 Of the 69 permanently excluded pupils in 23/24, 13 received an EHCP after the date of permanent exclusion. Only one was undergoing statutory assessment at the time of permanent exclusion.
- 5.6 INMSS latest data shows that the average cost of a placement is £63,995.00 plus transportation costs. In the year 23/24, 6 pupils were placed in these settings.

- 5.7 Of the 69 permanently excluded 36 are still at 'The Bridge' at a cost of £23,027 These costs are currently under review. Historically, these children will continue at 'The Bridge' for a number of years. Only 19 went back into mainstream schools, 8 are still currently at the Home tuition centre this setting is also under review.
- 5.8 DBV (Delivering Better Value) funding will be used to develop the systems, training and resources underpinning the units and will not require recurrent funding. As above, the implementation of these pilots must take into account other improvement programmes, to maximise the opportunity for success. All momentum.
- 5.9 If successful, this 1 year pilot will require consultation and change statutorily, know as a 'Significant Change' notice. If these provisions move toward more formalised/recognised SEMH RBs/Units. This has been agreed with legal services (Manwar Hussain) as an appropriate approach.

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

6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

The work in schools carried out as part of Delivering Better Value (DBV) project is informed by Halton's Children and Young Peoples Plan and includes all partners across the borough.

6.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**

The best possible educational outcomes achieved by our children, the stronger the future work force for Halton.

6.3 **Supporting Children, Young People and Families**

The educational outcomes for our children and young people is influenced by the quality of education provided within each of our schools and reflects the key priorities within the Children and Young Peoples Plan 2024-2027.

6.4 **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**

The Delivering Better Value (DBV) project takes into account all children and young people across the borough and the achievements made based upon their starting points.

6.5 **Working Towards a Greener Future**

None.

6.6 **Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**

None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Progress against each of the priorities identified within the presentation will be tracked and inform future reports to the Department of Education (DfE) and reported to the Policy & Performance Board.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None raised.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None Identified.

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

10.1 'None under the meaning of the Act.'

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

DATE: 20th January 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director of Children's Services

PORTFOLIO: Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Number of young people who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) and whose activity is Not Known to the local authority

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To report the Annual NEET and Not Known figures for Halton and provide information about the reasons for growth of the number of young people who are NEET.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) the report be noted;**
- 2) information about the current situation in January 2025 be tabled at the meeting.**

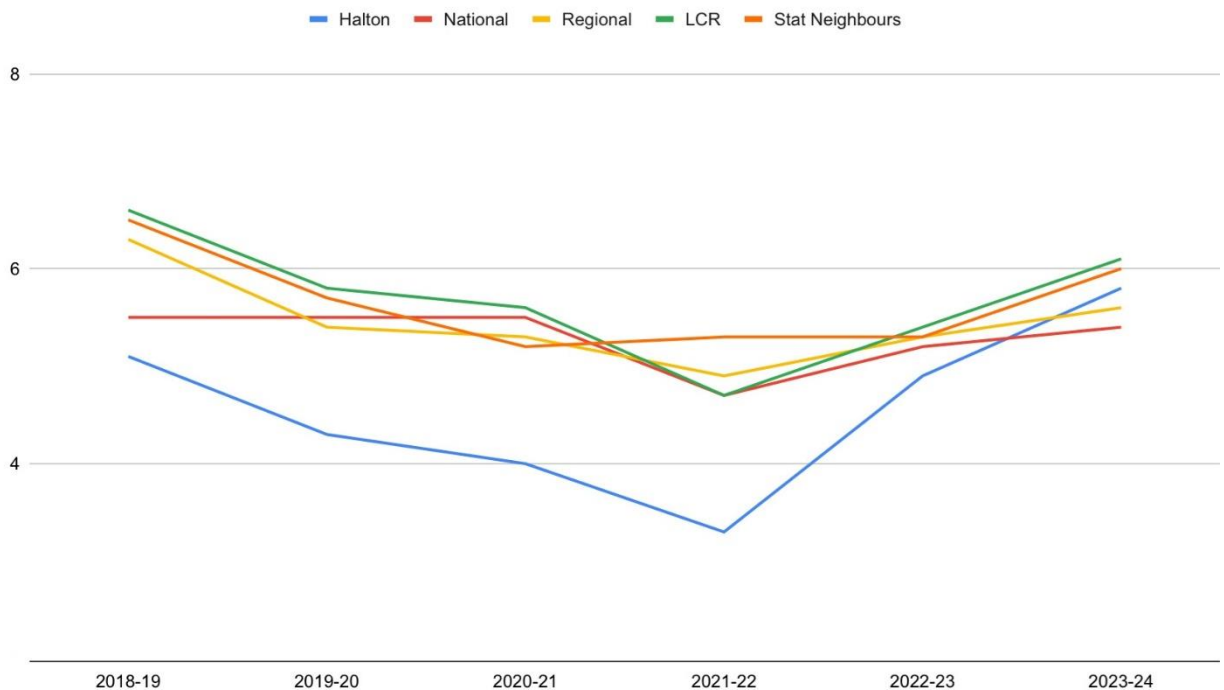
3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Education and Skills Act 2008 placed two Raising Participation Age related duties on local authorities regarding academic age 16- & 17-year-olds:
- Local authorities must promote the effective participation in education and training of 16- & 17-year-olds in their area with a view to ensuring that those persons fulfil the duty to participate in education or training.
 - Local authorities must make arrangements – that is, maintain a tracking system – to identify 16- & 17-year-olds who are not participating in education or training.
- 3.2 The 14-19 Team in Halton work to fulfil these two duties by tracking the participation of all academic age 16- & 17-year-olds who are resident in Halton. In addition, young people between 18 – 25 years old with a maintained Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) are tracked. The 14-19 Team provide Careers Guidance and support to those who are not participating, and work with schools to support young people to transition from Year 11 into Post 16 education.

- 3.3 As part of the statutory duties the Department for Education (DfE) require every local authority to report monthly on the participation of academic age 16- & 17-year-olds, and those up to 25 with a maintained EHCP.
- 3.4 The DfE collate the data provided by local authorities and publish an annual measure of the percentage of young people who are NEET or whose activity is Not Known to the local authority. This percentage is an average of the figures across December, January and February annually. The figure is for academic age 16- & 17-year-olds who live in Halton. It does not include children in the care of Halton who live out of borough or those with a maintained EHCP older than academic age 17. It does include children in the care of other local authorities but live in Halton.
- 3.5 After years of NEET and Not Know figures decreasing in Halton, and being significantly lower than other areas, the number of young people who are NEET has risen. The increase is significantly greater in Halton than in other local authorities.

Annual 3-month average combined NEET and Not Known results:

Halton, National, Regional, LCR and Stat Neighbours



	Halton	National	Regional	LCR	Statistical Neighbours
2018/19	5.1%	5.5%	6.3%	6.6%	6.5%
2019/20	4.3%	5.5%	5.4%	5.8%	5.7%
2020/21	4%	5.5%	5.3%	5.6%	5.2%
2021/22 (SN changes applied)	3.3% (= 106 young people)	4.7%	4.9%	4.7%	5.3%
2022/23	4.9%	5.2%	5.3%	5.4%	5.3%
2023/24*	5.8% (= 190 young people)	5.4%	5.6%	6.1%	6%
Overall increase since 2021/22	2.5%	0.7%	0.7%	1.4%	0.7%

* 2023/24 figures are draft, verified, and published figures have not been released at time of writing this report, although any change will likely be no greater than 0.1% difference.

- 3.6 **Not Known Figures** - For those whose activity is Not Known to the local authority Halton has consistently performed well in this measure as we have a strong tracking process and good relationships with others to share information. In 2023/24 the Not Known figure for Halton is 0.3% (10 young people) compared to 2.2% Nationally and 1.4% Regionally.
- 3.7 Halton's figure of 0.3% Not Known for 2023/24 is the same as it was in 2021/22. This situation is identical for National and Regional figures too i.e. their current Not Known performance is the same as it was in 2021/22. Therefore, the increase in the overall 3-month average combined NEET and Not Known percentage all comes from an increase in the number of young people who are NEET.
- 3.8 **NEET Figures** - Whilst NEET figures have and are continuing to rise, in March 2024 the DfE referenced Halton as maintaining relatively low NEET and Not Known figures when considered in the wider economic and social context. Young people living in Halton have a higher likelihood of being NEET according to data from the Youth Futures Foundation. Halton is ranked as the 9th highest local authority in England for NEET risk factors. Please see Appendix 1 for a list of highest ranked local authorities and where our statistical neighbours are ranked.
- 3.9 The economic and social context of Halton may indicate young people have a higher likelihood of being NEET, but our aspirations for our young people expressed through the Corporate Strategy (Priority 3) and Children and Young People's Plan (strategic pillar: raising our aspirations) means there is more that we should be doing to reduce the current number of young people who are NEET in Halton.
- 3.10 Two key reasons NEET figures have been rising are:

- 3.10.1 *Young People's emotional health and wellbeing affecting their ability to progress to and sustain their Post 16 education or training.*
- 3.10.2 The changes experienced in schools regarding attendance, behaviours leading to exclusions, those choosing to be electively home educated and lack of provision to meet needs of a small number of young people with Education, Health and Care Plans continues to impact young people into Post 16.
- 3.10.3 Working alongside schools support is given to young people in Year 11 who are identified as being at risk of not progressing to Post 16 Education or Training. The number of referrals accepted has to be limited due to capacity to support. Approximately 160 young people were supported in 2023/24 and 88% of those progressed to a positive Post 16 destination.
- 3.10.4 Young people in Year 11 who are Electively Home Educated are also offered Careers Advice and Guidance from Halton Borough Council, and supported to consider their Post 16 options. Of the 47 Year 11 young people who were Electively Home Educated in 2023/24 89.4% of those have progressed to a positive Post 16 destination.
- 3.10.5 Despite the work with Year 11 pupils annually in previous years less young people progressed to a positive destination Post 16; 94.5% in autumn 2023 compared to 95.2% in 2022 and 98.8% in 2021. At the time of writing this report comparative figures are not available for 2023/24.
- 3.10.6 In addition to lack of progression, in the 2023/24 academic year 359 young people joined the NEET cohort compared to 282 in 2021/22, with the biggest increase being young people leaving education or training part way through an academic year. Provision issues in Halton, referenced below, limits options for young people who do want to return to education or training.
- 3.10.7 *Lack of Post 16 provision in Halton, especially provision that allows learners to join part way through an academic year.*
- 3.10.8 In addition to Riverside College and OBA 6th form, who run their 16–18-year-olds courses for a full academic year, there are two work-based learning Post 16 providers in Halton. Both these providers rely on subcontracts from larger organisations as they are not Ofsted registered and do not have an Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Contract. Both providers have the ability to offer a small scale environment, better suited to the needs of some young people.
- 3.10.9 Since 2022/23 academic year both work-based learning providers have had a reduction to their contracts, reducing the number of learners they are able to work with, and their flexibility to offer the opportunity to join part way through an academic year. This has impacted the choice for young people who become NEET part way through an academic year and want to progress to learning within the borough of Halton. The changes are

reflective of changes the Department for Education made to funding methodologies and restrictions on subcontracting provision.

- 3.10.10 The vulnerability of the Post 16 provider landscape in Halton has been raised with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and with the Department for Education (DfE). Work has been ongoing to engage with other Post 16 Providers to encourage new provision into Halton.
- 3.10.11 From September 2024 a new Post 16 provider started delivery in Halton. Based at Murdishaw Community Centre the provision is within a nurturing environment with good community links through the Centre. The provision will accept learners part way through an academic year. Referrals to provision have been high and the provider is in the process of considering a growth plan for Halton to determine whether it can accommodate the ongoing requests for provision.
- 3.10.12 Work continues in engaging other Post 16 Providers to attract further provision into Halton.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications of pursuing the recommended course of action.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications of pursuing the recommended course of action.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 *Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence*
Supporting young people to make a positive and sustained transition into Post 16 education or training allows them to continue their journey to gain the skills and abilities needed for long term employment. Employment is a route to independence and choices as an adult.
- 6.2 *Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy*
Supporting young people to make a positive and sustained transition into Post 16 education or training allows them to continue their journey to gain the skills and abilities needed for long term employment. This creates the next generation of local workforce to meet the skills needs of our local economy.
- 6.3 *Supporting Children, Young People and Families*
Supporting young people to make a positive and sustained transition into Post 16 education or training is integral to ensuring they reach their full potential.

6.4 *Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most in Need*
Social and economic factors show Halton young people to be at higher risk of NEET. These risk factors can be mitigated against with the right level of support to transition into and sustain Post 16 education or training.

6.5 *Working Towards a Greener Future*
None

6.6 *Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community*
None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Opportunities associated with the proposed actions are:

7.1.1 Raise awareness of the provision landscape in Halton and encourage any engagement or support for Post 16 provision to build a sustainable delivery model in Halton.

7.1.2 Raise awareness of the difficulties Post 16 providers operate within due to funding methodologies.

7.2 The risks associated with not taking the proposed actions are:

7.2.1 Lack of understanding of the experience of Post 16 providers, and young people in the borough.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Supporting young people who are NEET gives those most at risk of not being financially independent the opportunity to re-engage in education or training and progress towards sustained, long term employment.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There is no effect on the environment.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Participation of young people in education, employment or training – statutory guidance for local authorities April 2024	Participation of young people: education, employment and training - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Hâf Bell

**Appendix 1 to Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance
Board Report on NEET 3 month average figures**

20th January 2025

Youth Futures Foundation – Risk of NEET Factors

This data comes from the Young Futures Foundation's report exploring the extent and degree of overlap between different forms of marginalisation among young people (aged 13 to 25), and how experiencing multiple types of marginalisation may increase the risk of young people not being in employment, education or training (NEET).

Five domains of marginalisation were explored - education, family circumstances, health, living standards and risky behaviour - making up 19 NEET factors.

A standard score was calculated for each local authority. The standard score was 0 for values that are equal to the mean, 1 for values that were one standard deviation above the mean, and 2 for values that were two standard deviations above the mean. Values below the mean had negative standard scores. From this a weighted average was calculated per local authority.

Please see data on next page.

Highest Scoring Local Authorities

The table below shows the local authorities that scored the highest weighted average of NEET factors. Higher values indicate regions where young people have a higher likelihood of being NEET. Those highlighted blue are Halton's Statistical Neighbours.

Highest Scoring Local Authorities	Weighted Score	NEET and Not Known 3 Month Average - Dec, Jan, Feb		
Local Authority		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Blackpool	1.88	3.9%	11.1%	8.3%
Middlesbrough (SN)	1.63	5.6%	4.4%	3.9%
Knowsley (SN)	1.53	5.9%	6.0%	7.4%
Redcar and Cleveland (SN)	1.46	5.8%	6.5%	6.1%
Great Yarmouth / Norfolk	1.42	4.9%	5.2%	5.2%
Hartlepool (SN)	1.38	3.7%	3.9%	5.6%
Stoke-on-Trent	1.23	10.5%	10.9%	22.0%
Sunderland (SN)	1.2	5.4%	4.8%	5.0%
Halton	1.16	3.3%	4.9%	5.8%
Rotherham	1.15	4.9%	7.2%	5.0%
St. Helens	1.14	4.3%	5.1%	6.1%
Burnley/Lancashire	1.13	5.2%	5.3%	5.8%
Doncaster	1.12	4.8%	4.3%	4.8%
South Tyneside (SN)	1.11	5.0%	5.9%	5.7%
Kingston upon Hull, City of	1.07	5.6%	6.7%	8.1%
North East Lincolnshire (SN)	1.04	6.3%	7.7%	7.4%
Hastings / East Sussex	1.04	4.9%	5.2%	6.3%
East Lindsey / Lincolnshire	1.03	5.4%	5.9%	8.8%
Barnsley (SN)	0.99	5.4%	4.1%	5.2%
Thanet / Kent	0.98	5.1%	5.8%	5.3%
Darlington (SN)	0.88	4.4%	3.8%	7.8%
Durham (SN)	0.79	5.6%	5.3%	5.4%

REPORT TO:	Children, Young People & Families Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	20 January 2025
REPORTING OFFICER:	Finance Director
PORTFOLIO:	Corporate Services
SUBJECT:	Councilwide Spending as at 30 November 2024
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 November 2024, together with the latest 2024/25 outturn forecast.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That;

- (i) **The Councilwide financial position as outlined in the attached report, be noted.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 16 January 2025 the Executive Board received the attached report, which presents details of Councilwide revenue and capital spending by each Department, and outlines the reasons for key variances from budget.
- 3.2 Given the scale of the Council's current financial challenges, Executive Board requested that a copy of the report be shared with each Policy and Performance Board for information. This is to ensure that all Members have a full appreciation of the Councilwide financial position, in addition to their specific areas of responsibility.
- 3.3 The report is presented to Executive Board every two months and the attached report covers the period 1 April 2024 to 30 November 2024. It includes details of spending to date by each Department against both the revenue budget and capital programme.
- 3.4 Appendix 1 provides a Councilwide summary of revenue spending, while Appendix 2 presents details relating to each Department. The latest forecast of revenue spending to year-end compared to budget is also provided.
- 3.5 Appendix 4 indicates progress with implementation of previously approved budget savings for 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- 3.6 In future the bi-monthly Councilwide spending report will be reported to each Policy and Performance Board.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

5.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**

5.3 **Supporting Children, Young People and Families**

5.4 **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**

5.5 **Working Towards a Greener Future**

5.6 **Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**

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 as far as possible.

6.2 A budget risk register of significant financial risks is maintained and is included at Appendix 5 of the attached report.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072

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

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 16 January 2025
REPORTING OFFICER: Finance Director
PORTFOLIO: Corporate Services
SUBJECT: 2024/25 Spending as at 30 November 2024
WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.2 To report the Council's overall revenue net spend position as at 30 November 2024 together with a 2024/25 forecast outturn position.

3.0 RECOMMENDED: That;

- (ii) All spending continues to be limited to essential items only;**
- (iii) Executive Directors continue to identify areas where they can further reduce their directorate's spending or generate income, in order to reduce the councilwide forecast outturn overspend position;**
- (iv) Executive Directors continue to implement the approved savings proposals for 2024/25 and 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix 4;**
- (v) The updated forecast outturn position be shared with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in support of the Council's application for Exceptional Financial Support;**
- (vi) Council be asked to approve the revisions to the capital programme set-out in paragraph 3.22 and incorporated within Appendix 3;**
- (vii) This report be shared with each Policy and Performance Board, in order to ensure they have a full appreciation of the councilwide financial position, in addition to their specific areas of responsibility.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Revenue Spending

3.1 Appendix 1 presents a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget up to 30 November 2024 and Appendix 2 provides

detailed figures for each individual Department. In overall terms, net Council spending as at 30 November 2024 is £14.246m over budget. The outturn forecast for the year estimates that net spending will be over budget by £20.757m if no corrective action is taken.

- 3.2 The forecast outturn overspend has increased by approximately £100,000 from the amount reported on 14 November 2024. Whilst this is only a marginal increase, there has been significant movement within individual directorates' outturn positions. Further information regarding significant departmental variances is included within the report and departmental figures are included in Appendices 1 and 2.
- 3.3 The forecast position continues to be of great concern, as there is no evidence of a reduction in overall spending across the Council. In order to address the situation, financial focus workshops led by the Chief Executive are taking place with each Directorate's senior leadership team on a monthly basis. These workshops are looking for urgent ways to reduce or stop spending, or generate income. The aim is that initiatives identified in these workshops will help reduce the overall forecast overspend position for the year.
- 3.4 It is certain that available reserves will not be sufficient to cover the forecast overspend for the year. Therefore, on 04 December 2024 Council approved an application to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). The Government's EFS arrangement provides councils with exceptional permission to capitalise annual revenue costs and fund them from long term borrowing (usually over 25 years) from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLb). EFS provides permission to borrow and does not provide grant funding. The Council submitted a draft EFS application on 13 December 2024. The application will be updated based on the information within this report and also following clarification of the 2025/26 provisional grant settlement.
- 3.5 The Council's available useable reserves (general and earmarked) total £11.484m. This is well below that required to help provide a balanced budget position given the forecast outturn overspend. Further detail on reserves is provided at paragraph 3.19.
- 3.6 The forecast outturn figures reflect a prudent yet realistic view of spend and income levels through to the end of the year. Work will continue to update the financial position as more information becomes available. Included within the forecast position is the 2024/25 pay award which was paid in November 2024.
- 3.7 The largest pressure on the Council's budget continues to be within the Children & Families Department, where net spend for the year is forecast to be £8.311m (16.5%) above 2023/24 actual spend. There continue to be significant cost pressures within the forecast relating to staffing costs, residential placements, and out of borough foster care.

- 3.8 On 24 October 2024 the Board approved additional revenue funding of £4.2m per year, to help develop a programme around the stabilisation and redesign of Children's Social Care, following the Ofsted review. This investment is focused upon proactive early intervention and prevention systems. It is envisaged that this investment will help control and reduce costs within Children's Social Care over the next few years, and these cost reductions will be built into future year budget targets.
- 3.9 The use and cost of agency staff continues to be one of the main contributing factors to the overspend position for the year. This is mostly evident within the Children & Families Department and the Council's in-house Care Homes. Initiatives and support from the Transformation Programme are ongoing to reduce reliance upon agency staff.
- 3.10 Analysis of agency spend for the year, together with comparative analysis of 2023/24 costs, is included in the table below. Note information for Q3 only includes data for two months, October and November.

	2024/25				2023/24
	Q1 £'000	Q2 £'000	Q3 to Date £'000	Total £'000	Total £'000
Adult Social Care	1,341	1,656	806	3,803	5,927
Chief Executives Delivery Unit	132	179	154	465	0
Children & Family Services	1,283	1,432	940	3,655	6,157
Community & Greenspace	116	129	68	313	336
Economy, Enterprise & Property	86	105	78	269	343
Education, Inclusion & Provision	99	78	36	213	393
Finance	14	42	24	80	56
Legal & Democratic Services	253	274	137	664	814
Planning & Transportation	94	85	15	194	206
Public Health & Public Protection	11	10	1	22	21
Total	3,429	3,990	2,259	9,678	14,253

- 3.11 Within the approved budget for the year is a £4m savings target against the Transformation Programme. To date budget savings of £0.129m have been identified against this target. In addition, the Transformation Delivery Unit (TDU) have identified cost reductions and cost avoidance measures, although these will not lead to an overall reduction in the budgeted target. Progress against transformation savings is reported monthly to the Transformation Programme Board.
- 3.12 The forecast overspend is significantly above that which has been recorded in recent years. Whilst the current year net budget for the Council has increased by £7.7m (5.45%), this is well below the forecast increase in net costs, currently estimated as an increase of £22.952m (15.5%).

Revenue - Operational Spending

- 3.13 Operational net spending for the first eight months of the year is higher than the budget to date by £14.246m Based on current forecasts it is

estimated net spend will be over budget for the year by £20.757m if no further corrective action is taken.

3.14 Within the overall budget forecast position for the quarter, the key budget variances are as follows;

(i) **Children and Families Department**

The overall forecast financial position at the end of 2024/25 has reduced by £0.631m since last reported at 30 September 2024.

Significant investment as part of a Children's Social Care improvement plan and redesign of the service, has been provided to support the improvement journey. Although, there has been a reduction in forecast overspend, It is important to recognise that the level of spend across the service remains a similar level. The reduction in forecast overspend is primarily due to the increased funding provided, as well as some reductions in other areas.

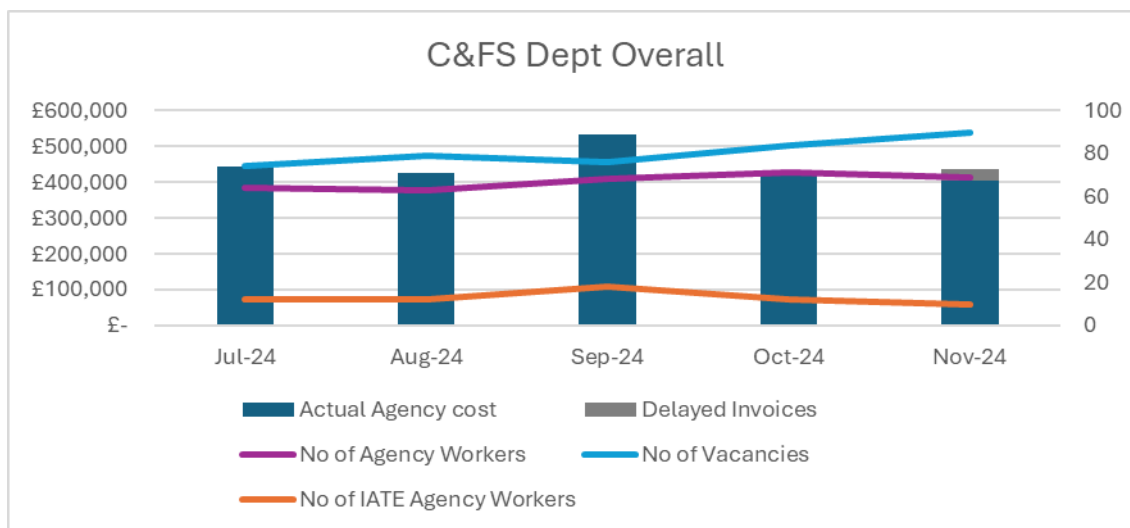
The Children's and Families Department forecast overspend continues to be an area of serious concern and the issues remain the same. These include the difficulty with recruitment of social workers and the subsequent high cost of agency staff, along with spiralling costs of residential placements. This has been an ongoing problem for a number of years.

Employee Expenditure

Employee costs are forecast to be over budget profile at the end of financial year 2024/25 by £2.618m, a reduction of £0.438m compared to the end of September 2024.

The reduction mainly relates to the approved additional investment within Children's Services which has resulted in the establishment of 33 new roles across the Department. Agency staff that were previously in addition to the establishment (IATE) are no longer considered as IATE. Additional in-year budget of £0.370m (funded from contingency) has been provided for some of the newly established posts which has helped reduce the overspend position.

The chart below analyses agency costs for the period April to November, for the Children and Families Department. These are based upon the period worked, the number of agency staff where an invoice has been received for each period, the number of vacancies, and the number of staff who are currently in addition to the establishment (IATE).



Residential Care

Out of Borough Residential Care costs continue to be the main budget pressure for the Children and Families Department, as the costs of residential care have continued to escalate year-on-year. The numbers of young people in residential placements remains high, complexity of care is increasing, and the cost of placements is rising significantly.

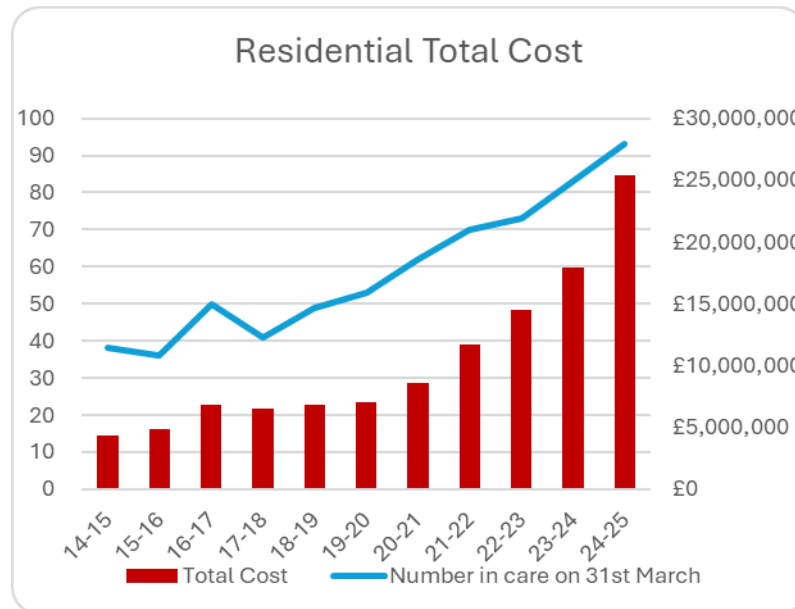
Provision	Weekly Costs	30-Nov-24		30-Sep-24	
		No. Placed	Estimated cost for the year	No. Placed	Estimated cost for the year
Residential	£1000 - £3000	4	476,360	3	425,275
Residential	£3001 - £5000	25	4,956,870	26	5,642,774
Residential	£5001 - £7000	26	7,413,389	27	7,989,196
Residential	£7001 - £15982	17	9,291,964	14	8,215,999
Secure	£6397 - £8137				
Leaving Care	£443 - £7175	14	2,341,056	18	2,643,101
Parent & Child	£2000 - £5500	7	913,562	6	715,298
Total:		93	25,393,201	94	25,631,643

The forecast overspend at the end of financial year is £7.194m for residential placements, which is a reduction of £0.200m since last reported.

Overall the cost of packages is increasing due to the complexity of support the young people require, as well as inflationary package cost increases. This is a national issue and market factors such as low supply and high demand have resulted in the costs of residential care packages rising significantly over the past year in particular, meaning that the level of spend is unsustainable at the current rate.

A number of initiatives are taking place to try and address the issue, including the operation of a High Cost Placement Panel, where high cost packages are individually scrutinised to ensure the placement is correct for the young person's needs and is provided at the best available cost.

The graph below illustrates the rising costs of Residential Care, for consistency this does not include the costs of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) as these costs were not included in previous years.



(ii) **Adult Social Care Directorate**

Community Care

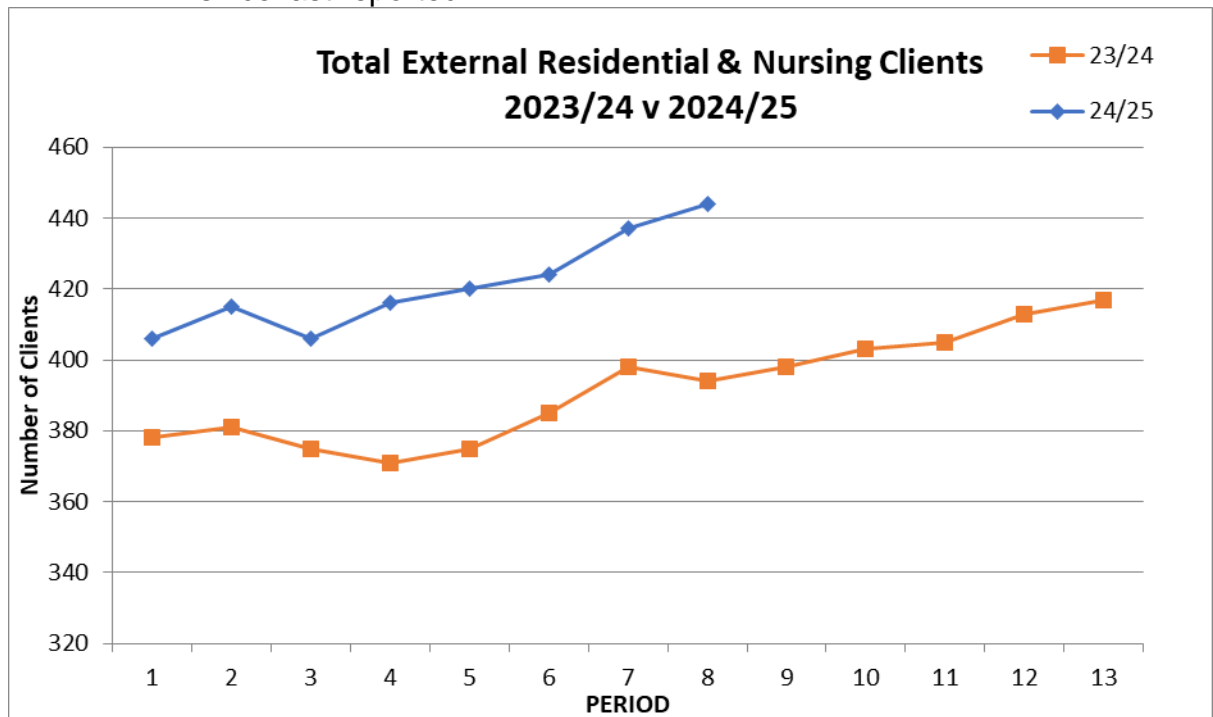
At the end of November 2024 expenditure on Community Care services is over budget profile by £1.569m. It is anticipated that at the end of the financial year it will be overspent by £2.951m. This is an increase of £0.518k from the previous forecast reported at the end of September. Note the September forecast was based upon August figures, hence this increase is over three months.

Residential & Nursing Care

There are currently 444 residents in permanent external residential/nursing care as at the end of November 2024 compared to 406 in April, an increase of 9.3%. Compared to the 2023/24 average of 390 this is an increase of 13.8%. The average cost of a package of care since April 2024 has increased from £866 to £873 a slight increase of 0.8%. Based on this average cost the 24 additional service users from August to November will cost approximately £0.491m to year-end. In addition, there are 92 residents placed within the Council's in-house care homes.

The graph below illustrates the demand for permanent placements.

However, it is not only permanent placements that are increasing, as short-stay placements are also increasing fuelled by Pathway 3 Discharge to Assess. Health provide funding for four weeks, but generally when this funding ends the cost falls to the Council. Very few residents tend to qualify for Continuing Healthcare funding from Health. Short-stay placements have increased by £0.183m since last reported.



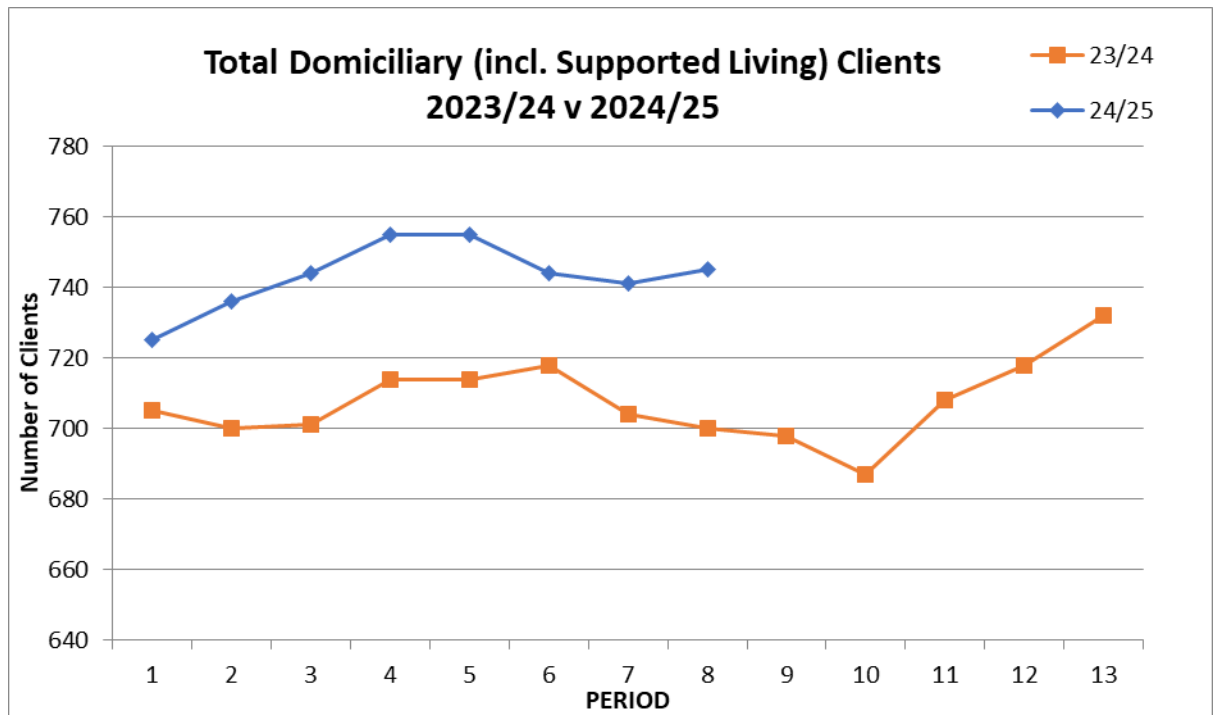
There are 25 external packages which charge top-up amounts currently costing £4,138 per week. The full year forecast spend is circa £0.159m.

Extra 1 to 1 hours in external care homes currently cost £8,339 per week and the forecast to year end for this is circa £0.492m. This is for 18 individuals to date. Last year 20 individuals received 1 to 1 care at a total cost of £0.255m. This suggests that either people are receiving more hours of care, or the rate is higher than last year.

Domiciliary Care & Supported Living

There are currently 745 service users receiving a package of care at home compared to 755 in August, a slight decrease of 1.3%. However, the average number of service users during 2023/24 was 707, so there has been an increase of 5.3% demonstrating that demand for the service has increased this financial year. The average cost of a package of care has increased by 3.5%, from £515 to £533.

The graph below illustrates the demand for the service from April 2023 to date.



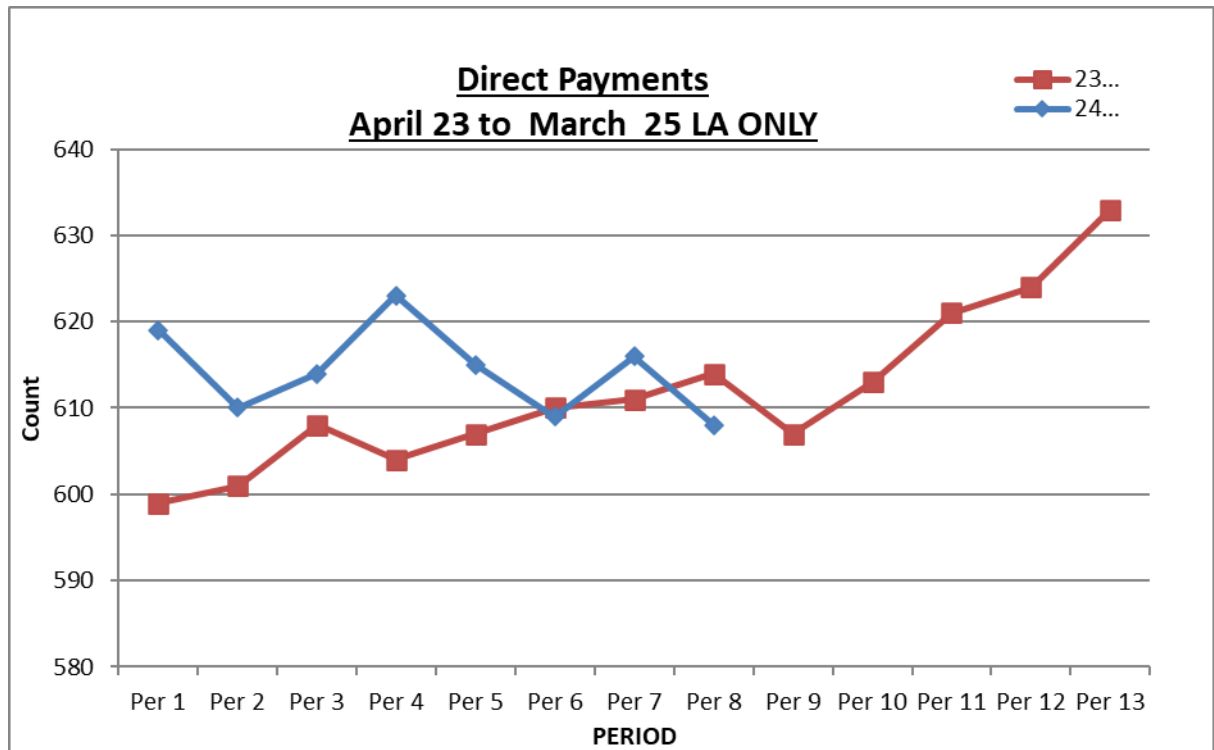
The average cost of a package of care is currently £533 compared with £491 in April, an increase of 8.6%.

Direct Payments

In November 2024, 608 clients received a Direct Payment (DP) compared with 619 in April 2024, a very slight decrease of 1.7%. However, the average number of DP's in 2023/24 was 591, therefore, there has been an increase of 2.8% on last year's average.

The average cost of a package of care has decreased since April 2024 from £529 to £472 in November 2024, a reduction of 10.7%.

The forecast position for Direct Payments assumes an amount of £1.4m will be recovered from users, following the ongoing audit process to seek assurance that the DP is spent in line with their care and support needs. Variations to the amount recovered will directly affect the forecast.



Care Homes

The spend to 30 November 2024 across the Division is over budget profile by £0.873m. The forecast for the end of 2024/25 financial year is an estimated outturn position of £1.245m over budget. This is assuming the level of agency staffing continues at a similar rate and includes higher spend assumptions later in the financial year due to winter pressures surrounding staffing and utilities.

Recruitment of staff is a continued pressure across the care homes, where there remains a high number of staff vacancies. A proactive rolling recruitment exercise is ongoing, supported by HR.

Due to pressures with recruitment and retention in the sector, heavy reliance is being placed on overtime and expensive agency staff to support the care homes. At the end of November 2024 total agency spend across the care homes reached £2.383m, the cost of which has partially been offset by staff vacancies.

(iii) Education, Inclusion and Provision

Schools Transport is the main budget pressure for the Education, Inclusion and Provision Department. The Council has a statutory responsibility to provide Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils with transport. This is split into two main areas of SEN pupils attending In-Borough and Out-of-Borough Schools.

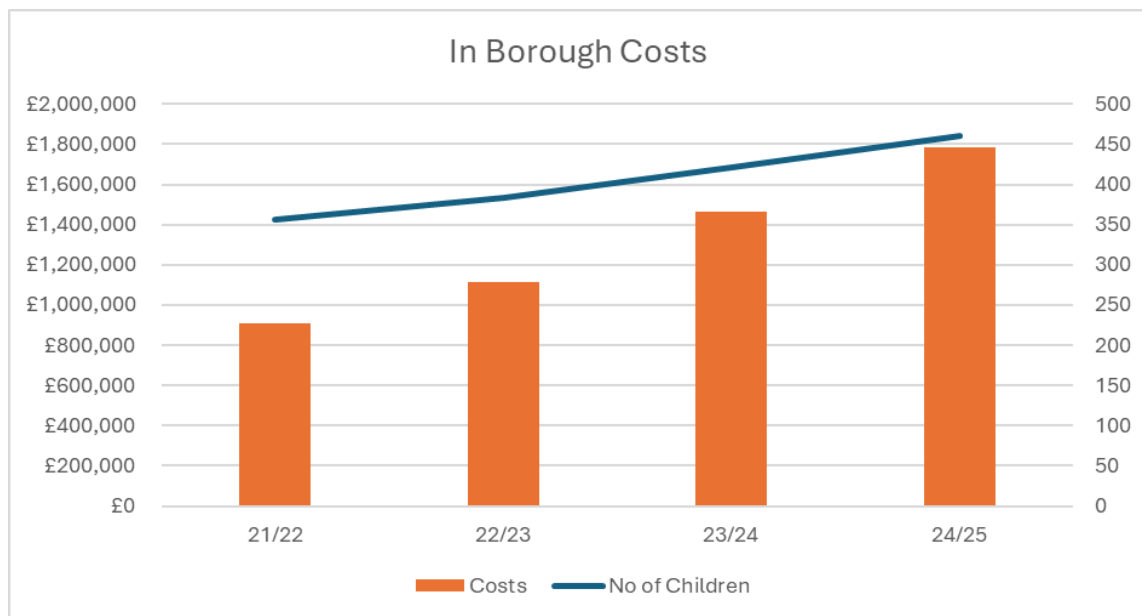
The table below illustrates the split between the two areas, and how each areas spend compares to the budget.

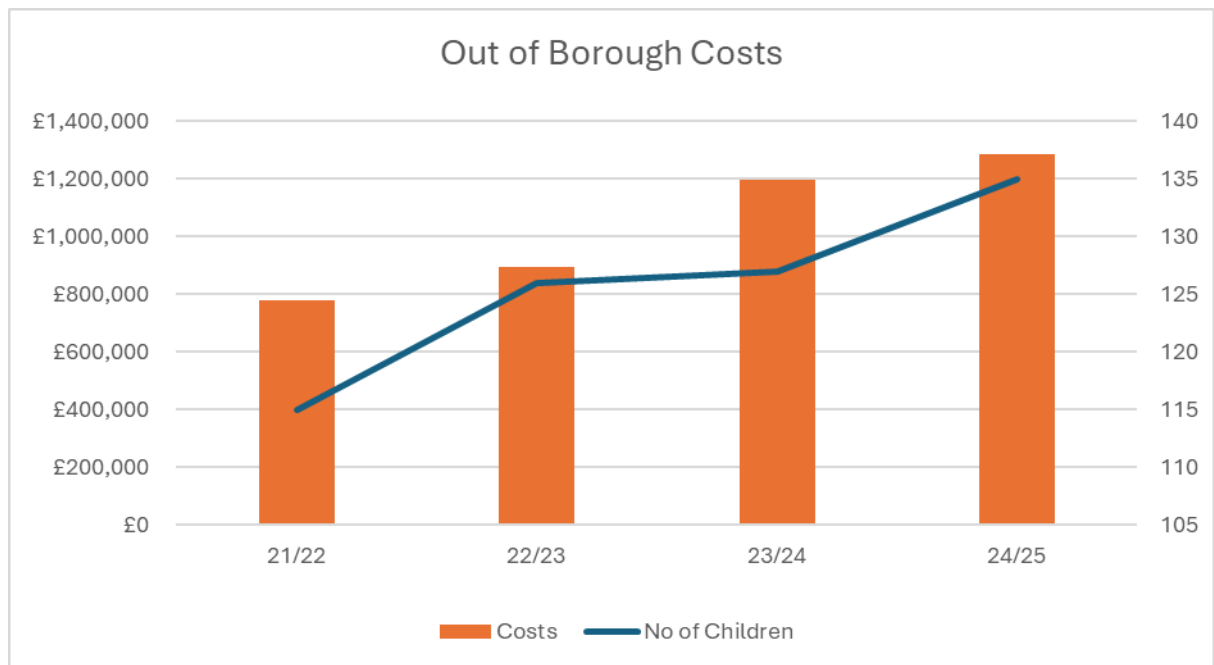
2024-25 as at Nov-24					
Area	Number of Users	Budget £000	Projected Spend £000	Variance £000	Average Cost per User
In Borough	461	1,826	1,783	43	£3,869
Out of Borough	135	489	1,286	(797)	£9,528
Total	596	2,315	3,070	(754)	

There are currently 596 service users, the majority of which attend schools within the Borough. The Out-of-Borough overspend has increased since the end of September 2024, to £0.852m.

During the current Academic year, it is anticipated that these figures will continue to rise, based upon historic information. The demand for the School Transport Service continues to increase in line with the increasing number of pupils with SEN within the Borough.

The graphs below show the trend in the number of SEN children using this service and the associated costs.





A further pressure on the departmental budget for the year relates to Psychology and SEN Assessment services provided to schools. For a number of years these costs have been funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Department for Education have recently advised that these costs cannot be DSG funded as they are outside of scope in meeting the grant conditions. It is therefore currently assumed this cost will fall upon the Council's budget at a cost of £0.860m, until at such time other sources of funding are found.

(iv) **ICT Department**

At the end of the 2024/25 financial year it is forecasted that the ICT and Administration Department will be over the approved budget profile by £0.657m.

The main pressures faced by the ICT and Administration Department is in relation to the IT infrastructure, with the move to Microsoft 365, staff have been able to utilise much more efficient hardware. However, the software utilised by the new hardware is at a premium and will be a continuous pressure the Council will need to react to as prices fluctuate.

(v) **Community and Greenspaces Department**

The net departmental expenditure is forecast to be £0.616m under budget at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. This is an improved position from the expected £0.395m forecasted previously.

The largest contributor to the underspend is in relation to spend on Employees, which is currently forecast to be £1.012m under the approved budget profile by the end of the financial year. There are

several restructures taking place across the Department, therefore, in order to facilitate these a number of posts are currently being held vacant until the new structure is implemented. The most notable of these being the new structure being implemented when the new Halton Leisure Centre opens.

Collection Fund

- 3.15 The council tax collection rate through to the end of November 2024 is 71.43% which is 0.14% lower than the collection rate at the same point last year.

Debt relating to previous years continues to be collected, and the Council utilises powers through charging orders and attachment to earnings/benefits to secure debts. £1.811m (10.28%) has so far been collected this year in relation to previous years' debt.

- 3.16 Business rate collection through to the end of November 2024 is 76.03% which is 2.39% higher than the collection rate at the same point last year.

£1.694m has so far been collected this year in relation to previous years' debt.

Review of Reserves

- 3.17 As at 30 November 2024 the Council's General Reserve is unchanged from the previous period at £5.149m, which represents 3.44% of the Council's 2024/25 net budget. This is considered to be a minimum level.

- 3.18 There is a regular review of earmarked reserves undertaken to determine whether they can be released in part or in full to assist with funding the Council's current financial challenges, recognising that this only provides one-year funding solutions.

Reserves Summary

- 3.19 A summary breakdown of the Council's reserves is presented in the table below, showing the balance of reserves as at 30 November 2024.

Summary of General and Earmarked Reserves	
Reserve	Reserve Value £m
Corporate:	
General Fund	5.149
Transformation Fund	6.355
Capital Reserve	0.499
Insurance Reserve	1.000
Specific Projects:	
Adult Social Care	0.507
Fleet Replacement	0.418
Highways Feasibility Costs	0.102

Local Development Framework	0.494
Community & Environment	0.253
Mersey Valley Golf Club	0.483
Mersey Gateway	27.222
Various Other	0.554
Grants:	
Building Schools for the Future	6.529
Public Health	1.881
Supporting Families Performance Payments	0.534
Children's & Education	0.741
Domestic Abuse	1.186
Enterprise & Employment	0.115
Various Other	0.766
Total Earmarked Reserves	54.788

3.20 Held within the Transformation Reserve is £6.355m, set aside to help fund future balanced budgets, fund overspends, and meet a range of potential spending commitments in future years associated with delivering the Transformation Programme.

3.21 The above table shows the diminishing level of reserves available to assist with funding any future budget overspends and balancing future budgets. Only the £11.484m of the General Fund and Transformation Reserve could now be used for these purposes, as all remaining reserves are committed for specific purposes. Use of these reserves will help contribute towards reducing the Council's overall forecast overspend position and mitigate against the level of Exceptional Financial Support required.

Capital Spending

3.22 Council approved the 2024/25 Capital Programme on 6 March 2024. Since then the capital programme has been revised to reflect a number of changes in spending profiles and funding as schemes have developed. Appendix 3 brings all the separate elements together and report on the Council's total planned capital programme expenditure over the next three years. The schemes which have been revised within the programme are as follows:

- a. Family Hubs & Start for Life
- b. Joint Funding RSL Adaptations
- c. Madeline McKenna Refurbishment
- d. Runcorn Station Quarter
- e. Mersey Gateway Handback Land

- 3.23 Capital spending at 30 November 2024 totalled £26.1m, which represents 37.5% of the total Capital Programme of £69.6m (which assumes a 20% slippage between years).

Approved Savings

- 3.24 On 02 February 2023, Council approved savings proposals against the budget for the three year period 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2026. Appendix 4 lists those savings covering 2024/25 and 2025/26, together with RAG rated information on progress to date with developing and implementing the target savings.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 As at 30 November 2024, net revenue spend is forecast to be £20.757m over the budget for the year.
- 4.2 It is clear that Council reserves alone will not be sufficient to fund this pressure. As a result of this position and future budget challenges, the Council has applied to Government for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS).
- 4.3 Departments should continue to ensure that all spending continues to be limited to only what is absolutely essential throughout the remainder of the year, to ensure that the forecast outturn overspend is minimised as far as possible and future spending is brought in line with budget. This will assist with minimising the ongoing cost of EFS borrowing.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

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

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

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

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

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

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

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

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

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

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

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 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 as far as possible.

7.2 A budget risk register of significant financial risks has been prepared and is included at Appendix 5.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072

10.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act

Summary of Revenue Spending to 30 November 2024

APPENDIX 1

Directorate / Department	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	November 2024 Forecast Outturn (o'spend) £'000	September 2024 Forecast Outturn (o'spend) £'000
Adult Social Care	22,806	15,080	15,367	(287)	(456)	(335)
Care Homes	9,989	6,519	7,392	(873)	(1,245)	(1,198)
Community Care	16,460	12,980	14,549	(1,569)	(2,951)	(2,433)
Complex Care Pool	10,704	1,972	1,660	312	234	308
Adults Directorate	59,959	36,551	38,968	(2,417)	(4,418)	(3,658)
Finance	5,030	6,099	6,156	(57)	(162)	369
Legal & Democratic Services	-618	-360	447	(807)	(1,137)	(976)
ICT & Support Services	2,279	886	1,308	(422)	(657)	(588)
Chief Executives Delivery Unit	1,169	595	602	(7)	(14)	(63)
Chief Executives Directorate	7,860	7,220	8,513	(1,293)	(1,970)	(1,258)
Children & Families	38,745	21,153	29,602	(8,449)	(11,702)	(12,333)
Education, Inclusion & Provision	9,771	4,802	5,908	(1,106)	(1,598)	(1,642)
Children's Directorate	48,516	25,955	35,510	(9,555)	(13,300)	(13,975)
Community & Greenspace	25,370	15,065	14,840	225	616	395
Economy, Enterprise & Property	2,335	923	815	108	123	30
Planning & Transportation	8,405	4,099	3,545	554	528	102
Environment & Regeneration Directorate	36,110	20,087	19,200	887	1,267	527
Corporate & Democracy	-4,240	-3,659	-1,721	(1,938)	(2,418)	(2,380)
Public Health Directorate	1,291	-962	-1,032	70	82	102
Total Operational Net Spend	149,496	85,192	99,438	(14,246)	(20,757)	(20,642)

Adult Social Care

APPENDIX 2

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	17,559	11,684	10,956	728	1,092
Agency- Covering Vacancies	0	0	796	(796)	(1,194)
Premises	482	360	334	26	40
Supplies & Services	637	452	588	(136)	(180)
Aids & Adaptations	37	25	34	(9)	(14)
Transport	242	161	245	(84)	(130)
Food & Drink Provisions	211	142	123	19	29
Supported Accommodation and Services	1,385	923	828	95	150
Emergency Duty Team	115	0	0	0	0
Transfer To Reserves	269	0	0	0	0
Contracts & SLAs	1,090	738	738	0	0
<u>Housing Solutions Grant Funded Schemes</u>					
Homelessness Prevention	471	150	151	(1)	0
Rough Sleepers Initiative	167	48	46	2	0
Trailblazer	100	50	43	7	0
Total Expenditure	22,765	14,733	14,882	(149)	(207)
Income					
Fees & Charges	-860	-574	-526	(48)	(70)
Sales & Rents Income	-480	-368	-378	10	10
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-2,195	-858	-905	47	47
Capital Salaries	-121	-61	-61	0	0
Transfer from Reseres	-49	-49	-49	0	0
Housing Schemes Income	-731	-731	-735	4	4
Total Income	-4,436	-2,641	-2,654	13	(9)
Net Operational Expenditure	18,329	12,092	12,228	(136)	(216)
Recharges					
Premises Support	529	353	353	0	0
Transport Support	582	402	553	(151)	(240)
Central Support	3,465	2,308	2,308	0	0
Asset Rental Support	13	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-112	-75	-75	0	0
Net Total Recharges	4,477	2,988	3,139	(151)	(240)
Net Departmental Expenditure	22,806	15,080	15,367	(287)	(456)

Care Homes

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
<u>Madeline Mckenna</u>					
Employees	698	466	443	23	28
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	87	(87)	(150)
Other Premises	101	65	65	0	(2)
Supplies & Services	20	10	17	(7)	(6)
Food Provison	48	28	33	(5)	(1)
Total Madeline Mckenna Expenditure	867	569	645	(76)	(131)
<u>Millbrow</u>					
Employees	2,057	1,271	853	418	782
Agency - covering vacancies	3	3	656	(653)	(1,077)
Other Premises	129	89	101	(12)	(35)
Supplies & Services	61	36	71	(35)	(36)
Food Provison	78	33	39	(6)	1
Total Millbrow Expenditure	2,328	1,432	1,720	(288)	(365)
<u>St Luke's</u>					
Employees	2,884	1,922	1,420	502	740
Agency - covering vacancies	250	250	931	(681)	(1,042)
Premises	172	104	164	(60)	(86)
Supplies & Services	60	33	64	(31)	(35)
Reimbursement & Grant Income	-103	-103	-103	0	0
Client Income	-44	-44	-44	0	0
Food Provison	120	80	88	(8)	(9)
Total St Luke's Expenditure	3,339	2,242	2,520	(278)	(432)
<u>St Patrick's</u>					
Employees	1,838	1,225	813	412	612
Agency - covering vacancies	42	42	709	(667)	(1,007)
Other Premises	157	95	95	0	(10)
Supplies & Services	64	38	37	1	5
Food Provison	122	82	70	12	14
Reimbursement & Grant Income	-21	-21	-21	0	0
Total St Patrick's Expenditure	2,202	1,461	1,703	(242)	(386)
<u>Care Homes Divison Management</u>					
Employees	306	184	170	14	73
Supplies & Services	0	0	3	(3)	(4)
Care Home Divison Management	306	184	173	11	69
Net Operational Expenditure	9,042	5,888	6,761	(873)	(1,245)
Recharges					
Premises Support	264	176	176	0	0
Transport Support	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support	683	455	455	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	947	631	631	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	9,989	6,519	7,392	(873)	(1,245)

Community Care

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Residential & Nursing	13,715	9,941	11,428	(1,487)	(2,503)
Domiciliary Care & Supported living	12,890	8,564	8,574	(10)	(17)
Direct Payments	14,125	9,838	10,063	(225)	(570)
Day Care	648	377	366	11	19
Total Expenditure	41,378	28,720	30,431	(1,711)	(3,071)
Income					
Residential & Nursing Income	-13,138	-8,457	-8,039	(418)	88
Community Care Income	-2,270	-1,364	-1,459	95	35
Direct Payments Income	-1,014	-521	-624	103	8
Income from other CCGs	-466	-34	-396	362	0
Market sustainability & Improvement Grant	-2,796	-1,864	-1,864	0	0
Adult Social Care Support Grant	-5,167	-3,445	-3,445	0	0
War Pension Disregard Grant	-67	-55	-55	0	(11)
Total Income	-24,918	-15,740	-15,882	142	120
Net Operational Expenditure	16,460	12,980	14,549	(1,569)	(2,951)

Complex Care Pool

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Intermediate Care Services	5,220	3,087	3,243	(156)	(234)
Oakmeadow	1,831	1,192	1,259	(67)	(100)
Community Home Care First	2,111	1,196	1,124	72	107
Joint Equipment Store	871	553	553	0	0
Development Fund	191	77	0	77	115
Contracts & SLA's	3,171	586	586	0	0
Inglenook	127	85	66	19	28
HICafs	3,703	2,026	1,744	282	423
Carers Breaks	494	303	226	77	115
Carers centre	371	357	342	15	23
Residential Care	7,225	3,629	3,629	0	0
Domiciliary Care & Supported Living	4,227	2,113	2,113	0	0
Pathway 3/Discharge Access	391	0	0	0	0
HBC Contracts	72	54	58	(4)	(6)
Total Expenditure	30,005	15,258	14,943	315	471
Income					
BCF	-13,484	-8,990	-8,990	0	0
CCG Contribution to Pool	-2,865	-1,910	-1,910	0	0
Oakmeadow Income	-19	-16	-13	(3)	(4)
ASC Discharge Grant Income	-1,631	-1,088	-1,088	0	0
ICB Discharge Grant Income	-1,282	-1,282	-1,282	0	0
Other Income	-20	0	0	0	0
Total Income	-19,301	-13,286	-13,283	(3)	(4)
ICB Contribution Share of Surplus					(233)
Net Operational Expenditure	10,704	1,972	1,660	312	234

Finance Department

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	6,989	4,664	4,600	64	96
Insurances	975	566	362	204	306
Supplies & Services	417	261	441	(180)	(263)
Rent Allowances	35,500	20,669	20,669	0	0
Concessionary Travel	1,748	556	659	(103)	(154)
LCR Levy	1,748	0	0	0	0
Bad Debt Provision	77	0	97	(97)	(145)
Non HRA Rent Rebates	70	34	29	5	7
Discretionary Social Fund	106	75	11	64	96
Discretionary Housing Payments	300	146	134	12	18
Household Support Fund Expenditure	2,625	2,158	2,158	0	0
Total Expenditure	50,555	29,129	29,160	(31)	(39)
Income					
Fees & Charges	-335	-210	-214	4	6
Burdens Grant	-60	-62	-78	16	24
Dedicated schools Grant	-144	-13	0	(13)	(19)
Council Tax Liability Order	-581	-446	-547	101	152
Business Rates Admin Grant	-157	0	0	0	0
Schools SLAs	-312	-312	-307	(5)	(5)
LCR Reimbursement	-1,748	0	0	0	0
HB Overpayment Debt Recovery	-400	-264	-191	(73)	(109)
Rent Allowances	-34,700	-18,548	-18,287	(261)	(391)
Non HRA Rent Rebate	-70	-47	-49	2	2
Discretionary Housing Payment Grant	-300	-300	-93	(207)	(23)
Housing Benefits Admin Grant	-498	-332	-326	(6)	(9)
Housing Benefits Award Accuracy	0	0	-12	12	12
Universal Credits	-5	-3	0	(3)	(5)
Household Support Fund Grant	-2,625	0	-243	243	0
VEP Grant	0	0	-5	5	5
CCG McMillan Reimbursement	-87	-44	-48	4	5
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-185	-235	-390	155	232
Transfer from Reserves	-7	-7	-7	0	0
Total Income	-42,214	-20,823	-20,797	(26)	(123)
Net Operational Expenditure	8,341	8,306	8,363	(57)	(162)
Recharges					
Premises Support	377	251	251	0	0
Transport Support	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support	2,365	1,577	1,577	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-6,053	-4,035	-4,035	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-3,311	-2,207	-2,207	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	5,030	6,099	6,156	(57)	(162)

Legal Services

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	1,511	1,104	1,099	5	7
Agency Related Expenditure	0	0	664	(664)	(914)
Supplies & Services	388	331	294	37	55
Civic Catering & Functions	23	12	4	8	13
Legal Expenses	218	122	281	(159)	(230)
Transport Related Expenditure	11	11	7	4	6
Other Expenditure	0	3	3	0	0
Total Expenditure	2,151	1,583	2,352	(769)	(1,063)
Income					
School SLA's	-98	-78	-77	(1)	(20)
Licence Income	-301	-205	-183	(22)	(33)
Government Grant	-42	-42	-42	0	0
Reimbursement & Other Grants	-164	-164	-164	0	0
Fees & Charges Income	-74	-52	-37	(15)	(21)
Transfer from Reserves	-27	-27	-27	0	0
Total Income	-706	-568	-530	(38)	(74)
Net Operational Expenditure	1,445	1,015	1,822	(807)	(1,137)
Recharges					
Premises Support	53	35	35	0	0
Transport Recharges	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support Recharges	275	184	184	0	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	0	0	0	0	0
Support Recharge Income	-2,391	-1,594	-1,594	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,063	-1,375	-1,375	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	-618	-360	447	(807)	(1,137)

ICT & Support Services Department

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	5,596	3,758	3,567	191	286
Supplies & Services	921	625	941	(316)	(475)
Capital Finance	100	67	12	55	80
Computer Repairs & Software	1,725	1,521	1,770	(249)	(374)
Communication Costs	13	0	100	(100)	(164)
Premises	159	101	88	13	19
Transport	3	3	1	2	0
Total Expenditure	8,517	6,075	6,479	(404)	(628)
Income					
Fees & Charges	-1,056	-529	-562	33	50
Schools SLA Income	-646	-599	-561	(38)	(59)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	0	7	20	(13)	(20)
Transfer from Reserves	-148	-148	-148	0	0
Total Income	-1,850	-1,269	-1,251	(18)	(29)
Net Operational Expenditure	6,667	4,806	5,228	(422)	(657)
Recharges					
Premises Support	550	367	367	0	0
Transport Support	19	15	15	0	0
Central Support	2,380	1,587	1,587	0	0
Asset Rental Support	1,494	0	0	0	0
Support Costs Income	-8,831	-5,889	-5,889	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-4,388	-3,920	-3,920	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	2,279	886	1,308	(422)	(657)

Chief Executives Delivery Unit

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	3,304	2,229	2,221	8	12
Employees Training	99	66	63	3	2
Apprenticeship Levy	300	187	193	(6)	(10)
Supplies & Services	391	267	240	27	41
Total Expenditure	4,094	2,749	2,717	32	45
Income					
Fees & Charges	-223	-146	-141	(5)	(8)
Schools SLA Income	-565	-548	-509	(39)	(56)
Transfer from Reserves	0	0	-5	5	5
Total Income	-788	-694	-655	(39)	(59)
Net Operational Expenditure	3,306	2,055	2,062	(7)	(14)
Recharges					
Premises Support	174	116	116	0	0
Transport	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support	1,209	806	806	0	0
Asset Rental Support	53	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-3,573	-2,382	-2,382	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,137	-1,460	-1,460	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	1,169	595	602	(7)	(14)

Children & Families

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	15,544	9,828	11,607	(1,779)	(2,618)
Other Premises	415	199	227	(28)	(24)
Supplies & Services	1,725	1,612	1,966	(354)	(589)
Transport	360	210	176	34	44
Direct Payments	1,097	701	827	(126)	(206)
Commissioned services to Vol Orgs	224	134	134	0	0
Residential Care	17,727	9,509	14,895	(5,386)	(7,194)
Out of Borough Adoption	96	48	0	48	96
Out of Borough Fostering	4,253	2,336	3,051	(715)	(955)
In House Adoption	548	304	253	51	63
Special Guardianship Order	2,510	1,577	1,617	(40)	(59)
In House Foster Carer Placements	2,739	1,738	1,532	206	310
Lavender House Contract Costs	234	141	128	13	15
Home Support & Respite	340	177	224	(47)	(73)
Care Leavers	248	215	295	(80)	(130)
Family Support	53	27	39	(12)	(18)
Contracted services	3	2	2	0	0
Early Years	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency Duty	132	37	72	(35)	(51)
Youth Offending Services	321	124	169	(45)	(73)
Transfer to Reserves	8	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	48,577	28,919	37,214	(8,295)	(11,462)
Income					
Fees & Charges	-33	-9	0	(9)	(12)
Sales Income	-4	-3	0	(3)	(5)
Rents	-81	-41	-37	(4)	0
Reimbursement & other Grant Income	-787	-598	-506	(92)	(137)
Transfer from reserve	-82	-82	-82	0	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-50	0	0	0	0
Government Grants	-10,528	-8,189	-8,143	(46)	(86)
Total Income	-11,565	-8,922	-8,768	(154)	(240)
Net Operational Expenditure	37,012	19,997	28,446	(8,449)	(11,702)
Recharges					
Premises Support	398	266	266	0	0
Transport	16	11	11	0	0
Central Support Recharges	2,274	1,516	1,516	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
Internal Recharge Income	-955	-637	-637	0	0
Net Total Recharges	1,733	1,156	1,156	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	38,745	21,153	29,602	(8,449)	(11,702)

Education, Inclusion & Provision

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	7,313	4,887	5,108	(221)	(283)
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	199	(199)	(290)
Agency - addition to establishment	72	48	14	34	58
Premises	14	12	11	1	3
Supplies & Services	4,152	2,676	2,617	59	88
Independent School Fees	9,113	5,618	5,618	0	0
Schools Contingency	225	157	157	0	0
Transport	43	23	30	(7)	(10)
Schools Transport	2,341	1,033	1,536	(503)	(754)
Early Years Payments	10,372	6,995	6,995	0	0
Early Years Pupil Premium	154	94	94	0	0
Commissioned Services	1,719	890	1,090	(200)	(300)
Inter Authority Special Needs	1,175	795	795	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	182	84	77	7	10
Capital Financing	4,608	2,805	2,805	0	1
Total Expenditure	41,483	26,117	27,146	(1,029)	(1,477)
Income					
Fees & Charges Income	-424	-414	-414	0	(14)
Government Grant Income	-7,747	-5,300	-5,300	0	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-23,331	-15,554	-15,554	0	0
Inter Authority Income	-366	-216	-216	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-1,779	-1,098	-1,098	0	0
Schools SLA Income	-473	-383	-399	16	24
Transfers from Reserves	-84	0	0	0	0
Total Income	-34,204	-22,965	-22,981	16	10
Net Operational Expenditure	7,279	3,152	4,165	(1,013)	(1,467)
Recharges					
Premises Support	344	229	229	0	0
Transport Support	528	352	445	(93)	(131)
Central Support	1,603	1,069	1,069	0	0
Asset Rental Support	17	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	0	0	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	2,492	1,650	1,743	(93)	(131)
Net Departmental Expenditure	9,771	4,802	5,908	(1,106)	(1,598)

Community & Greenspaces

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	17,435	11,470	10,795	675	1,012
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	149	(149)	(224)
Agency - in addition to establishment	0	0	164	(164)	(246)
Premises	3,455	2,004	2,092	(88)	(90)
Supplies & Services	2,186	1,304	1,381	(77)	(115)
Hired & Contracted Services	623	623	623	0	0
Book Fund	128	96	96	0	0
Food Provisions	388	281	259	22	33
School Meals Food	1,960	972	1,025	(53)	(80)
Transport	117	52	74	(22)	(33)
Other Agency Costs	429	340	340	0	0
Other Expenditure	0	0	63	(63)	(64)
Waste Disposal Contracts	7,002	3,317	3,131	186	279
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	64	44	27	17	26
Grants to Norton Priory	172	172	172	0	0
Total Expenditure	33,959	20,675	20,391	284	498
Income					
Sales Income	-1,373	-991	-973	(18)	(26)
Fees & Charges Income	-5,490	-4,016	-4,122	106	158
Rental Income	-235	-135	-170	35	53
Markets Income	-910	-446	-437	(9)	(12)
Government Grant Income	-1,337	-1,337	-1,337	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-703	-361	-361	0	0
School SLA Income	-1,313	-564	-564	0	0
School Meals Income	-3,598	-1,942	-1,808	(134)	(200)
Internal Fees Income	-322	-135	-177	42	64
Capital Salaries	-173	-90	-34	(56)	(84)
Transfers From Reserves	-15	-15	-15	0	202
Total Income	-15,469	-10,032	-9,998	(34)	155
Net Operational Expenditure	18,490	10,643	10,393	250	653
Recharges					
Premises Support	1,675	1,115	1,116	(1)	0
Transport	2,257	1,491	1,515	(24)	(37)
Central Support	3,897	2,581	2,581	0	0
Asset Rental Support	199	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-1,148	-765	-765	0	0
Net Total Recharges	6,880	4,422	4,447	(25)	(37)
Net Departmental Expenditure	25,370	15,065	14,840	225	616

Economy, Enterprise & Property

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	5,075	3,558	3,285	273	410
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	198	(198)	(320)
Repairs & Maintenance	1,706	1,280	1,346	(66)	(99)
Premises	136	119	119	0	0
Energy & Water Costs	1,248	666	617	49	74
NNDR	690	691	660	31	31
Rents	173	94	89	5	7
Economic Regeneration Activities	21	0	0	0	0
Security	544	243	278	(35)	(53)
Supplies & Services	506	387	369	18	27
Supplies & Services - Grant	2,090	302	304	(2)	(3)
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	75	85	86	(1)	(1)
Capital Finance	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Reserves	185	186	185	1	1
Total Expenditure	12,449	7,611	7,536	75	74
Income					
Fees & Charges Income	-987	-405	-460	55	83
Rent - Commercial Properties	-872	-524	-511	(13)	(20)
Rent - Investment Properties	-38	-26	-26	0	0
Government Grant	-2,510	-1,157	-1,158	1	1
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-193	-403	-400	(3)	(5)
Schools SLA Income	-227	-208	-198	(10)	(15)
Recharges to Capital	-295	-214	-217	3	5
Transfer from Reserves	-1,120	-1,164	-1,164	0	0
Total Income	-6,242	-4,101	-4,134	33	49
Net Operational Expenditure	6,207	3,510	3,402	108	123
Recharges					
Premises Support	2,074	1,382	1,382	0	0
Transport Support	30	18	18	0	0
Central Support	1,947	1,298	1,298	0	0
Asset Rental Support	4	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-7,927	-5,285	-5,285	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-3,872	-2,587	-2,587	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	2,335	923	815	108	123

Planning & Transportation Department

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	5,719	3,796	3,535	261	393
Agency - covering vacancies	110	84	120	(36)	(54)
Agency - in addition to establishment	24	22	68	(46)	(69)
Efficiency Savings	-150	-100	0	(100)	(150)
Premises	193	144	111	33	50
Hired & Contracted Services	59	0	96	(96)	(167)
Planning Appeal Decision	0	0	0	0	(300)
Supplies & Services	144	153	260	(107)	(161)
Street Lighting	1,662	502	494	8	12
Highways Maintenance - Routine & Reactive	1,772	946	1,010	(64)	(97)
Highways Maintenance - Programmed Works	1,908	932	718	214	321
Fleet Transport	1,455	978	908	70	105
Bus Support - Halton Hopper Tickets	23	20	15	5	8
Bus Support	498	569	569	0	0
Agency Related Expenditure	8	7	34	(27)	(27)
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	31	31	31	0	0
NRA Levy	74	73	73	0	2
LCR Levy	1,059	529	529	0	0
Contribution to Reserves	359	359	359	0	0
Total Expenditure	14,948	9,045	8,930	115	(134)
Income					
Sales & Rents Income	-97	-65	-111	46	70
Planning Fees	-826	-546	-350	(196)	(294)
Building Control Fees	-245	-163	-163	0	0
Other Fees & Charges	-908	-596	-910	314	472
Grants & Reimbursements	-206	-121	-121	0	0
Government Grant Income	-240	-253	-253	0	0
Halton Hopper Income	-24	-16	-7	(9)	(13)
Recharge to Capital	-467	-89	-89	0	0
LCR Levy Reimbursement	-1,059	-529	-529	0	0
Contribution from Reserves	-1,036	-1,036	-1,036	0	0
Total Income	-5,108	-3,414	-3,569	155	235
Net Operational Expenditure	9,840	5,631	5,361	270	101
Recharges					
Premises Recharges	560	373	373	0	0
Transport Recharges	749	511	509	2	4
Central Recharges	1,534	1,022	1,022	0	0
Asset Charges	851	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-5,129	-3,438	-3,720	282	423
Net Total Recharges	-1,435	-1,532	-1,816	284	427
Net Departmental Expenditure	8,405	4,099	3,545	554	528

Corporate & Democracy

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	412	275	235	40	0
Contracted Services	39	24	24	0	0
Supplies & Services	119	98	98	0	0
Premises Expenditure	5	5	7	(2)	0
Transport Costs	1	0	8	(8)	(9)
Members Allowances	983	656	659	(3)	0
Interest Payable - Treasury Management	1,341	894	1,305	(411)	(617)
Interest Payable - Other	115	77	143	(66)	(100)
Bank Charges	132	44	158	(114)	(100)
Audit Fees	348	174	15	159	0
Contingency	667	445	0	445	667
Capital Financing	2,288	2	2	0	301
Debt Management Expenses	20	13	3	10	0
Precepts & Levies	240	160	140	20	30
Transformation Efficiency Savings	-4,000	-2,667	0	(2,667)	(3,871)
Total Expenditure	2,710	200	2,797	(2,597)	(3,699)
Income					
Interest Receivable - Treasury Management	-4,152	-2,768	-3,405	637	956
Interest Receivable - Other	-19	-13	-13	0	0
Other Fees & Charges	-158	-99	-58	(41)	(50)
Grants & Reimbursements	-255	-85	-85	0	333
Government Grant Income	-377	-126	-189	63	42
Total Income	-4,961	-3,091	-3,750	659	1,281
Net Operational Expenditure	-2,251	-2,891	-953	(1,938)	(2,418)
Recharges					
Premises Support	21	14	14	0	0
Transport	0	0	0	0	0
Central Support	1,016	711	711	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-3,026	-1,493	-1,493	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-1,989	-768	-768	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	-4,240	-3,659	-1,721	(1,938)	(2,418)

Public Health

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	4,762	3,095	3,085	10	20
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	22	(22)	0
Premises	6	0	0	0	0
Supplies & Services	485	274	218	56	46
Contracts & SLA's	7,547	4,314	4,288	26	16
Transport	4	3	1	2	0
Transfer to Reserves	19	19	19	0	0
Other Agency	24	24	24	0	0
Total Expenditure	12,847	7,729	7,657	72	82
Income					
Fees & Charges	-102	-124	-121	(3)	0
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-349	-331	-332	1	0
Transfer from Reserves	-820	-65	-65	0	0
Government Grant Income	-12,174	-9,116	-9,116	0	0
Total Income	-13,445	-9,636	-9,634	(2)	0
Net Operational Expenditure	-598	-1,907	-1,977	70	82
Recharges					
Premises Support	149	75	75	0	0
Transport Support	22	11	11	0	0
Central Support	2,387	1,194	1,194	0	0
Asset Rental Support	0	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-669	-335	-335	0	0
Net Total Recharges	1,889	945	945	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	1,291	-962	-1,032	70	82

Capital Programme as at 30 November 2024

Appendix 3

Scheme Detail	2024/25 Original Allocation £000	2024/25 Revised Allocation £000	Q1 Spend £000	Q2 Spend £000	Q3 Spend £000	Q4 Spend £000	Total Spend £000	Allocation remaining £000	2025/26 Allocation £000	2026/27 Allocation £000
Childrens Directorate										
Capital Repairs	749.0	749.0	151.0	531.0	50.0		732.0	17.0		
Basic Need Projects	600.8	600.8	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	600.8		
SEND capital allocation	3,355.2	3,355.2	178.0	519.0	322.0		1,019.0	2,336.2		
SCA unallocated	255.6	448.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	448.0		
Family Hubs & Start for Life	53.2	110.4	1.3	54.1	10.0		65.4	45.1		
Childcare Expansion	314.8	314.8	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	314.8		
Directorate Total	5,328.6	5,578.2	330.3	1,104.1	382.0	0.0	1,816.4	3,761.9	0.0	0.0
Adults Directorate										
Halton Carers Centre Refurbishment	199.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0		
Grants - Disabled Facilities	600.0	1,050.0	353.0	227.0	157.0		737.0	313.0	600.0	600.0
Stair Lifts	270.0	200.0	66.0	23.0	62.0		151.0	49.0	270.0	270.0
Joint Funding RSL Adaptations	270.0	200.0	53.0	24.0	81.0		158.0	42.0	270.0	270.0
Telehealthcare Digital Switchover	0.0	135.0	60.0	0.0	20.0		80.0	55.0		
Oakmeadow & Peelhouse Network Improvements	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	40.0		
Madeline McKenna Refurbishment	0.0	150.0	9.0	73	2.0		84.0	66.0		
Millbrow Refurbishment	0.0	50.0	26.0	8.0	0.0		34.0	16.0		
St Lukes Care Home	0.0	50.0	10.0	14.0	7.0		31.0	19.0		
St Patricks Care Home	1,200.0	50.0	14.0	16.0	-1.0		29.0	21.0		
Directorate Total	2,539.0	1,925.0	591.0	385.0	328.0	0.0	1,304.0	621.0	1,140.0	1,140.0

Capital Programme as at 30 November 2024 Continued

Scheme Detail	2024/25 Original Allocation	2024/25 Revised Allocation	Q1 Spend	Q2 Spend	Q3 Spend	Q4 Spend	Total Spend	Allocation remaining	2025/26 Allocation	2026/27 Allocation
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Environment & Regeneration Directorate										
Stadium Minor Works	30.0	30.0	7.9	7.7	0.0		15.6	14.4	30.0	30.0
Halton Leisure Centre	8,997.0	8,997.0	2,030.0	3,045.4	2,205.0		7,280.4	1,716.6		
Children's Playground Equipment	67.8	67.8	1.0	1.0	40.0		42.0	25.8	65.0	65.0
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340.0	340.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	340.0	340.0	340.0
Upton Improvements	13.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	13.0		
Crow Wood Park Play Area	12.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	12.0		
Open Spaces Schemes	600.0	600.0	130.0	154.4	86.0		370.4	229.6	600.0	600.0
Runcorn Town Park	468.6	468.6	0.0	6.8	0.0		6.8	461.8	280.0	280.0
Spike Island / Wigg Island	1,933.5	1,933.5	2.4	4.4	0.0		6.8	1,926.7		
Pickerings Pasture Cafe	503.0	503.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	503.0		
Replacement Cremator Widnes	308.0	308.0	0.0	77.3	6.0		83.3	224.7		
Litter Bins	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
3MG	134.5	134.5	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	134.5		
Murdishaw redevelopment	21.2	21.2	5.4	0.0	0.0		5.4	15.8		
Equality Act Improvement Works	293.2	93.2	8.7	17.6	59.6		85.9	7.3	300.0	300.0
Foundary Lane Residential Area	1160.0	1160.0	1.8	464.8	2.3		468.9	691.1		
Town Deal	11352.9	11552.9	174.9	261.8	940.0		1,376.7	10,176.2	7,190.4	
Property Improvements	360.2	460.5	4.3	131.1	286.6		422.0	38.5	200.0	200.0
Runcorn Station Quarter	484.7	76.0	0.0	60.5	15.5		76.0	0.0		
Waterloo Building	0.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	75.0		
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	178.2	178.2	0.0	0.0	12.2		12.2	166.0		
Runcorn Waterfront Residential Development	484.7	268.7	8.6	122.9	61.5		193.0	75.7		
Changing Places	24.1	24.1	2.5	0.1	1.6		4.2	19.9		
Sci-tech Daresbury Project Violet	2200.0	2200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	2,200.0		
Port of Weston	0.0	3,960.0	0.0	1.3	1.7		3.0	3,957.0		
Kingsway Leisure Centre Demolition	0.0	749.5	0.0	30.7	0.0		30.7	718.8		
Bridge and Highway Maintenance	0.0	2,265.6	280.8	313.0	20.0		613.8	1,651.8		







Capital Programme as at 30 November 2024 Continued

Scheme Detail	2024/25 Original Allocation £000	2024/25 Revised Allocation £000	Q1 Spend £000	Q2 Spend £000	Q3 Spend £000	Q4 Spend £000	Total Spend £000	Allocation remaining £000	2025/26 Allocation £000	2026/27 Allocation £000
Runcorn Busway	0.0	0.0	227.4	80.0	371.0		678.4	-678.4		
ATF3 Murdishaw to Whitehouse	0.0	3,000.0	175.3	363.0	497.0		1,035.3	1,964.7		
ATF4 Widnes Town Centre Accessibility	0.0	114.5	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	114.5		
A56 Reconstruction (Delph Lane)	0.0	943.7	351.1	0.0	10.0		361.1	582.6		
Dukesfield ATL (Waterloo Bridge)	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0		1.1	-1.1		
LCWIP Phase 2 Daresbury	0.0	3,861.7	629.3	56.0	15.0		700.3	3,161.4		
Additional Pothole Funding	0.0	429.1	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	429.1		
CRSTS	5,819.4	5,288.6	1,656.0	884.0	2,184.0		4,724.0	564.6		
Street Lighting - Structural Maintenance	1,025.6	1,025.6	0.0	37.0	94.0		131.0	894.6	200.0	200.0
Street Lighting - Upgrades	969.4	969.4	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	969.4		
East Runcorn Connectivity	5,851.7	5,851.7	452.5	207.0	810.0		1,469.5	4,382.1	5,851.7	5,851.7
Early Land Acquisition Mersey Gateway	212.4	212.4	0.0	16.4	99.2		115.6	96.8		
VAT										
deposit Jolly Brewer										
Land adj 44 Bower St										
falkirk Ave S106 funds included in sale proceeds for 14-15										
Directorate Total	49,390.3	63,773.5	7,237.7	6,826.1	8,086.6	0.0	22,150.4	41,623.1	16,620.4	8,006.7
Chief Executives Directorate										
IT Rolling Programme	1,026.9	1,026.9	27.7	668.2	12.7		708.6	318.3	700.0	700.0
Halton Smart Microgrid	11,000.0	11,000.0	0.0	0.0	128.0		128.0	10,872.0		
Transformation Programme	3,740.0	3,740.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	3,740.0	1,000.0	
Directorate Total	15,766.9	15,766.9	27.7	668.2	140.7	0.0	836.6	14,930.3	1,700.0	700.0
Grand Total	73,024.8	87,043.6	8,186.7	8,983.4	8,937.3	0.0	26,107.4	60,936.2	19,460.4	9,846.7



Progress Against Agreed Savings

Appendix 4




Adults Directorate

	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
ASC1	Housing Solutions	474	Remodel the current service based on good practice evidence from other areas.	0	125		Anticipated to be achieved, currently under review.
ASC2	Telehealthcare	680	Explore alternative funding streams such as Health funding or Disabled Facilities Grants.	170	0		Currently Under Review
			Increase charges / review income.	170	0		Charges were increased by 40% w.e.f. April 2024, so this should be achieved
			Cease the key safe installation service.	15	0		Service still being provided
ASC17/18	Quality Assurance Team	395	Review the activities of the Quality Assurance Team, given there are fewer providers for domiciliary care and the transfer of four care homes into the Council.	0	0		Saving implemented
			Merge the service with the Safeguarding Unit.	50	0		

ASC16	Shared Lives (Adult Placement Service)	115	Engage with an external agency currently operating Shared Lives to take over the running of this service. It is anticipated that this would provide an improved service.	58	0	u	Service currently still provided in-house, although a balanced budget will be attained for 2024/25 as a result of current temporary savings, and work is ongoing to ensure the 2025/6 structure can achieve the permanent savings target
ASC19	Voluntary Sector Support	N/A	Review the support provided by Adult Social Care and all other Council Departments, to voluntary sector organisations. This would include assisting them to secure alternative funding in order to reduce their dependence upon Council funding. A target saving phased over two years has been estimated.	200	100	✓	Anticipated to be achieved
ASC4	Positive Behaviour Support Service	349	Increase income generated in order to ensure full cost recovery, through increased service contract charges to other councils. Review the Integrated Care Board contribution for Adults, to ensure	100	0	✓	Contracts being re-costed on renewal, saving anticipated to be achieved ICB funding not secured, although a balanced budget will be attained for 2024/25 as a result of current temporary savings, and work is ongoing to ensure the 2025/6 structure can
				150	0	u	

			the full recovery of related costs.				achieve the permanent savings target
ASC15	Learning Disability Nursing Team	424	Cease provision of this service. The service is a Health related function rather than Adult Social Care, but this is a historical arrangement. The Integrated Care Board would need to consider how they want to provide this function.	424	0		Costs now recharged to the ICB
ASC14	Care Management Community Care Budget	18,982	Attract £500k investment from the pooled budget (BCF) from 2024/25. Undertake work in years 1 and 2 to reduce reliance upon contracted services from 2025/26. Services are currently in the process of being redesigned on a "Strengths Based Approach" ie. focused upon prevention.	500	1,000		Position currently being reviewed.
Total Adults Directorate				1,837	1,225		




Finance Department

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
F9	Internal Audit	300	Restructure in light of potential retirements over the next two years within the Internal Audit Team.	0	50		No official changes made yet
F13	Discretionary Support Scheme	221	Review the roles, procedures and structure of the team.	25	0		On track
F17	Council Tax	84	Increase the charges applied when a court summons is issued by 30% (£23), to achieve full cost recovery over the three year period.	40	40		On track
Total Finance Department				65	90		




Legal and Democratic Services Department

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
L4	Marketing, Design and Communications	45	Review the frequency of production of Inside Halton, as part of the wider consideration of the Council's communications strategy required for the Transformation Programme	15		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Budget adjusted inline with the savings in the ICT department
Total Legal Services Department				15	0		

Children and Families Department

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
C1	Ditton and Warrington Road Daycare Centres	52	Closure of Ditton and Warrington Road daycare centres, given the significant on-going net losses at both centres. Sufficient alternative provision exists nearby, as well as in the adjoining nursery schools.	26	0		Early Years has now closed and budget for 24/25 has been removed
C2	Children's Centres	1,293	Review the operation of Windmill Hill Children's Centre, where there is the potential to save on premises and staffing costs.	0	22		This is subject to further review as external factors are changing the original review parameters. Potential alternative funding also to be reviewed.
C3	Children with Disabilities and Inglefield	858	Explore the potential for selling Inglefield and then purchase two bungalows within the community to provide a more appropriate setting.	112	0		Amount was removed at budget setting as will not be achieved
Total Children & Families Department				138	22		

Education, Inclusion and Provision Department

Ref	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
EIP1	Education Psychology Service	339	There is excess demand from schools for the Education Psychology Service. The service is valued and there is opportunity to expand our offer and generate additional income.	52	0		
EIP2	SEN Assessment Team	82	Consideration will be given to funding the full service costs from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.	80	0		DSG funding removed as does not comply with grant conditions.
EIP5	Commissioning	148	Review with Health colleagues how the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Carers could instead be provided by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as they are commissioned by the Integrated Care Board.	148	0		To be reviewed.
Total Education, Inclusion and Provision Department				280	0		


Community and Greenspaces Department

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
COMM3	Sport & Recreation	471	Restructuring the roles and responsibilities of the Sports Development Team	36	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restructure is currently underway
COMM5	Stadium & Catering Services – School Meals	12	Cease to deliver the school meals service, which has made significant losses of over £200,000 for a number of years and is forecast to make a similar loss by year-end. Work would be undertaken with schools over the next two years to support them to secure an alternative means of delivery, whether in-house or via an external provider.	0	12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The cessation of the service is underway with the majority of schools ending their contracts by the end of the calendar year.
Total Community & Greenspace Department				36	12		

Economy, Enterprise and Property Department

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
EEP4	Cleaning Services – Council Buildings	580	Review cleaning arrangements, with a focus on only emptying bins and cleaning toilets daily.	100	0	U	A review of the cleaning service is underway with some positions removed from the structure. The full savings will not be achieved until the accommodation review is complete.
EEP2	Caretaking & Security Services	641	A review and restructuring of caretaking arrangements.	52	0	U	The restructure can now take place following the retirement of a member of staff. The full saving will not be made until financial year 25/26
Total Economy, Enterprise & Property Department				152	0		

Policy, Planning and Transportation Department

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
				24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
PPT6	Traffic	N/A	Consider introducing civil traffic enforcement for traffic violations. Employ private sector civil enforcement officers to issue fines and generate income. It would take 12 months to apply for powers from the DFT and put the scheme in place. The Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board will consider this via a Topic Group.	150	0		Not currently viable, therefore no income will be generated in the current year as the traffic enforcement will not be carried out.
Total Policy, Planning & Transportation Department				150	0		

Symbol

Objective



Indicates that the objective is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.



Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.



Indicates that it is highly likely or certain that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.

2024/25 Budget Risk Register as at 30 November 2024

Appendix 5

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
1	<p>Pay costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay award • Staff Turnover Saving Target • Agency, casuals and overtime • National Living Wage • Pension Costs 	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget based upon individual staff members/vacancies • Budget monitoring • Contingency • Balances • Medium Term Forecast • Engage with Cheshire Pension Scheme and pension actuary • Recruitment and retention scheme children social care workers. • Social Care Academy for children social care workers • Connect to Halton 	3	3	9	ED/SB/Executive Directors	Monthly	<p>2024/25 pay offer accepted and implemented November 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •£1290 on all pay points from 1st April •Equivalent to 5.77% on point 2 and 2.5% on point 43 •2.5% on all pay points above 43 and below chief officer level <p>Estimated 4% 2024.25 budget uplift will cover cost of pay award.</p> <p>Connect to Halton scheme went live September 2024, agency and casual appointments to be covered by the scheme.</p>	30/11/24

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
2	Redundancy and Early Retirements	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits Tracking Process • Future savings to take into account cost of redundancy and early retirements. • Seek Government approval to use capital receipts to fund transformation costs. • Transformation Reserve 	2	3	6	ED/SB	Quarterly	Tracker created to monitor redundancy costs in current year. Transformation reserve created to cover costs but limited reserves will impact use of this. Look to capitalise compulsory costs where possible where evidence exists it creates in a longer term saving.	30/11/24
3	Savings not achieved	4	3	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget monitoring • Contingency • Reserves / Provisions • Rigorous process in approving savings. • Review of savings at departmental and directorate level 	4	2	8	RR/ED/SB	Monthly	Savings for 2024/25 have been written into Directorate budgets. Budget savings monitored closely and if necessary offsetting savings sought. Transformation Programme Board meeting	30/11/24

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly budget monitoring • Medium Term Financial Forecast • 2023/24 to 2025/26 savings agreed February 2023. • RAG monitoring of savings included in quarterly monitoring reports. • Transformation saving targets reported monthly through Transformation Programme Board. 						on monthly basis to discuss progress against programme.	

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
4	Price inflation	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudent budget provision Latest forecast information used eg. utilities Budget monitoring Contingency Balances CPI/RPI monitoring MTFS 	3	3	9	ED/SB	Monthly	CPI for November 2024 is 2.6% and RPI is 3.6%. Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast inflation to hit 3.5% in 2025 and 3.1% through to 2027. Rates are higher than forecast in September 2024 and remain above Governments 2% target.	30/11/24
5	Review of LG Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business rates retention – 100% Pilot and Review Fair Funding Review National Public Spending Plans Social Care Green Paper 	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPs SIGOMA / LG Futures Liverpool City Region & Merseyside Treasurers Group Medium Term Financial Strategy Member of business rate retention pilot 	3	3	9	ED/SB/NS/MW/MG	Weekly/Monthly	Business rate retention pilot continues through to March 2026. New Government are committed to providing more certainty on LG Finances through multi year settlements. Provisional settlement	30/11/24

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
					region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue with DCLG 						announced 18 December 2024, funding is higher than within financial forecast but consideration still being undertaken on impact to Halton.	
6	Treasury Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borrowing Investment 	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasury Management Strategy Link Asset Services advice Treasury Management planning and monitoring Attendance at Networking and Benchmarking Groups Officer Training 	1	3	3	ED/SB/MG	Daily / Quarterly	Investment rates continue to be high relative to last decade. BoE base rate at 4.75%, general thoughts are for this rate to be lowered towards the end of the financial year and further reductions beyond this. Impact of Exceptional Financial Support request to be assessed with regards to timing of future borrowing.	30/11/24

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
7	Demand led budgets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in Care Out of borough fostering Community Care 	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget monitoring Contingency Balances Review service demand Directorate recovery groups Monthly budget monitoring 	4	4	16	ED/SB/NS/MW	Monthly	<p>Children in care, numbers and costs continue to exceed budget. Numbers of children in care and with protection plans reviewed on a weekly basis. Community care costs and numbers on increase, reviewed on a regular basis.</p> <p>Investment in Children Services following OFSTED inspection to be monitored with regard to control and reduction of future costs.</p>	30/11/24
8	Mersey Gateway Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs 	4	2	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular monitoring with Crossing Board 	2	1	2	ED/SB/MG	Quarterly	<p>Arrangements in place to monitor spend and availability of</p>	30/11/24

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toll Income Funding Accounting treatment 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital reserve Government Grant Liquidity Fund 						liquidity fund.	
9	Council Tax Collection	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council tax monitoring on monthly basis Review of Collection Rate Collection Fund Balance Provision for bad debts Review recovery procedures Benchmarking 	3	2	6	ED/PG/SB/P D/BH/MG	Monthly	Collection rate to 30 November 2024 was 71.43% which is marginally lower than the rate of 71.57% at the same point last year. It is uncertain at this point if collection for the year will be at the same level as for 2023/24. To 30 November 2024 £1.811m was collected in relation to old year debt.	30/11/24
10	Business Rates Retention Scheme	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and monitoring of latest business rates income to baseline and 	3	1	3	ED/SB/LB/M G	Monthly	Collection rate to 30 November 2024 was 76.03% which is 2.39% higher	30/11/24

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
					<p>estimate for year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prudent allowance for losses in collection Prudent provision set aside for losses from valuation appeals Regular monitoring of annual yield and baseline / budget position Benchmarking Groups Review recovery procedures 						<p>than the rate at the same point last year. It is uncertain at this point if collection for the year will be at the same level as for 2023/24. To 30 November 2024 £1.694m was collected in relation to old year debt.</p>	
11	<p>Income recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncertainty to economy following Brexit, cost of living and high inflation 	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate charging policy Budget monitoring Contingency Balances Income benchmarking 	3	2	6	ED/MM/SB	Monthly	<p>Income shortfalls identified and cause of increased concern in certain areas are being closely monitored. Cost of living crisis adds to uncertainty over collection.</p>	30/11/24

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
13	Capital Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs • Funding • Key Major Projects • Clawback of Grant • Availability and timing of capital receipts • Cashflow • Contractors 	4	3	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management • Regular monitoring • Detailed financial analysis of new schemes to ensure they are affordable • Targets monitored to minimise clawback of grant. • Contractor due diligence • Dialogue with Government departments. 	3	2	6	Project Managers/ED /SB/LH	Quarterly	Capital receipts have been fully committed therefore new capital schemes need to bring own funding.	30/11/24
14	Academy Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of transfer upon Council budget • Loss of income to Council Services 	2	4	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early identification of school decisions • DfE Regulations • Prudent consideration of financial transactions to facilitate transfer • Services continue to be 	1	3	3	ED/SB/NS	Monthly	Consideration given in MTFS for loss of funding.	30/11/24

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
					<p>offered to academies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer Protocol 							
15	<p>Reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diminishing reserves, used to balance budget, fund overspend positions. 	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitored on a quarterly basis, reported to Management Team and Exec Board Benchmarking Financial Forecast Programme to replenish reserves. 	3	3	9	ED/SB	Quarterly	Monitored and reported on a regular basis. Council reserves at historic low levels. Reserves will need to be replenished within future budgets	30/11/24
16	<p>Budget Balancing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has struggled to achieve a balanced budget position for a number of years. Forecast for current year is an overspend position of £19m. Reserves insufficient to 	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current year budgets monitored on a regular basis. Forward forecasting through to March 2029 reported on a prudent basis. Regular conversations with DHLUC re Council's financial position. 	4	4	16	ED/SB	Ongoing	Updated benchmarking to be reported to better inform Transformation Programme targets.	30/11/24

Risk No	Risk Identified	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score	Risk Control Measures	Assessment of Residual Risk with Control Measures Implemented			Responsible Person	Timescale for Review	Progress Comments	Date Updated
						Impact	Likelihood	Risk Score				
	balance current year budget. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before transformation targets, there is a forecast budget gap of £68.5m through to 2028/29. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGA to undertake a financial assurance review. Transformation programme in place. 							