

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 06 September 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Young Peoples Directorate

SUBJECT: 2007 Review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2006 – 2009

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide information to the Executive Board on the annual review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2006 – 2009.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **That the Board endorse the 2007 Review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2006 – 2009.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Children and Young People's Plan is one of the statutory requirements introduced by The Children Act 2004. This three year Plan sets out the priorities, targets and actions by which the local authority and its partners will jointly achieve the five Every Child Matters Outcomes for children and young people in the Borough.

3.2 The Children and Young People's Plan must be reviewed on an annual basis. This year, guidance was received that the Review of the Children and Young People's Plan would also be the authority's self assessment for the purpose of the Annual Performance Assessment (APA). The 2007 Review is therefore a comprehensive analysis of the authority's performance for the purpose of the APA and a review of planning and priorities in relation to partnership delivery of the five Every Child Matters Outcomes.

3.3 Grades will be awarded for:

- The council's children's services overall and the specific contributions the council makes to improving outcomes for children and young people
- The contribution council services make to improving each of the five outcome areas i.e. five separate grades
- The council's capacity to further improve services

3.4 These grades will feed into the grades for the children and young people's block of the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

3.5 The Review of the Children and Young People's Plan was completed over a period of three months and entailed widespread consultation with children and young people, parents and all individuals, agencies and organisations involved in providing services for or that affect children in Halton. It was submitted to OfSTED on 14 June 2007 and is published on Halton's website. A children and young people's version has also

been produced which provides a useful summary of the Review.

3.6 The Review is in 4 parts:

- Part 1 sets the context for the Review and includes an enhanced vision as set out in the Review guidance, an updated needs analysis and the contributions from consultations with children and young people, parents and professionals
- Part 2 is our self assessment for the Annual Performance Assessment which relates to the Children & Young People Plan but includes a wider range of information than that covered by the Plan and also includes service management information.
- Part 3 is a review of performance of the 90 Children & Young People Plan targets. These have been traffic lighted to indicate progress and generally amber and red traffic lights indicate targets which become priority areas for 2007 – 2009. The exception to this is those areas where we plan to extend the target by focussing on the inclusion of vulnerable groups.
- Part 4 sets out our Revised Children & Young People Plan Priorities for 2007-2009 and new areas of work which arise from legislation/guidance passed during 2006-07

3.7 The self evaluation gradings submitted by the authority are:

Areas for judgement	Being healthy	Staying safe	Enjoying and achieving	Making a positive contribution	Achieving economic well-being
The contribution of the council's services in maintaining and improving this outcome for children and young people.	3 (Good)	4 (Outstanding)	3 (Good)	4 (Outstanding)	2 (Adequate)

The council's children's services	Grade
The contribution of the council's children's services in maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young people.	3 (Good)

Capacity to improve	Grade
The council's capacity to improve its services for children and young people	4 (Outstanding)

3.8 Achieving Economic Wellbeing was only graded as adequate because of numbers of young people not in education, training or employment increasing rather than reducing and because of a range of poverty indicators that reflect Halton's socio-

economic context. The reduction of children and young people not in education, training and employment and an increase in the qualification levels of young people in Halton are Children and Young People's Plan priorities for 2007 –2009.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is a requirement within the Children Act 2004 for the Children and Young People's Plan to be reviewed on an annual basis. The submitted Review of the Plan fulfils this requirement.
- 4.2 The 90 targets in the Children and Young People's Plan require commitment and input from all council Directorates and partner agencies to achieve the objective of improving outcomes for all children and young people in Halton.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The judgements formed by Inspectors during this year's APA will contribute to the areas selected for particular scrutiny in the forthcoming Joint Area Review that takes place in March/April 2008.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Children and Young People Plan is the overarching Plan that sets out the priorities, targets and actions by which the local authority and its partners will jointly achieve the five Every Child Matters Outcomes for children and young people in the Borough.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Although significant progress has been made in 14 – 19 education and skills reform this has yet to impact on the level of qualification of young people in Halton and on the numbers of young people in employment, education or training. Employment, learning and skills of young people needs to be a continuing priority area for the Borough and corporate responsibilities within the Corporate Parenting Strategy need to be honoured.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The health priorities and targets in the Children and Young People's Plan are wide ranging requiring close partnership working with St Helens and Halton PCT and the Hospital Trusts. The priorities for 2007 – 2009 are to reduce the level of respiratory illnesses in children, halt the rise in childhood obesity, reduce the level of infant mortality, reduce the under 18 conception rate and enhance the emotional, psychological and physical wellbeing of children and young people in the Borough.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Halton last year was awarded an outstanding grade for its safeguarding work with children and young people. The priorities arising from the Review aim to enhance this established good work by increasing community awareness and engagement in safeguarding through the Halton Safeguarding Children Board, extending prevention and early intervention services, increasing targeted support for vulnerable children and improving placement choice and quality of care for looked after children.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Provision of temporary accommodation for families and accommodation for vulnerable groups of young people are targets within the Children and Young

People's Plan. We continue to need to demonstrate improved outcomes for young people; this therefore needs to remain a Council priority.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The grades awarded to the authority as a result of the Review of the Children and Young People's Plan feed into the grades for the children and young people's block of the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and will therefore affect the assessment of the council's overall performance.
- 7.2 The information provided in the Review and subsequent discussions with Government inspectors will inform the thematic areas selected for in-depth scrutiny in the Joint Area Review.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 Equality and diversity is a particular focus within the APA and the Review of the Children and Young People's Plan with the council and its partners having to demonstrate how strategies and initiatives enhance equality of opportunity and ensure a proactive approach to diversity.
- 8.2 One of the priorities for 2007 – 2009 is to improve support for speakers of English as an additional language.

9.0 REASONS FOR DECISION

- 9.1 This is a key decision as the Plan is significant in terms of its effects on children and young people, families and communities in Halton.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

None.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

The Children & Young People's Plan will be reviewed annually and the Review published in June of that year. The current Children and Young People's Plan was initiated in April 2006 and is applicable to 2009.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Children and Young People Plan 2006 – 2009	HBC Website	Tony Crane
Annual Performance Assessment Handbook 2007	Grosvenor House	Tony Crane
Annual Review of the Children and Young People's Plan (Supplementary Guidance 2007)	Grosvenor House	Tony Crane