

Directorate Performance Overview Report

Directorate: Children and Enterprise Directorate

Reporting Period: Quarter 3, Period 1 October 2013 – 31 December 2013

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of issues and progress within the Directorate that have occurred within Quarter 3. The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within the Appendix (section 8).

Please note initials have been provided to indicate which Operational Director is responsible for the commentary to aid Members, as requested by the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board. A key is provided at the end of the report in Appendix (section 8).

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 Property Services (Operations) (WR)

The proposed improvement works to Lowerhouse Lane Depot following an Health & Safety Executive visit have now commenced on site with the demolition of the former welfare block and archive store and the refurbishment of the workshop welfare facilities. The main resurfacing works will commence on site in January 2014.

Planning approval has now been obtained for the proposed Travellers site on Warrington Road in Runcorn. Works are continuing with the procurement process with works anticipated to start on site in the new year, completion being due in the Autumn of 2014.

2.2 Employment Learning and Skills (WR)

The Final Efficiency Review report was produced and the Board agreed that all core council monies be removed from the Division, with the recommendation that the division becomes self-financing.

The first of 3 Good Practice case studies relating to the ELS Division was published on the Ofsted website in November 2013, recognising the outstanding employability provision.

2.3 Business Improvement & Growth - Investment Enquiries (WR)

The number of investment enquiries for the 2013 calendar year (306) is greatest since 2004 and represents an improvement since the onset of the global recession in 2008.

2.4 Contact, Advice & Referral Team (CART) (TC)

The CART Team set up three dates to present the CART procedures to multi-agency audience. The first date was attended by over 100 professionals, and the same numbers are expected at future dates. The team has now added capacity. Firstly from 20th January the contact centre began loading children's contacts. It is anticipated this will give the CART social workers more time to screen contacts as their time will not be spent loading the information. Secondly the team has increased to 4.5 social workers. This should increase the social workers capacity to complete screening.

2.5 OFSTED inspections (TC)

Edinburgh Road Residential Children's Home were subject to inspection in November 2013 and were rated as Good.

Inglefield Residential Short Break Unit for Children with disabilities has been rated for the fourth successive year as Outstanding by Ofsted during their inspection in December 2013.

2.6 Stakeholder Involvement (AMc)

There have been significant developments around involvement and engagement of parents, carers and young people through some of the activities listed below; e.g.

- Active Halton Family Voice Group and linkages in Children's Centre and community centre settings
- Newly established Involve Group for young people as well as parents and carers that is already making a difference across a range of work including the Children and Young People's Plan, Participation Strategy and within commissioning
- Parent participation in the Halton Levels of Need development
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) reform – parents attending task and finish groups
- Our Healthy Halton project and event that was initiated by young people, parents and carers work will be included in the new Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Front door model through the Early Help and Support (EHAS) group had parent involvement
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) service development
- Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) 'have your say' events

Over the past two years there has been a significant shift in the view of stakeholder involvement. It has moved from being an afterthought to participation being thought of at planning stages. For example, times and days of meetings are arranged so that stakeholders can attend. There is more use of focus groups, representatives and stakeholder led activities to engage and gather views. Stakeholders that have been involved have fed back that their opinion felt valued and that language and approach was generally accessible.

2.7 Missing from Home (AMc)

There have been several changes to the collection of data from Cheshire Constabulary and the Catch 22 commissioned service, with further developments planned for 2014. It has been agreed to continue with Catch 22 as the current provider to deliver the missing from home services across Cheshire until March 2015. The Pan-Cheshire Missing from Home Protocol will be refreshed in Spring 2014, in line with the proposed new Department for Education guidance that will include a process for children and young people that are absent.

Catch 22 as the missing from home and care service has links to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) support and have introduced a part time post for six months from September 2013 to support the CSE agenda. This will be based mainly around awareness raising and to assist with the development of the co-ordination of intelligence for the operational group feeding in the Local Authority and Police to build up the picture of CSE locally.

2.8 Alternative Provision Consultation (AMc)

To coincide with the recent amalgamation of the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Units (now The Bridge School), the alternative provision offer within the borough is being reshaped. A number of task and finish groups looking at areas of work, such as consistency of recording and reporting, have met and recommendations from the groups are being reported to the Alternative Provision Strategy Group at the end of January 2014.

2.9 Halton Children and Young People's Plan 2014-17 and Children's Trust Priorities (AMc)

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

The existing CYPP is in place until March 2014 and work is underway to develop a new plan from April 2014 onwards. This work is being led by a multi-agency task and finish group of Halton Children's Trust. Updates are provided to all stakeholders throughout the process, together with opportunity to be involved in its development. The CYPP will be developed around the following three priorities that have been agreed by Halton Children's Trust Board members;

- **Working together to** deliver in a joined up way to make sure children and their families get the right help at the right time (Early Help and Support)
- **Working together to** plan and fund outcome focused services for children and families, that deliver high quality services that are value for money (Integrated Commissioning)
- **Working together to** focus services towards the needs of our most vulnerable children, young people and families to 'close the gap' by improving health and education outcomes.

The development of the new plan is being undertaken with the involvement of young people as outlined in 2.6 above.

2.10 The Children and Families Bill (SN)

The Bill is expected to become law in Spring Term 2014 and key aspects will come into force from September 2014. The key changes include;

- Makes statutory processes fully 'family centred'
- Enhance ways for parents and children to participate in decision making
- Provide SEN support from 0-25 years
- Publish a fully integrated Local Offer, a comprehensive guide to services for children and young people with SEND
- Promote the new Education, Health and Care Plans, which will replace Statements
- Facilitate joint commissioning across Education, Health and Social Care
- Enable parents, children and young people the right to ask for their own budget
- Provide greater levels of support for transition, via the Preparing for Adulthood agenda
- Promote and develop robust integrated working across all agencies, and,
- Ensure that our children and young people with a wide range of additional needs continue to have their needs met within their educational settings.

The Learning and Achievement Service department is working with a number of agencies to ensure that Halton is prepared for the implementation of the Bill. The changes will be far-reaching and the process of getting ready to implement the changes is taking shape. There are currently five active task and finish groups up and running, each focusing on key areas of the reforms. Alongside the work of the groups, there are also Operational and Strategic groups completing the full governance structure.

2.11 School Improvement Link Officer Support (SN)

The reintroduction of the link officer role to all schools has been well received. This is as planned supporting us in our monitoring role, and the support brokerage of school to school support.

2.12 Ofsted inspections of Local Authority School Improvement Services (SN)

Colleagues in Learning and Achievement service are continuing to use the Ofsted inspection framework and criteria for judging effectiveness to support their self-review. The school improvement strategy has been refreshed and following the required approval will be launched with schools in April 2014. A survey of schools will also be undertaken to gauge their views around the effectiveness of Halton's school improvement offer.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 Property Services (Operations) (WR)

We have now started to look at income generation from our corporate building stock linked to the move to agile working which is having the effect of freeing up space. This is an area that we will be increasingly focussing on in the future as there is an opportunity to generate a significant amount of income. The Department of Health have now moved into Rutland house. This reflects a proactive approach to sharing our accommodation, an example of which is working with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) who have previously moved into Runcorn Town Hall. We are also currently in discussions with other public sector partners with a view to them taking some space in Rutland House.

2.2 Employment Learning and Skills (WR)

If successful with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Community Work Placement programme application, additional staffing would be required as the contract would involve working with many hundreds of new customers.

A Jobs Fair for Work Programme returners will take place on 23 January at Riverside College (led by Job Centre Plus) and the division will have a presence at this event.

Now that the efficiency review has reported the 'to be' findings, a Divisional restructure will be undertaken in Quarter 4, which will involve some staff being placed at risk and possible redundancies. It will also mean that some services currently delivered by the division will cease.

The proposals for how the new European monies will be spent will need to be finalised in Quarter 4.

A number of city region wide events relating to apprenticeships will take place in March and June of 2014. Planning for these events will be required and support from partners, schools and employers will be needed.

3.3 OFSTED Inspections (TC)

Children's Centres

On 14 and 15 January 2014, Halton Lodge and Halton Brook Children's Centres were inspected as a group. The feedback from inspectors was that they would be graded as Good in all judgement areas. Publication of the report is awaited at the time of writing this report.

3.4 Children subject to a Child Protection Plan (TC)

The number of children subject to child protection plans continues to rise, and significantly the data shows the number of children subject to plans in the Runcorn area is significantly higher than in the Widnes area. The reason for the increase requires further analysis, but the level brings us into closer alignment with our statistical neighbours.

3.5 Children in Care (TC)

The number of children in care continues to rise with increases in children aged 5-11 and 12-15 in particular. This brings challenges in terms of resourcing appropriate placements for children and young people with challenging and complex behaviour. The rate per 10,000 is still lower than our statistical neighbours but is increasing. This pattern of increase in children in care is also being reported regionally.

3.6 Raising the Participation Age (RPA) (AMc)

The current Liverpool City Region (LCR) contract for the delivery of Information, Advice and Guidance services and the Tracking of 16-18 year old (19+ for those with lifelong learning difficulties and disabilities) young people ends 31 March 2014. Effective transitional arrangements are required across the LCR to ensure the successful changeover of services and that the impact on frontline support for young people is minimal. In conjunction with LCR authorities, Halton has procured a new web-based tracking system to track young people into education, employment and training as part of the statutory duties. The LCR are currently in the procurement process for engagement and careers provision to fulfil its statutory duty to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training.

3.7 Increase in Sixth Form provision (AMc)

The Heath School in Runcorn and Ashley School in Widnes will deliver post-16 provision from September 2014. In addition, Sandymoor Free School will soon have post-16 provision and Hope Corner Academy has had an application to temporarily increase the schools registered age range approved. The increase in provider base raises the issue of the breadth of the offer in relation to the 16-19 Study Programmes and the sustainability of small sixth forms.

3.8 Universal Free School Meal Capital (AMc)

The Department for Education have allocated £240,170 Universal Infant Free School Meals Capital Funding for LA maintained schools. The Policy, Provision and Performance Division are currently working with schools to identify capital expenditure in readiness for the Universal Free School Meal entitlement from September 2014 whereby all schools will be in a position to provide a hot lunch to all infant children (years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2). A priority of need matrix has been identified where kitchen and dining facility works are required to cope with the additional demand, and will be subject to Executive Board approval.

3.9 Efficiency Review of Learning and Achievement (SN)

The Learning and Achievement service is part way through an efficiency programme review. Until the review is completed and recommendations shared there are a number of vacant key posts including a School Standards and Effectiveness Officer, and the Divisional Manager for Inclusion which cannot be recruited. Whilst statutory duties are being fulfilled within the required timescales, vacancy management is an issue for the department.

3.10 Pupil Premium for Children in Care (SN)

The Department for Education allocate pupil premium funding for children in care using the Children Looked After Data (SSDA903) return completed at the end of March annually. This however, does not take into account any newly accommodated children during the year until the next financial allocation. In Halton, there has been an increase in the numbers of children in care (as reported above in 3.5) which has now put a strain on the local authorities ability to provide the full amount for each child in our care. This has left a shortfall of £21,300 for the year. As there is no method for drawing down additional funding from the Department for Education, this will inevitably impact on how both the local authority as Corporate Parents and schools can improve the educational outcomes of our children in care.

As part of the new developments linked to the Children and Families Bill (see 2.10 above), the pupil premium for children in care is changing. From 2014, the name will be Pupil Premium Plus, and the money allocated will rise to £1,900 with the eligibility extended to include those who have been in care for one day or more, those adopted and those who leave care under a Special Guardianship order or a Residence order.

Whilst this is positive in terms of the increased amount per child and recognition of the fact that the needs of children who leave care do not change overnight, the method of allocation of the money to the local authority will remain the same. The impact of rising numbers of children in the eligibility cohort will continue to put pressure on the funding available for schools and local authorities to improve the educational outcomes of all children.

New guidance will be issued on the role of the Virtual Headteacher and the Pupil Premium Plus once the Bill has received Royal Assent. Following publication of this guidance, and based on the current years budgetary pressures, it will be necessary to review how this funding is allocated to each child and school.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. During the development of the 2013/14 Business Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all key service objectives with high risks included in the Directorate Risk Register.

As a result, monitoring of all relevant 'high' risks was undertaken during Q2 reporting with no issues to report.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

The Council must have evidence that it reviews its services and policies to show that they comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011. The PSED also requires us to publish this information as it is available.



As a result of undertaking a Departmental Equality Impact Assessments no high priority actions were identified for the Directorate for Quarter 3 2013/14.

6.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by each Directorate.

Driving economic prosperity

Key Milestones



















Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
EEP 02	Deliver the BID Year 1 action plan by March 2014	
EEP 03	Deliver Work Programme via sub contract arrangements to Prime Contractors A4E and Ingeus Deloitte in line with the contract	

Supporting Commentary

EEP02: All outputs associated with BID Year I Action Plan are on programme and on budget. (WR)

EEP03: Job Start and Job Outcome targets for Ingeus were achieved against most customer group except customer group 6 – ESA customers. Job Start and Job Outcome targets were not achieved for A4e. A formal notice to improve was received from A4E in November 2013. A performance improvement plan was submitted and approved by A4e to increase performance by 31 March 14. (WR)

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
DIS LI 05	Number of inward investment enquiries per annum	246	180	233 (cumulative)		
DIS LI 06	Inward investment enquiry conversion rate percentage	15%	10%	26%		
SCS ELS 01	Number of active enterprises within the Borough	2715	2715	2775		
SCS ELS 02	The proportion of business diversity in the following sectors: Knowledge Economy, Superport, Low carbon/green, Visitor economy	26.3%	26%	27.03%		
SCS ELS 03	The number of people classed as self-employed	6.2%	6.5%	6%		
SCS ELS 04	Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications	11.5% Jan to Dec 2011	11.5%	12.1% (Jan to Dec 2012)		
SCS ELS 05	The proportion of people achieving NVQ Level 4 and above	24.5%	24.0%	24.5% (Jan to Dec 2012)		
SCS ELS 07 NI 152	The percentage of people registered unemployed and seeking employment (JSA Claimants)	5.2%	4.8% (March 2014)	4.0%		
SCS ELS 08	The percentage of the working age population claiming out of work benefits	16.87%	17%	15.1%		

Supporting Commentary

DISLI05: The number of investment enquiries for the 2013 calendar year (306) is greatest since 2004 and represents a significant rebound since the onset of the global recession in 2008. During quarter 3 there were 66 enquiries. (WR)

DISLI06: The upward trend in investment enquiries is reflected in the number of conversions which, at 46 in 2013, is the highest level since 2001. (WR)

SCS ELS01: This is the latest data released on 3rd October 2013 which is a snapshot of the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) taken on 12 March 2013. To download and view the current data in excel format, click on the link below, the Information is taken from: (table B1.1)
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-313744> (WR)

SCS ELS02: The latest data released on 3rd October 2013 is a snapshot of the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) taken on 12 March 2013. To download and view the current data in excel format, click on the link below, the Information is taken from: (table B1.1)
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-313744> (WR)

The following standard categories have been chosen as a proxy for these priorities:

- Professional, Scientific and Technical
- Information and Communication
- Transport and Storage

SCS ELS03: HBC does not own this NI data. The latest data available from ONS relates to 2011/2012. However, 15 learners accessing HPIJ's Enterprising Halton service have become self-employed during Quarter 3. Quarter 2 is the latest data available for July 2013 at 6% based on the Local Economic Assessment HBC, which is marginally down compared to the same period for 11/12 at 6.4%. (WR)

SCS ELS04: HBC does not own this NI data. However, 51 learners have achieved full Functional Skills qualifications from Quarter 1 to Quarter 3. The latest data available (Jan to Dec 2012) is 12.1% which is an increase from 11.5% compared to the same period in 2011. Source: ONS annual population survey from www.nomisweb.co.uk (WR)




SCS ELS05: HBC does not own this NI data which is only available from the Skills Funding Agency 18 months after learners achieve the qualification. The latest data available (Jan to Dec 2012) is 24.5% which has marginally increased from 24% compared to the same period in 2011. Source: ONS annual population survey from www.nomisweb.co.uk (WR)

SCS ELS07: The number of people on JSA in Q4 was 3233, which is 4%. This is nearly 1000 less people compared to the same time last year and is 187 fewer residents than were claiming last quarter. (WR)

SCS ELS08: The number of the working age population claiming out of work benefits (JSA, ESA and lone parent benefit) in Q3 was 12,243, which is 15.1% and demonstrates the direction of travel is positive. This is good performance in comparison to the same quarter last year of 17.11%. (WR)

Integrated Commissioning

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
COPS1	Complete the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) and implement the action plan to ensure sufficient provision in all areas and age groups	
COPS1	Ensure that priorities in capital spend are in line with the Government guidance and agreed by all representative bodies	
COPS2	Evaluate and monitor the sustainability of current school provision following the transfer of maintained schools to academies and the introduction of Free Schools, working in partnership with all schools to ensure diversity for parents by March 2014	





Supporting Commentary

COPS1 The 2014 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment review will take place in quarter 4 and a report will be produced by April 2014. This will include an updated action plan. Key actions are to continue to identify two year old free entitlement places for 2013/14 and 2014/15 and to work with the three and four year old free entitlement providers in the Upton Children's Centre reach area to increase provision. Officers continue to work with key stakeholders and partners on those actions to ensure sufficient provision in all areas and across all age groups. (AMc)

£355,916 of capital has been provided by the Department for Education to ensure that Halton has sufficient capacity to deliver the increase for eligible two year olds to receive their free early years entitlement. Early Years providers had bids for expenditure totalling £313,467 approved by Executive Board and Full Council, subject to Senior Management Team approval these supported projects will increase place capacity for the two year old free entitlement by 186 places in areas of highest demand. (AMc)

COPS2 The Local Authority has received an academy order for St Augustines Roman Catholic Primary School. At the time of writing this means the local area has one special school, three secondary schools and three primary schools with academy status. Building work continues on the development of the new Sandymoor Free School. (AMc)

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
SCS CYP15 (NI112 adjusted)	Under 18 conception rate, percentage change from 2009 baseline (58.9 rolling quarterly rate)	41.5 Rolling quarterly average rate	56.3 Rolling quarterly average rate	37.9 Rolling quarterly average rate		
SCS CYP07	Rate of CYP admitted to hospital for substance misuse from 2010/11 (22.7 rate per 10,000 baseline)	6.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SCS SH04	Reduce the number of Young People who repeatedly run away in Halton	623	N/A	See below	N/A	N/A
SCS CYP09	Percentage of maintained educational settings with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding	74%	84.5%	75%		

SCS CYP15: A reduction in the rate has been seen comparing quarter on quarter, and the same time last year. Halton's rate is 8.4% below the statistical neighbour average and fifth lowest within the statistical neighbour group. (AMc)

SCS CYP07: Latest published data is 2012/13. Local data is showing that the numbers have dropped for admissions specifically due to alcohol and substance misuse in under 18s. There has been a reduction of 32.15% from 2011/12 to 2012/13. (AMc)

SCS SH04: Data quality issues have been identified; therefore numbers presented here should be used as an indication only at this stage. Cheshire Constabulary has seen a 27% reduction in the number of episodes of young people reported during this quarter in comparison to the previous quarter, although children missing from care has increased by four incidents. The commissioned service has also seen a reduction in young people and a reduction in the number of repeat young people across home and those in care. (AMc)

SCS CYP09: This is a reduction of two schools on the same period last year. Some schools inspected several frameworks ago have found the increased rigour of the new framework particularly challenging. (SN)

Child's Journey through the Continuum of Need

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
CFS2	Further develop opportunities to integrate and co-locate teams by partner agencies by March 2014	
CFS2	Embed integrated services further within Department, Directorate and Halton Children's Trust by March 2014	
CFS2	Statement on new Level of Needs framework and family assessment programme to be implemented after the launch April 2012	
CFS3	Implement the new social work assessment and planning model in line with deadline required	
CFS3	Effectively implement the new Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and the changes to Working Together to Safeguard Children	
CFS1	Evaluate the impact of the management trainee programme for aspiring managers, with the aim of increasing candidates by September 2012	N/A

Supporting Commentary

CFS2: The new framework for a service model for delivery has now been agreed by the Children's Trust in December 2013 and a project group is underway to deliver implementation. There are potential HR issues across agencies which may impact on the deadline for implementation. (TC)

Guidance on Halton's new levels of need has been published and sent to partners across the Trust. Individual presentations have been made to key stakeholders, for example, GPs. (TC)

CFS3: The single assessment is now embedded in practice, the performance in relation to single assessments is monitored by principle managers on a weekly basis. (TC)

CFS1: This will form part of the new service model. (TC)

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
CFS LI02	Percentage of Single Assessments authorised within 45 working days	N/A	N/A	92% (Q3 only)	N/A	N/A
CFS LI03	Number of multi-agency interventions (e.g. CAF) which are in place and operating	318	250	242		
SCS CYP12	Improve the identification of Special Educational Needs at School Action and School Action Plus	19.7%	20.2%	17.9%		
SCS CYP8	Percentage of referral to social care where there is evidence of multi-agency planning in the previous 12 months	11%	N/A	11.3%	N/A	

CFS LI02: The performance in relation to the single assessment is monitored on a weekly basis by principle managers; each manager receives a weekly report that shows how many days an assessment has been open. Quarter 3 performance indicates that 92% of Single Assessments were authorised within 45 working days. (TC)









CFS LI03: The number of CAFs have continued to reduce, however this indicator needs to be revised to take into account other methods of providing a multi-agency intervention for a family at Level 2 on the Level of Needs framework. This will need to improve however as research indicates the impact of early intervention on the numbers of children entering care. (TC)

SCS CYP12: Halton is exceeding expectations as schools are being more discerning about the identification of special educational needs in line with the guidance. (SN)

SCS CYP08: 34 children and young people referred during the quarter have had evidence of CAF in previous 12 months. (TC)

Improving opportunities for our most vulnerable young people

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
CFS4	Continue to implement the appropriate action plan from the multi-agency Children in Care strategy (2011-14) by March 2014	
LAS1	Review the performance of all schools and Early Years settings with a specific focus on those currently graded as satisfactory/requiring improvement by October 2013	
LAS1	Evaluate the outcomes of school inspection through the School Development Panel, and summarised within the Ofsted summary reports, to ensure that learning resulting from the inspection process is effectively shared with schools on an on-going basis.	
LAS2	Conduct analysis of school performance data and ensure appropriate deployment of School Improvement support for identified schools and settings, including school to school support as appropriate	
LAS3	Through data analysis RAG rate schools with end of Key Stage attainment gaps between Free School Meals pupils and their peers and identify areas of need and support required by December 2013	
LAS3	Analyse, evaluate and report on attainment and achievement outcomes for pupils identified as part of the Virtual School for Vulnerable Groups, including Children in Care, by December 2013	
LAS3	Analyse the levels of absence, including persistent absence, across all phases on a termly basis	
COPS1	Review and improve the quality of childcare provision, in particular child minders through targeted training and support by August 2014	

Supporting Commentary

CFS4 Actions continue to be implemented and reviewed at the Children in Care partnership Board. (TC)

LAS1, LAS2, LAS3: The performance of all schools is monitored as new data becomes available. Following the publication of 2013 test and assessment outcomes a detailed analysis of school performance has been undertaken. Ofsted outcomes are included as part of the dataset, as well as feedback from Early Years Consultant Teachers (EYCT) and school improvement officers. In providing levels of support the categorisation of private and voluntary settings is undertaken by EYCT. This is an ongoing process with categories subject to change depending on the context of the setting.

Over the last 12 months the EYCT's have focussed on child development and have linked the stages of development to observations. Further training around observation, planning and assessment cycle has up-skilled practitioners in planning next steps to meet individual children's needs. Extensive work has introduced the concept of tracking the attainment and progress of cohorts and individual groups. Managers and senior leaders are using this information to plan early interventions as needed. Ofsted have recently been focussing on this tracking and cohort analysis. Settings who have not been as proactive to introduce the tracking have found themselves receiving an inadequate judgement from Ofsted. This knowledge is being shared and further support work is being carried out with settings to emphasise the importance of early help to improve outcomes for young children.

Following the publication of un-validated 2013 test and assessment outcomes a detailed analysis of school performance has been undertaken. This has enabled officers to benchmark performance of schools end of key stage performance and progress against national outcomes. This feeds into the categorisation process for schools.

Following the initial completion of the school categorisation process for 2013 in October and further refresh of categories was carried out in December 2013 based on the most recent RAISE online and Ofsted inspection judgements. Proposals for category changes will be shared at the January cross-service monitoring group meeting and schools will be informed of any changes to categories and invited to discuss. A schools category is used to determine the amount of local authority support that will be deployed to a school. This includes the brokerage of support from high performing





schools including Local and National leaders of Education and Governance and the support of specialist leaders in education.

The Operational Director for Learning and Achievement attends the regular meetings of the School Development Panel, providing an opportunity to carefully monitor schools' experiences of the inspection process, areas for celebration and areas for development. Head teachers recently inspected share their learning and experiences with other heads at the Primary Head teachers meeting. This feedback has been highly valued by both Head teacher and local authority colleagues.

Activity to analyse, evaluate and report on the attainment and achievement of outcomes for vulnerable groups including Children in Care is undertaken as part of the full analysis of data. Children in care have had some priority areas chosen as a result of the analysis; Early Years Literacy and Maths, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 1, Reading, Writing and Maths combined at Key Stage 2 and English and Maths for Key Stage 4. (SN)

COPS1 Level 2 Safeguarding Training has been delivered to all Childminders. Satisfactory childminders have been targeted with support visits and additional training. A programme of Safeguarding and Welfare Audits has been targeted at After School Clubs who had a satisfactory grading which is now being rolled out to all settings. (AMc)

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
SCS CYP16	Percentage of Children in Care achieving expected outcomes at KS2 and KS4	100% KS2 60% KS4	N/A		See below	
SCS CYP03	Proportion achieving 5+GCSE A*-C including English and Maths	59%	56%	62%		
SCS CYP10	Achievement gap at Key Stage 2 English and Maths FSM and peers	13%	12%	14%	N/A	N/A
SCS CYP11	Achievement gap at Key Stage 4 FSM and peers	31.9%	24%	25.2%		
SCS CYP01	Early Years Foundation Stage	54.1%	N/A		See below	
SCS CYP14	The percentage of children with Statements of Special Educational Needs or receiving enhanced provision achieving levels or sub-levels of progress	86.2% English 79.6% Maths	N/A		See below	
SCS CYP02	Proportion achieving level 4 Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Maths	N/A	N/A	78%	N/A	N/A

SCS CYP 16: Due to changes in the way the subject indicators have been calculated it is not possible to compare to previous years. Looking at the performance between Halton children and the overall population the gap has closed for those children achieving level 4 in Reading, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 2. There was however a widening of the gap for those at KS4, however there were only 3 young people in the cohort. (SN)

SCS CYP 03: The percentage of students gaining five or more A*-C grades including English and Maths has reached a record high, increasing to 62% against a national average of 60%. (SN)

SCS CYP10: Results remain un-validated at this stage and the indicator has been changed in relation to overall English gap changed to reading and writing. Therefore comparison with previous years is not suitable. The combined gap for Reading, Writing and Maths is expected to be 14% with the national average at 17%. (SN)

SCS CYP11: Results remain un-validated at this stage. There has been an increase in attainment in the key indicator of 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths. The gap in attainment has narrowed significantly. (SN)

SCS CYP01: A revised Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS) and assessment process became statutory September 2012. This is now based on three prime areas of learning which are Communication and Language (C&L), Physical Development (PD), Personal, Social and Emotional (PSE) Development and four specific areas of Learning which are Literacy, Mathematics (L&M), Understanding of the World and Expressive, Arts and Design. Attainment of EYFS at the end of reception is now based on whether children reach expected levels of attainment in each of the 17 Early Learning Goals; whether they are emerging in these areas or whether they are exceeding expectations. Two new national indicators have been introduced;

- Good level of development which requires children to reach the expected level in PSE, C&L, PD and L&M. Halton has performed at 37%. The national data suggests the average is 52%
- Average total points for cohort based on Emerging 1 point, Expected 2 points and Exceeding 3 points for each of the 17 Early Learning Goals. Halton's average point score is 30. The national average is suggested to be 32 points. (SN)

SCS CYP14: Figure should be available next quarter. (SN)

SCS CYP02: The indicator has changed to the proportion of pupils achieving level 4+ in reading, writing and maths. Halton's attainment against this measure was 78% compared to the national average of 75% (SN)

7.0 Financial Summaries

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	4,419	3,521	3,572	(51)
Repairs & Maintenance	2,703	2,048	2,040	8
Energy & Water Costs	606	421	413	8
NNDR	637	621	622	(1)
Rents	376	355	355	0
Marketing Programme	128	23	17	6
Promotions	84	34	27	7
Supplies & Services	1,251	839	823	16
Agency Related Payments	168	145	145	0
Total Expenditure	10,372	8,007	8,014	(7)
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-587	-471	-471	0
Rent - Markets	-758	-577	-580	3
Rent - Industrial	-965	-615	-610	(5)
Rent – Commercial	-533	-452	-450	(2)
Government Grant Income	-914	-559	-559	0
Transfer from Reserves	-361	-361	-361	0
Recharges to Capital	-420	-207	-207	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-659	-577	-585	8
Schools SLA Income	-494	-494	-494	0
Total Income	-5,691	-4,313	-4,317	4
Net Operational Budget	4,681	3,955	3,958	(3)
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support Costs	1,498	1,133	1,133	0
Transport Support Costs	38	22	22	0
Central Support Service Costs	1,706	1,289	1,289	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	2,390	0	0	0
Repairs & Maintenance Recharge Income	-2,185	-1,639	-1,639	0
Accommodation Recharge Income	-2,759	-2,070	-2,070	0
Central Supp. Service Rech. Income	-1,891	-1,419	-1,419	0
Total Recharges	-1,202	-2,684	-2,684	0
Net Expenditure	3,478	1,010	1,013	(3)

Comments

The overspend to date on the Employee budget has reduced this quarter due to vacancies within the Operations and Investment & Development Division. Spend to date is still over budget, as staff savings targets are not being achieved within the Building and School Cleaning Service as these services need to be fully staffed at all times.

In order to ease budget pressures spending has been restricted in year on Supplies & Services. Promotions and Marketing has also been kept to a minimum in an effort to achieve in year savings for the Department.

Income levels for industrial and commercial rent has improved as a result of renegotiation of contracts and compensation payments from Mersey Gateway for loss of rental income.

Work has continued with managers during the last quarter to look at budget pressures. This has resulted in realignment of budgets and this is reflected in the variances above.

In overall terms it is anticipated that net expenditure will be slightly above the overall Departmental budget by year-end, primarily as a result of the Staff Savings target.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2013

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	7,986	6,282	6,379	(97)
Premises	419	286	270	16
Supplies & Services	1,303	821	692	129
Transport	33	12	10	2
Agency Related Expenditure	285	229	236	(7)
Commissioned Services	404	254	237	17
Out of Borough Placements	1,621	1,174	1,917	(743)
Out of Borough Adoption	216	60	44	16
Out of Borough Fostering	414	335	358	(23)
In House Adoption	524	404	618	(214)
In House Foster Carer Placements	1,695	1,371	1,452	(81)
Care Leavers	316	217	205	12
Family Support	113	85	81	4
Capital Financing	6	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	15,335	11,530	12,499	(969)
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-113	-91	-95	4
Adoption Placements	-41	0	0	0
Transfer to/from Reserves	-1,504	-1,504	-1,504	0
Adoption Reform Grant	-273	-273	-273	0
Youth Remand Funding	-21	-21	-21	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-174	-77	-79	2
Total Income	-2,126	-1,966	-1,972	6
Net Operational Budget	13,209	9,564	10,527	(963)
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support Costs	347	261	261	0
Transport Support Costs	91	59	59	0
Central Support Service Costs	3,091	2,300	2,300	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	46	0	0	0
Total Recharges	3,575	2,620	2,620	0
Net Expenditure	16,784	12,184	13,147	(963)

Comments

Employee expenditure is above budget to date, which is due to some agency staff being utilised, particularly within Child Protection & Children in Need and some areas not achieving their staff savings targets. We are expecting the use of agency staff to reduce towards the end of the financial year, due to vacant posts being filled and new staffing structures taking effect. There have also been a number of vacancies (some of which have now been appointed to) across the Department, which have offset some of the over spend.

Supplies and Services expenditure is below budget to date, which is due to staff across the Department making every effort to keep these controllable budgets within tight spending levels. This is expected to stay within budget for the year.

Expenditure relating to Out of Borough placements is over budget to date, which is expected to be the trend for the rest of the financial year. This is an unpredictable budget, due to emergency placements and some long term placements continuing longer than originally anticipated. Although every effort is made to utilise in house services, this is not always possible. At present, there is a high demand for long term, out of borough placements, which are at a higher cost than in house placements.

We have also seen an increase in demand for Out of Borough Fostering, particularly in the latter half of the financial year. Again, even though every effort is made to utilise Foster Carers within the borough it isn't always possible due to the needs of the child.

In house Adoption is currently over budget to date, which is due to an increased demand, particularly around Special Guardianship. A number of Special Guardianship allowances have recently been re-assessed and subsequently the actual cost has increased. There has also been an increased demand for the in house Fostering service, which has consequently meant expenditure has gone above budget.

In overall terms it is anticipated that net expenditure will be significantly above the overall Departmental budget by year-end, as a result of the increasing demand on Out of Borough Placements and In House Adoption.

CHILDREN'S ORGANISATION & PROVISION DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2013

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	3,757	2,368	2,296	72
Premises	437	50	47	3
Supplies & Services	1,081	682	598	84
Transport	5	1	1	0
Agency Related Expenditure	1,954	473	469	4
Commissioned Services - Youth Serv.	900	675	675	0
Commissioned Services	1,745	1,117	942	175
Connexions	923	570	552	18
Nursery Education Payments	2,149	1,868	1,868	0
Schools Contingency Costs	107	0	0	0
NQT Contingency	184	0	0	0
Schools Non Delegated Support	228	3	3	0
Schools Transport	946	558	558	0
Special Education Needs Contingency	882	155	155	0
Total Expenditure	15,298	8,520	8,164	356
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-271	-26	-27	1
Transfer to / from Reserves	-571	-571	-571	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-10,923	-8,192	-8,192	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-581	-475	-487	12
Schools SLA Income	-198	-198	-219	21
Total Income	-12,544	-9,462	-9,496	34
Net Operational Budget	2,754	-942	-1,332	390
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support Costs	152	115	115	0
Transport Support Costs	272	156	156	0
Central Support Service Costs	1,070	649	649	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	6,854	0	0	0
Total Recharges	8,348	920	920	0
Net Expenditure	11,102	-22	-412	390

Comments

Employees Expenditure is below budget to date due to vacancies within Integrated Youth Services Division, and Post 16. The majority of underspend to budget relates to the Divisional Manager vacancy within Transforming Children & Environment. Further reductions have been made due to maternity leave across all Divisions and staff returning on reduced hours. All savings have contributed towards the staff turnover savings target.

Supplies and Services expenditure is below budget to date as budget managers have restricted spend within controllable budgets in a conscious effort to achieve savings where possible.

There is currently an underspend to date against the budget profile for Commissioned Services – other, as a result of services within Integrated Youth Support Services Division being reviewed in year (these include Domestic Violence, Young Peoples Advocate and Teenage Pregnancy Services).

Connexions underspend to date has been achieved due to the renegotiation of contract, and reduction in spend.

There is an overachievement of income on Reimbursement and Other Grant Income due to extra monies received within Place Planning & Provision Division's Technical Services. Income relates to payment for services such as training, and reimbursement of other services provided.

Also, an overachievement of School SLA Income has been had as a result of extra provision being offered and schools buying back these additional services.

LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31st December 2013

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	3,870	2,347	2,167	180
Premises	10	10	10	0
Supplies & Services	1,075	563	284	279
Agency Related Expenditure	91	61	63	(2)
Commissioned Services	33	1	1	0
Independent School Fees	1,584	1,099	1,099	0
Asset Recharges	3	0	0	0
Inter Authority Recoupment	811	206	206	0
Speech Therapy	120	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	7,597	4,287	3,830	457
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-153	-114	-119	5
Government Grant Income	-77	-77	-77	0
Inter Authority Income	-578	-136	-136	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-40	-30	-30	0
Schools SLA Income	-39	-29	-29	0
Total Income	-887	-386	-391	5
Net Operational Budget	6,710	3,901	3,439	462
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support Costs	112	0	0	0
Transport Support Costs	19	0	0	0
Central Support Service Costs	667	0	0	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	1	0	0	0
Total Recharges	799	0	0	0
Net Expenditure	7,509	3,901	3,439	462

Comments




Employee expenditure is below budget to date due to vacancies within both the 0-19 Learning Service Division and Inclusion Division (Education Psychologists). These vacancies are contributing to the Department's staff turnover savings target (with some being offered up for future savings).

Supplies & Services are currently under budget to date due in the main to a reduction in overall demand for supplies & services in localised areas following reduced staffing levels and streamlined workflows.

Budgets will be monitored closely throughout the year and it is expected that net spend will remain will remain below budget at year end. .




8.0 Appendix – Explanation for use of symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

<u>Progress</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green 	Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved.</u></i>
Amber 	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.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i>
Red 	Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an <u>intervention or remedial action</u> taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

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

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

Key for Operational Director lead:

WR – Wesley Rourke, Operational Director, Economy Enterprise and Property Service (EEP)

AMc – Ann McIntyre, Operational Director, Children’s Organisation and Provision Service (COPS)

SN – Steve Nyakatawa, Operational Director, Learning and Achievement Service (LAS)

TC – Tracey Coffey Operational Director, Children and Families Service (CFS)