



# Halton Strategy for Children in Care

## 2008-2011

## INTRODUCTION

The experiences of children in care have been the subject of much research, the results of which show that children and young people who have been separated from their families, want to know that 'someone out there cares' and that this someone knows how they feel, knows what they want and need, knows what their dreams and ambitions are for the future and will help them to get there.

Local authorities have a responsibility to meet the needs of children and young people in care by making sure they are provided with care, consistency, support and guidance. We know that for children and young people in care, we must be especially ambitious, because we are their Corporate Parent. Unfortunately, children and young people in care tend to do less well than their peers in every aspect of their lives. Whilst there are many reasons why this is the case, work focuses on trying to improve these outcomes. Like any good parent, we know we cannot improve the outcomes for children in care on our own – we need the support and guidance of other professionals and partner agencies to ensure that the children we are responsible for reach their potential.

This multi-agency strategy recognises that everybody has a part to play in improving the outcomes for children in care. It sets out shared priorities for children and young people in care, and the actions to be taken over the next 3 years to make a positive difference to their lives and outcomes.

It is critical that in this strategy, we never lose sight of the small actions that can make a real difference to children and young people's daily lives and wellbeing. We need to continually ask ourselves: ***“If this were my child, would it be good enough?”*** and ***“If I were that child would it be good enough for me?”***

## NATIONAL CONTEXT

We know from academic research, inquiry findings and performance information that children in care generally do less well than their peers. There is much debate as to how they can be better safeguarded and their outcomes improved.

Children in care are like all other children and young people - they want to be seen as individuals, treated fairly and offered the same opportunities as their peers. They want to be seen as equal to their peers and not different because they are live away from their family home. Sometimes to promote equality we need to offer additional support and advice to enable this to happen. When the Government published its Every Child Matters framework they recognised additional support would be required for children in care to have the same opportunities as their peers.

The Government has continued to engage with this agenda through the recently published Children and Young Persons Bill. This takes a whole system approach to care and begins to acknowledge that the responsibility for improving outcomes for children in care is not the responsibility of one agency. Schools, health, children's social care, police and the third sector all have a role to play in engaging with these children and wanting the best for them.

The key provisions of the Bill are grouped around the following areas:

- Supporting Children in their Families – focusing on early intervention to reduce the need for care
- Social work practices – piloting a new model of delivery of care services to test whether partnership with external agencies can improve the child's experience of care
- Care Planning and review – strengthening the role of Independent Reviewing Officers and access to Independent Visitors
- Education – limiting changes of school, making the 'designated teacher' a statutory requirement and introducing bursaries for higher education
- Placements – improving inspection and review mechanisms
- Transitions to adulthood – giving young people a greater say in moves to independence, extending the duties to appoint a personal advisor and maintaining contact with care leavers until 25 years.

This places a responsibility on all agencies to work together in becoming good enough corporate parents to shape the lives of children in care for the better.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING**

The responsibility of Halton Borough Council to children in care and care leavers is called “corporate parenting”

Children who are in the care are the responsibility of the whole borough council, including all directorates, officers and elected members, and of partner agencies.

Being a good corporate parent means we should:

- Accept responsibility for the children and young people in our care
- Make their needs a priority
- Seek for them the same outcomes that any good parent would want for their children.

As elected members to the Council, Councillors have a lead responsibility in establishing the quality of response that children in care receive. As the key corporate parents, they have a right and a duty to ensure that the interests of children in care are prioritised. They are in a prime position to ensure that decisions, developments and practice is scrutinised to ensure that the council’s corporate parenting responsibilities are being promoted.

The corporate parenting role of partner agencies has become increasingly important and is now recognised as integral to achieving positive outcomes for children in care.

To assist corporate parents in undertaking this task, they should ask :

- Who are the children in care in Halton?
- Are they safe?
- How well does Halton look after these children?
- Are they well supported by the Council and other services?
- Are other services involved in securing best outcomes for children and young people in care? If they have yet to sign up, what can we do to make sure they demonstrate their commitment to them?
- What support is there when they leave care?
- How is the quality and effectiveness of services measured, and are they achieving good outcomes for children?

## **LOCAL PROFILE**

There are currently 156 children and young people in the care of Halton Borough Council. Of this 156 children and young people 72 are boys and 84 are girls. Young people aged between 11 and 15 years of age account for the largest group in our care (44%).

Support through a Statement of Special Educational Needs is provided to 27 children in care, and 40 children are receiving additional support through the Education Support Service. The Intensive Support Team is supporting 31 children and young people and 25 young people are receiving support from substance misuse services.

The attendance of children in care has improved significantly with 10% missing 25 days or more education in 2006 compared to 16.5% in 2005. This is compared to 13% nationally. In 2006, 50% of young people left care with at least 1 GCSE at grade A\*-G and 6% left care with at least 5 GCSE's at grade A\* to C.

There have been no permanent exclusions of Children in Care in Halton in the last year.

There are 81 young people who have left care and are being supported to live independently. Of these, 23 young people are still in school or college and 64 young people are in permanent accommodation. However, 29 young people are living in temporary accommodation and 42 young people are not be in education, training or employment.

In Halton, performance compares well against our statistical neighbours both in terms of long term placement stability and annual health assessments - 75% of children in care in Halton are in stable long-term placements compared to 65% nationally and 95% of children in care in Halton have annual health assessments compared to 84% nationally.

## **CHILDREN IN CARE (CiC) MINI-TRUST**

The CiC Mini-trust was established in the autumn of 2006, and brings together all agencies responsible for the care and welfare of children and young people in care. The mini-trust is responsible for progressing the move towards the co-location of staff as the start of a process of enabling the provision of integrated and responsive services to children and young people in care. The mini-trust reports regularly to the Halton Children and Young People's Alliance Board, which is the Board responsible for the strategic planning, delivery and monitoring of services for children and young people in Halton.

## **WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR**

- Integrated working has been established between the Children and Young People's Directorate, CAMHS, the CiC Nurse, Connexions workers, Young Addaction and the Youth Service. Workers from these services are based either on a part time or virtual basis with the Permanence and Young People's Teams. The Children in Care Education Support Service is permanently co-located within the Permanence Team
- Additional Personal Advisor support is provided by Connexions to care leavers to retain work placements
- Young people leaving care are provided with financial assistance and incentives to encourage them into work
- Care leavers can progress to an Employment Scheme which provides 26 weeks paid work experience with the hope that they are then able to progress to full time employment
- More young people in care who have chosen not to have a formal health assessment have accessed an alternative approach
- A fast track protocol has been established with CAMHS for CiC referrals
- The Intensive Support Team, Education Support Service and CAMHS work with carers who are experiencing difficulties to maintain the child in placement.
- Almost all children placed for adoption have had a Life Appreciation Day as part of the adoption planning process.
- We have worked with other areas to develop good practice in adoption in the borough.
- A PEP Dowry scheme is providing a range of support for CiC and their education
- The CiC Scrutiny and Monitoring Group reviews education performance on a monthly basis with a particular focus on those sitting exams. Additional 1:1 support is then provided as required
- Care placements are tracked and placement support provided as needed to try and reduce disruption in GCSE years.
- Multi-agency support packages for CiC pupils who are in danger of being excluded are implemented
- Provision of 1:1 in class support, 1:1 support for education off site, curriculum support and tuition, advice and guidance on behavioural issues depending on individual need
- Fast-track Education Psychology Service support
- Early Years CiC Action Group has developed the early years PEP and ensured that entitlement to provision is taken up
- The Youth Service are focusing on involving more CiC in provision. This includes the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- The accommodation support worker tracks individual's housing applications and reports on allocations
- A high level of individual support is provided to care leavers in preparation for taking on and maintaining tenancies

## **PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS**

This section gives an overarching view of priorities for the next three years. More details are included in the Action Plan at Appendix 1.

### **Make sure children and young people in care are helped to be healthy:**

- Ensure all new CiC over 11 years have a holistic assessment of emotional health and mental well-being to ensure early identification of difficulties and early provision of targeted support
- Increase the number of CiC who have previously refused formal health assessments but are accessing alternative provision
- Improve sex and relationship education for CiC, delivered by those in day-to-day contact with them
- Ensure that carers provide CiC with healthy food and guidance and information around healthy eating.

### **Make sure children and young people in care are safe and secure:**

- Increase the number and skill levels of foster carers
- Improve the quality of adoption services
- Reduce the number of care leavers in temporary accommodation
- Ensure children and young people are safe by ensuring 100% compliance with safe recruitment requirements
- Increase the placement stability of CiC
- Strengthen the role of Independent Reviewing Officers as new guidance becomes available.
- Improve access to independent visitors

### **Improve educational attendance and attainment of children and young people in care and help them to have fun:**

- Increase the school attendance and attainment of children in care at all key stages
- Ensure all CiC have access to pre-school provision so they have the best start in life and good standards of communication, social and emotional development
- Give CiC priority regarding schools admissions, even if the most appropriate schools are full.
- Ensure that no CiC are excluded or have to move schools in year 10 or 11 unless in exceptional circumstances.
- Ensure that schools appoint and train senior level designated teachers
- Improve the availability and accessibility of leisure activities for CiC

### **Help children and young people who are in care to participate and engage with their community:**

- Actively promote citizenship award nominations for CiC with primary and secondary schools
- Increase the number of CiC actively participating in Area Youth Forum arrangements within the Borough.
- Increase the number of CiC who volunteer in the community through undertaking service within the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Implement and monitor the new responsibility on Directors of Children's Services to ensure that CiC participate equally with their peers.
- Introduce a Children in Care Council

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**Help children and young people who are in care to be ready for adult life and living independently**

- Increase the number of young people leaving care who are involved in employment, education or training
- Promote care leavers through the corporate parenting Employment Strategy
- Ensure that CiC who are 16 or over are able to choose for themselves when they move to independent living.
- Ensure that CiC are able to live independently by providing them with the right training, guidance and support
- Develop a range of accommodation that is able to meet the needs of care leavers appropriately.

**Make sure that services are able to deliver our promises**

- Reduce the number of children and young people who come into care
- Strengthen the role of Lead Member for children and young people and ensure they establish a direct link to CiC Council
- Review and strengthen the Corporate Parenting role.
- Establish procedures and mechanisms to ensure that there is an annual report regarding outcomes achieved regarding CiC.
- Involve CiC in the design and development of a CiC website, accessible to CiC, elected members and practitioners.



## WHAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE SAY...

Children in care are very clear in what they expect from those people who are responsible for providing care, services and the systems, which shape their childhood in care.

- ◆ They want to **be listened to**
- ◆ They want to **be treated as children**
- ◆ They **do not want to be treated or seen differently** because they are in care
- ◆ They **want help to meet their needs** as children
- ◆ They **want choice** as to where they live and they want to choose when they leave care.
- ◆ They want **care to be seen as positive**
- ◆ They want us to **be ambitious** for them; they want us to want the same for children in care as for all children.
- ◆ They want us to **think positive and aim high**
- ◆ They want us to know that **everything we do makes a difference**
  
- ◆ **And they want us to know that if we can't ensure that children will leave care in a better condition and in better circumstances than they arrived, then don't bother.**

### Top 10 Promises Children in Care want Councils to make

1. **To keep children safe**
2. **A good home**
3. **More help for Children and Young People**
4. **To know that everybody's needs are different**
5. **To have an effective social worker**
6. **To keep promises they make**
7. **To listen to children and young people and act on what they say**
8. **Children should be able to have their own thoughts on things**
9. **Better help with education**
10. **More activities to do**

This final comment is an opinion we must engage with as it is a summary of care leavers' views of their experiences in care and is the opinion of many children and young people in the care system currently.

*(Information taken from reports compiled by the Director of Children's Rights Roger Morgan)*

## CiC PARTNERSHIP BOARD ACTION PLAN 2006-2011

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
<b>SERVICE MANAGEMENT</b>					
CYPP p4	Ensure service planning and development regarding CiC is based on robust analysis of need.	Undertake data and trend analysis to predict future needs regarding CiC	Needs analysis complete, reported and used to inform future planning.	Sept 2006	Divisional Manager Planning and Performance
CYPP p50	Develop, pilot and evaluate a framework for integrated delivery of services to CiC.	Develop proposals for integrated and co-located multi-agency teams with integrated management based on co-location or virtual co-location.	Options identified and way forward established	Nov 06	Principal Managers: Permanence and Young People's Team
		Develop framework for integrated front-line services, including the establishment of protocols for leadership, management and governance arrangements.	Improved multi-agency working	March 07	Divisional Manager Children in Care
		Develop, pilot and evaluate systems for sharing information between professionals working with CiC	Services to CiC are more co-ordinated and better informed. Pilot will inform the development of information processes across children and young people's services.	2008	Divisional Manager Children in Care

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
Care Matters Requirements	DCS and LM responsible for Corporate Parenting improvements	Review and strengthen Corporate Parenting role.  Improve reporting mechanisms  Raise awareness of Corporate Parenting via a conference to launch new pledge, CiC council and responsibilities across LA.		December 2008   September 2008	Strategic Director Children's Services Lead Member Children's Services  CiC Mini Trust  Whole Council
Care Matters Requirements	Develop systems for Profiling CiC and Vulnerable children to ensure that appropriate services are available	Quarterly profile to be developed	Services meet the needs of CiC	September 2007	Divisional Manager Children in Care
Care Matters Requirements	Maintain Effective care planning procedures, particularly when working with birth parents	Implement Birth Parent Strategy. Continue to provide clear evidence of birth parents input to processes and ensure workers are complying with any new regulations	Improved engagement with Birth Parents	April 2008	Divisional Manager Children in Care
Care Matters Requirements	Improving LA Commissioning and piloting Regional Commissioning Units	Strengthen education input to commissioning joint provision in line with requirement to plan for education and care at the same time	Improved access to education for children in care	2008	Head of Education Support Service and Integrated Children's Commissioning Manager

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
		Establish joint education and care placement contract visits			
Care Matters Requirements	New responsibility on DCS to ensure that CiC participate equally with their peers	Consult with YP about barriers to engagement and how to remove them.  Develop and strengthen data collection and reporting systems.	Improved engagement with Children in Care  Enhance knowledge of opportunities and barriers for Children in Care	Dec 2007  March 2008	Strategic Director for Children's Services  Divisional Manager Planning and Performance
<b>HELP CHILDREN IN CARE BE HEALTHY</b>					
CYPP (Health background doc)	Promote the health of CiC	Audit systems and processes currently in place for health plans for looked after children in order to identify gaps or weaknesses and improve the effectiveness of the arrangements  <b>Explore accessibility of services for CiC who have an identified health need.</b>	The health of CiC is improved by having more robust health planning arrangements in place.  <b>The health of CiC with identified health needs is promoted by ensuring they have access to services.</b>	2007  2008	Senior Conference and Reviewing Manager  <b>Senior Conference and Reviewing Manager</b>
CYPP H1	Improve the physical health of CiC	Increase the percentage of CiC who have previously refused formal health assessments, who access alternative provision.	The physical health of CiC is improved by the provision of alternatives to formal health assessments.	2009	Health Development Group

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
CYPP H2	Improve the mental health of CiC	Undertake Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	CiC are emotionally healthier due to improved placement stability.	2009  100% of those entering care have a core assessment to identify their emotional and mental health needs	Specialist CAMHS Senior Conference and Reviewing Manager
CYPP H4	Ensure CiC have healthy lifestyles	Provide information and training on lifestyle issues	CiC can make healthy lifestyle choices.	2009  100% of CiC to have access to information on healthy diets and information on drugs, alcohol and tobacco.	Universal Task Group  Preventative mini-trust
CiC consultation/ Care Matters Requirement	Enable access to a wide variety of activities not just sports. For example, dance, drama, movement, singing, and music.	Explore opportunities for providing more varied leisure activities. For example dance workshops etc.	Improved access to leisure opportunities	2008	Operational Director Cultural and Leisure Services
Care Matters Requirements	Secure free LA leisure provision for CiC	Review leisure pass offer in consultation with YP and foster carers.	Improved access to leisure opportunities	2008	Operational Director Cultural and Leisure Services
CiC consultation	CiC and care leavers to have access to a free leisure pass	Investigate a 16+ care leaver's card.	Improved access to leisure opportunities	2008	Operational Director Cultural and Leisure Services

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
CiC consultation	Raise emphasis on healthy eating. For example, running healthy eating days.	Raise this issue with CiC Nurse and Halton Healthy Schools Co-ordinator.	Children in Care can make healthy lifestyle choices	2008	CiC Nurse
CiC consultation	Improve awareness raising regarding sexual health.	Review current practice and improve access to information for CiC.	Children in Care can make healthy lifestyle choices Improve Self Protection	2008	CiC Nurse/ Preventative Mini Trust
Care Matters Requirements	New standards of support for teenage parents in care and leaving care	Develop training programme with teenage Pregnancy co-ordinator and other health colleagues. Investigate actual levels of support available for YP themselves including suitable care placements	Reduce unplanned pregnancies  Improved support for parents	2009	Preventative Mini Trust and Principal Manager Young People's Team
Care Matters Requirements	Named health professional for all CiC	Develop role of a named health professional	Health of Children in Care with identified health needs are promoted by ensuring they have access to a named health professional	2008	Health Development Group
<b>HELP CHILDREN IN CARE BE SAFE</b>					
CYPP S5 Revised priority SS4	Ensure CiC have safety and security and are cared for.	To improve placement choice and to achieve better matches between carers and children via recruitment of foster carers	CiC have more security, stability and a better experience of care.	2009  Increase the number of foster carers by 10%	Principal Manager Adoption and Fostering Service

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
		<p>Increase the range of suitable semi-independent and supported accommodation available for care leavers</p> <p>Ensure all contracts are routinely monitored. Ensure all contracts meet essential standards, including safety standards.</p>	All CIC are kept safe with regard to all services they receive from contracted services	2009 100%	Integrated Children's Commissioning Manager
Building Bridges Strategy	Ensure CiC with disabilities have safety and security and are cared for.	Increase the number of foster carers offering short breaks to children and young people with disabilities.	Children and young people with disabilities have increased choice of placement type.	2008 5 additional carers	Principal Manager Adoption and Fostering Service
CiC consultation	Develop card which can fit inside a purse or wallet (size of a business card) with key numbers, such as ChildLine, CRU, Social care, Barnardos.	Investigate costings and production with Corporate Services (Marketing).	Improved access to incorporation	2008	Safeguarding Development Officer
CiC consultation	Develop additional semi-independent accommodation for young people leaving foster care. This accommodation should be safe and solely for care leavers.	Explore options with housing partners	Improved choice and quality of accommodation for young people leaving care	2008	Integrated Children's Commissioning Manager Children in Care Mini Trust

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
CiC consultation	Develop foster care services to ensure increasing independence in foster care for young people as they grow up	Independence Skills training for foster carers	Improved readiness for leaving care	2008	Principal Manager Fostering Service and Training Coordinator for Foster Carers
Care Matters Requirements	Standards for skills of Foster Carers and increased access to training	Strengthen current programme and include more multi-agency training.  Education Support Service to provide mentoring support for carers around education issues – linked with family learning.	Improved placement stability  Improved placement stability  Improved Access to education  Improve attainment and achievement for children in care in education	2008	Training Coordinator for Foster Carers  Head of Education Support Service
Care Matters Requirements	All CiC to be visited by SW regardless of placement type	Visits to all children in care	Improved placement stability	2007	Divisional Manager Children in Care
Care Matters Requirements	Prevent early discharge from care placement until YP is ready	Recruit more foster carers.  Increase number of semi-independent/supported living possibilities.	Increase range of options available for children in care  Increase range of options available for children in care	2008	Principal Managers; Permanence and Fostering Service  CiC Mini Trust and Integrated Children's Commissioning Manager



TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
		Ensure that wishes of CiC are included in all care planning and pathway planning	Increase understanding of the needs of children in care	2008	Principal Mangers; Permanence and Young People's Team
<b>HELP CHILDREN IN CARE ENJOY AND ACHIEVE</b>					
CYPP Revised priority EA3	Improve the educational achievement of CiC.	Record an educational baseline for all children entering the looked after system. Audit educational background, current curriculum needs, attainment, additional needs and support requirements, health and social needs of all CiC.	The educational achievements of CiC are improved by the early identification of additional needs.	2008	Head of Education Support Service
		Establish a database to track the educational achievement of all CiC to include teacher assessments and projected grades.	The educational outcomes for CiC are improved by ensuring their progress is monitored and any additional needs recognised at early stage.	2008	Head of Education Support Service
		Ensure all CiC have an up to date Personal Education Plan (PEP) and implement Interactive PEPs.	The educational achievements of CiC are improved as staff can ensure suitable provision is available for every looked after child.	2007	Head of Education Support Service
			Educational		

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
		<p>Evaluate 'PEP Dowry' scheme to fund specific areas of support highlighted by the PEP Convene a conference and deliver training to raise awareness for specific groups of professionals, governors and Councillors.</p> <p>Provide immediate support for pupils in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.</p> <p>Use information from 'Welfare Call' service to enable early intervention on attendance issues.</p>	<p>achievements of CiC improved by the provision of appropriate additional support. The educational outcomes for CiC are improved by raising awareness of their needs.</p> <p>The educational outcomes for CiC are improved by the provision of appropriate support with their learning.</p> <p>The educational outcomes for CiC are improved by monitoring and addressing attendance issues.</p>	<p>2007</p> <p>Oct 2006</p> <p>2008</p> <p>2008</p>	<p>Head of Education Support Service</p> <p>Head of Education Support Service</p> <p>Head of Education Support Service</p> <p>Head of Education Support Service</p>
CYPP Revised priority EA3	Ensure CiC are ready for school	<p>Ensure all CiC have access to pre-school provision.</p> <p>Reduce the percentage of CiC missing school for 25 days or more each year.</p>	<p>CiC have the best start in life and good standards of communication, social and emotional development</p> <p>CiC miss fewer days at school so their attainment is improved</p>	<p>2009 100%</p> <p>2009 8%</p>	<p>Universal Task Group</p> <p>Universal Task Group</p> <p>Head of Education Support Service</p>

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
CYPP EA 4	Ensure CiC achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation.	Establish a baseline of how many CIC currently participate in recreational opportunities and increase this by 5% by 2009	CiC achieve personal and social development via increased recreational opportunities.	<p>2009 baseline + 5%</p> <p>% of CIC aged 11-18 years as of 1<sup>st</sup> April of year.</p> <p>Youth Service Baseline 2006 - 2007 Contacts: 7% Participants: 7% Personal Development Outcome: 4.7% Accredited Outcome: 4.7%</p> <p>Youth Service Performance Indicators 2007 – 2008 Contacts: 14% Participants: 14% Personal Development Outcome: 7% Accredited Outcome: 7%</p>	<p>Universal Task Group</p> <p>Head of Youth Service</p>

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
				Youth Service Performance Indicators 2008 – 2009 Contacts: 25% Participants: 15% Personal Development Outcome: 10% Accredited Outcome: 10%	
CYPP Revised priority EA3	Ensure CiC achieve stretching national educational standards at secondary school.	Ensure 65% of CiC achieve 1 GCSE at grade A*-G.  Ensure 15% of CiC leave care with 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C grades by 2008.	CiC achieve their educational potential.	2008 65%  2008 15%	Universal Task Group  Head of Education Support Service
Care Matters Requirements	Ensure CiC have highest priority in school admissions	Include in Halton's criteria for admission	Improved access and choice of education for children in care	2007	Senior Management Team Children and Young People Directorate
Care Matters Requirements	Ensure care planning does not disrupt CiC education (except in exceptional circumstances)  Prevent CiC having to move schools in Y10 and Y11	Strengthen current joint care and education planning. Improve on PEP completion as this addresses education issues within the care plan.	Increase attainment, attendance and achievement  Improved placement stability	2008	Head of Education Support Service

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
		Identify further support and strengthen current support available to avoid exclusion			
Care Matters Requirements	Ensure care planning does not disrupt CiC education (except in exceptional circumstances)	Improve the funding and practicalities of transport which can sometimes be a barrier to maintaining placements.	Increase attainment, attendance and achievement  Improved placement stability	2008	Transport Co-Ordination
Care Matters Requirements	Designated Teacher role to be statutory	Schools to appoint a Designated teacher with a senior position  Guidance to be produced on the role of Designated Teacher.  Education Support Service to facilitate multi-agency training for all Designated Teachers.	Increase attainment, attendance and achievement  Improved placement stability	2008	Operational Director Universal and Learning Services  Head of Education Support Service
Care Matters Requirements	Increase the availability of 1:1 tuition	Identify core funding for PEP Dowry to continue.  Strengthen system of obtaining regular (at least termly, preferably half-termly) attainment data from schools.	Increase attainment and achievement for children in care  Early identification of issues	2008	Divisional Manager Children in Care  Head of Education Support Service

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
Care Matters Requirements	Improve support for reducing school absence and exclusion	<p>Continue to monitor exclusions and attendance.</p> <p>Arrange fast-track access to KS3 &amp; 4 PRUs to ensure continued education provision during fix term and permanent exclusions. Work with partners to identify additional exclusion and re-integration support.</p>	<p>Improve attendance and attainment for children in care</p> <p>Improve attendance and attainment for children in care</p>	2008	<p>Head of Education Support Service</p> <p>Divisional Manager Access and Inclusion</p>
Care Matters Requirements	Ensure high quality EY provision for CiC under 5	<p>Ensure that all CiC access their EY entitlement</p> <p>Training programme to be offered to all EY providers around issues relating to CiC and adoption.</p>	Early engagement in education	2007	<p>Divisional Manager Early Years</p> <p>Head of Education Support Service</p>
<b>HELP CiC MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION</b>					
CYPP (Make a Positive Contribution background doc)	Ensure CiC engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school.	<p>CiC who are identified as at risk of offending to be referred to the Youth Offending Team (YOT).</p> <p>Agree a policy with Out of Borough providers on</p>	<p>CiC are encouraged to engage in law-abiding behaviour by being provided with appropriate interventions.</p> <p>CiC are encouraged to engage in law-abiding</p>	<p>2007</p> <p>2008</p>	<p>Head of Youth Offending Team</p> <p>Head of Youth Offending Team</p>

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
		when to involve the police regarding damage to property and the policy to form part of the written agreement with all contracted providers.	behaviour by the application of consistent approaches towards those who damage property.		and Contracts Officer Planning and Performance Division CYPD
CYPP	Ensure CiC engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school.	YOT staff to contribute to Core Assessments, attend Planning Meetings, provide training to social workers on assessing risk of offending, and develop closer working links with other services working with children and young people.	CiC are encouraged to engage in law-abiding behaviour by improved liaison between social care and YOT.	2008	Head of Youth Offending Team
CYPP MPC 2	Ensure CiC engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school.	Ensure fewer CiC receive a Final Warning from the police.	CiC engage in positive and law-abiding behaviour.	2008 from 13.1% to 9%	Head of Youth Offending Team
CYPP MPC 2	Enable CiC to engage in decision-making and support in the community and environment	Enable more CiC to make a positive contribution by volunteering in the community through undertaking service within the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and attending Area Youth Forums  An increased number of CiC say they are satisfied with the services they receive.	CiC make a positive contribution to their communities.  CiC are enabled to participate in decision-making and service planning.	2009 from 2% to 7%  Increase of 5% by 2009	Head of Youth Service  Preventative Task Group

<b>TARGET FROM</b>	<b>KEY TASK</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>TARGET/TIMESCALE</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
CiC consultation	Ensure young people are given a choice of how to receive additional support for education.	Appropriate delivery to be addressed during the PEP consultation with the young person discussion	Provision of support which meets identified individual needs	2008	Head of Education Support Service Children in Care Council
CiC consultation	Ensure PEPs ask the right questions, including about activities as well as how the young person is doing in school.	Review of existing ePEP.	Provision of support which meets identified individual needs	May 2008	Head of Education Support Service
CiC Consultation	Raise awareness of teachers about the importance of confidentiality and need for sensitivity regarding asking for information from CiC	Address issue during designated teacher training.	Children in Care are appropriately supported in education	2008	Head of Education Support Service
CiC consultation	Ensure CiC have enough activities money to enable them to use youth clubs regularly.	Fostering Service to look at how foster carers are using any allocated activities money.	Improved access to leisure opportunities	2008	Principal Manager Fostering Service
CiC consultation	Maintain and extend annual citizenship celebration.	Ensure nominations are made in respect of children in care	Improve self esteem in children in care	2008	Head of Education Support Service
CiC Consultation	Negotiate a reduced cost bus pass, which covers all Halton and all bus services.	Explore possibilities and gain feedback on discussions with bus companies.	Improve access to a range of opportunities in the borough	2009	Transport Co-Ordination
CiC consultation	Ensure CiC have representation and are engaged with the youth parliament and youth forum	Improve liaison between Youth Service and social care	Improved engagement within communities for children in care	2007	Head of Youth Service CiC Mini Trust



TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
CiC consultation	Develop website designed by and focussing on CiC	Website to be developed	Improved access to information	2008	Barnardos
Care Matters Requirements	Establish Children in Care Council with direct links to DCS and LM	Carry out further consultation with YP specifically about purpose of council, powers/mechanisms and how they want this established. Identify how links to DCS and LM will be created Need clear links to all other CiC services	Increased involvement of young people in service development and service delivery	2008	YP DCS LM Youth Service Barnardos
Care Matters Requirements	Agree and sign up to LA Pledge regarding CiC	Consult with YP and partner agencies. Establish a group of YP to write pledge for distribution to all CiC  Identify mechanisms for evaluating its effectiveness	Clear shared commitment to children in care  Early identification of opportunities and barriers	2008	DCS and COMT LM YP CYPD staff Partner agencies  Divisional Manager Planning and Performance
Care Matters Requirements	Transform availability of positive activities for CiC	Improve data collection on use of activities. Raise profile in schools re. Free access to music tuition.  Collate and publicise extended activities to YP, social workers and foster carers.	Early identification of opportunities and barriers  Increase access to borough wide opportunities	2008	Divisional Manager Planning and Performance

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
Care Matters Requirements	Ensure leisure activities form key part of care planning	Clarify what constitutes leisure activities and establish data collection systems.	Improved emotional and physical health of children in care Improved engagement in positive activities for children in care	2008	Principal Managers: Permanence and Young People's Team
Care Matters Requirements	Increase access to independent visitors	Ensure more robust systems of identification of young people who would benefit from/want a visitor. Increase number of visitors available.  Improve publicity and promotion of the service. Improve data collection of evidence of impact of advocacy services.	Improved placement stability  Improve safeguarding arrangements in placements  Improve safeguarding arrangements in placements	2008  2008	Senior Conference and Reviewing Manager  HITS  Barnardos
<b>HELP CiC ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING</b>					
CYPP (achieve economic well-being background doc)	Enable CiC to engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school.	Connexions worker to provide advice to young people and develop an action plan  Develop links to the 'Aim higher' Initiative – to encourage looked after young people to enter higher education	CiC are enabled to engage in further education, employment or training by the provision of appropriate advice and support. CiC are enabled to engage in further education by being linked in with local initiatives.	2008  2008	Regional Manager Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership  Head of Education Support Service

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
CYPP AEW 1		Ensure at least 75% of young people leaving care are engaged in employment, education or training by 2008	Young people leaving care achieve economic wellbeing.	2008 75%	Universal Task Group Regional Manager Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership Principal Manager Young People's Team
CYPP (achieve economic well-being background doc)	Ensure Local Authority and Partners offer children in care employment opportunities	Review implementation of the Employment Policy	CiC are enabled to be ready for employment by the provision of work placements.	2008	Principal Manager Young People's Team and Employment and Enterprise Manager
CYPP MPC 4	Enable CiC to engage in decision-making and support in the community and environment	Promote involvement in CiC Council, Youth Forum and other activities	CiC are enabled to participate in decision making and service planning.	Increase of 5% CiC say they are satisfied with the services they receive by 2009	Preventative Task Group
CYPP AEW 2	Ensure CiC are ready for employment	Increase the support available to care leavers and maintain their involvement in EET	CiC are better prepared for the world of work.	2009 Ensure all young people leaving care are offered a work placement of at least 12 weeks duration by 2009	Universal Task Group  Principal Manager Young People's Team

TARGET FROM	KEY TASK	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	TARGET/TIMESCALE	LEAD
CYPP Revised priority AEW 2	Ensure CiC live in decent homes and sustainable communities	Increase the range and choice of accommodation	Care leavers are able to access good quality, permanent accommodation.	2009 Reduce the number of care leavers who live in temporary accommodation is reduced to 15% by 2009	Universal Task Group  CiC Mini Trust
CYPP AEW 4	Ensure CiC have access to transport and material goods	Ensure all CiC aged 11 plus have computer access in their home by 2009	CiC are able to access computers.	2009 100%	Universal Task Group  Divisional Manager Children in Care
CiC consultation	Improve Care leavers access to driving lessons	Relevant Care Leavers have access to £300 activities money which they can choose to spend on driving lessons.	CiC are better able to access work opportunities	Complete	Principal Manager Young People's Team
Care Matters Requirements	Extended support from PA until 25 years for all care leavers who are in education or wish to return	Negotiate how PA support will be provided.  Monitor NEET population to ensure correct allocation of workers.	Enhance support for care leavers	2008	Principal Manager Young People's Team /HITS  Regional Manager Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership