

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

DATE: 14 November 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Children's Social Care Update

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members of the Board:

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

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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

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

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

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

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

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

6.4 A Safer Halton

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

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

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

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

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

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

None.