

Children and Young People Priority Based PPB Report

Reporting Period: Quarter 3 2022-23

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress that have occurred during the period of the report towards the priority of Children and Young People (CYP). The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress is explained within Appendix 1 (section 8).
- 1.2 Please note initials have been provided to indicate which officer is responsible for the commentary to aid Members, as requested by the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board. A key is provided in Appendix 1 (section 8).

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 Internships Work

Internships Work is a new project which plans to enable 4500 young adults, aged 16-25 with additional needs, to benefit from a supported internship per year by 2025. Supported internships are a structured, work-based study programme for young people who have an education, health and care plan. The core element of the supported internship is work placement, facilitated by the support of a job coach.

The Internships Work project is funded by the Department for Education. Halton have been accepted to be part of the project. The first action the Department for Education want to see is the development of an employer forum, seeing effective employer engagement as the key success factor in establishing a supported internship programme. JF

2.2 Halton Borough Council Traineeship opportunities for young people leaving care

Halton's Virtual School, 14-19 Team, Policy, People, Performance and Efficiency Division, Power in Partnership training provider and several teams within the Council are working together to provide traineeship opportunities for a small group of young people leaving care. A traineeship is a course designed to prepare young people aged 16-24 years old for their future careers, giving them a chance to practice skills and become 'work ready' by spending some of the course time in work experience placements.

The first traineeships are due to start in the spring term as a pilot project. Since first developing the work, the Government have announced traineeship funding will change from August 2023. The success of the first wave of traineeships and the impact of the funding change will be evaluated before developing next steps for the project. JF

2.3 High Need Provision Capital

On the 29th March 2022 the Department for Education announced that Halton would receive £1,771,998 in 2022/23 and £1,552,357 in 2023/24 giving a total budget of £3,324,355 High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA). This funding is to support the provision of new places or improve existing provision for pupils and students with high needs. The Local Authority is currently consulting with schools with regard to proposals to expand some of its specialist provision within borough, and will then evaluate any proposals received, and a report will be submitted to the Executive Board outlining the proposals once confirmed should there be a need to agree any significant capital works from this funding under the programme. By enhancing SEND provision within borough the intent is to help ensure Halton

children attend Halton schools, rather than having to attend expensive specialist educational provision out-borough, which will also assist in reducing out of borough transport costs. JF

2.1 Safeguarding Children in Education Officer

The Safeguarding Children in Education Officer was appointed in Q3 and begins in January 2023. They will be line managed by the Headteacher of the Virtual School and work closely with school leaders, colleagues within EIP and multi-agency safeguarding partners. JF

2.2 Virtual School

The new Virtual School Headteacher has established themselves into the role and made strong links with colleagues across Education and Social Care. A new termly deadline for Personal Education Plans (PEP) completion has been implemented to allow greater opportunity for analysis, pupil progress reviews and identification of children causing concern, resulting in 100% of Early Years and Primary PEPs completed in time and 96% of secondary PEPS (compared to 91% in autumn 2021). A PEP for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) has also been embedded for 16-18, with a further rollout to 18+ expected in early 2023. JF

2.3 Family hubs

Excitingly Halton is one of 75 local authorities to be eligible for Family Hub funding to transform existing provision into family hubs model and framework. DM for early help is the strategic lead for coordinating this and working closely with all partners to deliver the new model. A steering group has been set up and will oversee the sign up and the delivery plan for submission on 27th January. Governance structure of accountability has been suggested and ready for management sign off. The vision is that an Early Help Partnership board will be established that will offer scrutiny, challenge and support to many streams of work within early help and prevention including family hubs, supporting families, right to succeed, early help assessments, reducing parental conflict and parenting. PM

2.4 PAUSE

Pause in Halton is now well established and the first graduation took place on 20th January. The programme works with women who have previously had 2 or more children removed from their care. In September the annual event and celebration was held with huge success. The project has already made significant impact on the women and really made a difference to their lives. Evidence already shows positive outcomes including women moving into adult education and gaining employment. A sustainability and cost avoidance report has now been submitted for LA and Partner agency strategic leaders to review and commit funding to secure the project in Halton for a further 3 years. PM

2.5 Corporate Parenting

The Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy is being reviewed for the period 2023 -26. Consultation is currently underway with children and young people, along with key partner agencies and staff in Children's Service. Arrangements for the Corporate Parenting Board have been reviewed with the implementation of revised governance structures. Officers are currently engaging with the Local Government Association to strengthen the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities. PM

2.6 Quality Assurance

Arrangements to strengthen performance and quality assurance arrangements in Children Social Care have recently been introduced. This coincided with the finding from the Ofsted Focused Visit (November 2022). An organisation specialising in quality assurance work, Audit

to Excellence have been commissioned to work alongside officers for a 12 month period to strengthen existing arrangements. PM

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 Children in Care

The most significant challenge in Children’s Social Care is the continuing increase in the numbers of children in care which is placing several challenges on the Service, including staffing resources, the availability of placements and the financial pressure on budgets. The Service is looking to strengthen aspects of social work practice, and also to review support services. A particular focus is on strengthening the quality and effectiveness of permanence planning for children in care and there is now revised arrangements in place to support management oversight. In addition, a revised ‘edge of care’ offer is being developed to support children and young people at risk of harm to remain living within their families, where it is safe for them to do so.



Free School Provision

3.2 Halton and St Helen’s were successful in an application to DFE to develop a new SEMH Free School Provision. This was due to open in Halton in September 2022. Unfortunately due to a range of factors and ongoing delays due to site issues, DFE delays, the school will not now open until September 2024. This will impact on number of SEMH places available and hence alternative ways of sourcing such provision are being sought with the wider system. Expressions of interest are being sought to expand provision across Halton with the school sector.

4.0 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 the Directorate. It should be noted that given the significant and unrelenting downward financial pressures faced by the Council there is a requirement for Departments to make continuous in-year adjustments to the allocation of resources in order to ensure that the Council maintains a balanced budget. Whilst every effort continues to be made to minimise any negative impact of such arrangements upon service delivery they may inevitably result in a delay in the delivery of some of the objectives and targets contained within this report.


Objective: Improve outcomes for children and young people through effective multi-agency early intervention (PED01)

Ref	Measure	21/22 Actual	22/23 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED01 01	Increase the number of early help assessments (MAP/PRE MAP) health/education and other partners are leading on (financial year cumulative to end of quarter Val Armor)	484 all MAP	N/A	365 MAP		N/A
<i>Supporting Commentary: Val Armor</i>						
PED01 02	Improve overall attendance at schools: Primary –Pri PRU – PRU	LA - 91.18% Primary – 93.25%	95%	Primary: 93.61%		

	Secondary – Sec Special – Spec Total	Secondary- 88.92% Special 85.49% PRU 59.09%	Secondary: 90.38% Special: 86.56% Pru: 66.01%		
--	--	---	---	--	--


Supporting Commentary: *Debbie Houghton /Scott Middlehurst*

Attendance has slightly improved across the LA for secondary, primary, special schools and the PRU so the direction of travel is positive.

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED01a	Work with schools to maintain the level of attendance at Primary and Secondary Schools. Debbie Houghton (March 2023)	


Supporting commentary: *Debbie Houghton.*

The direction of travel is positive and we have seen slight improvements in attendance across schools in Halton. The Education Welfare Service (EWS) is continuing to work with schools, parents and other agencies to identify and address the barriers to attendance. All high schools and the vast majority of special schools currently trade with the EWS to support with attendance, however going forward there will be a need for EWS to deliver more services as part of a statutory model in line with DfE Guidance '[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)'. This will build on current best practice and further develop partnership working to remove the barriers to school attendance.

PED01b	Implement Pause project and support women to make positive choices, improving their relationships with their children and preventing further children being taken into care. (Val Armor March 2023)	
--------	---	---

Supporting commentary: *Val Armor*

PAUSE in Halton is now over 12 months old and we have celebrated an annual event showcasing the superb work that is being carried out. The project is already having a significant positive impact on the lives of the women involved. The first cohort of women graduated on 20th Jan 23 at a wonderful ceremony highlighting their achievements over the last 18 months. The next step is to find funding from partners and the LA to continue with this offer. A sustainability and cost avoidance report has been submitted to management to consider as part of The Invest to Save model within the transformation team.

PED01c	Revise Halton's parental offer that will include further developmental of reducing parental conflict training (Val Armor March 2023)	
--------	--	---



Supporting commentary: *Val Armor*

The Parenting officer has been in post since January 2022 and now all referrals for parenting go to one central point. This has made it much easier for partners to understand. There has been one parenting event so far in June 2022 and this will be on a rolling programme so partners in the borough are aware of all of the parenting offer. Talks are still in place with IT to develop our own parenting hub. The reducing parental conflict programme has been rolled out over the past 2 years and over 160 workers have been trained. The aim is to embed this work into the everyday work of frontline practitioners. A new partnership with Amnity (training provider) has been established and the parenting coordinator will become a train the trainer and roll this programme out in the next quarter.

The success in this parenting role has resulted in the need to look for further funding to have an assistant parenting role to help with the delivery and coordination of the parenting hub.

The borough continues to embed nurture principles through all of our parenting work across the workforce

Objective: Keeping Children and Young People safe by improving practice (PED02)













Ref:	Measure	21/22 Actual	22/23 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED02 01	Monitor the rate of referrals to Children's Social Care per 10000 0–18-year-olds (Forecast annualised rate at end of financial year)	458	500 (Full year)	448 (year to end Q3)		







Supporting commentary: *Liz Davenport*


Halton's referrals rate per 10,000 is above regional comparators however overall below statistical neighbours.

Aug-22 and Sept-22 are now showing above all comparators but has settled below for Dec-2022.

Referral numbers in the last six months have increased by 3% when compared to the six months previously.

Ref:	Measure	21/22 Actual	22/23 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
<p>The safeguarding contacts rise is 16% for the same periods. Police continue to be the highest referring agency at 34% of all referrals from January 2023 CHAT.</p>						
PED02 02	Monitor the rate of children in need (open cases) per 10000 0–18-year-olds (snapshot at end of quarter)	360	380	385		
<p><u>Supporting commentary: Liz Davenport</u> CIN has decreased since January 2022, falling below our 2020/21 outturn since May-22The six months back from Dec-21 is 11% lower than the six months to June-22. It is worth noting that the figures are made up of those with a CIN plan completed and not those in assessment and waiting for CIN Plan to be completed, should that be the concluding outcome. There has been clear focus from July '22 onwards relating to those CIN cases that have been open for nine months or longer. Panels to review all CIN cases with a plan over nine months have proven effective in establishing case direction, i.e. step-down to EH/universal services or escalation. This has resulted, in part, to CIN numbers reducing specifically around September and October, and now to its lowest level within a 12 month period in December 2022.</p>						
PED02 03	Monitor the rate of children subject to a child protection plan per 10000 0–18-year-olds (snapshot at end of quarter)	59	45	61		
<p>At the end of Q2, there was a 10% reduction in individual child protection plans compared to the beginning of Q1 this was not a sustained downward trend and numbers per 10,000 have increased again to a level comparable to Q1. Rates per 10,000 show. Halton as above NW comparators but below Statistical neighbours.</p>						
PED02 04	Monitor the rate of children in care per 10000 0–18-year-olds (snapshot at end of quarter)	107	90	136		
<p><u>Supporting commentary: Liz Davenport</u> Halton have remained above all comparators for CLA for the past 12 months with a 5% increase to Oct-22 to Dec-2022. The number of children in care has been impacted by the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children as the LA. In December 2022 there were 22 USAC accounting for 5.6% of the CLA population The projection for year-end figure is this number will reduce to 15 young people once they reach the age of adulthood. However, the Council will retain financial responsibility once they become adults as they have entitlements under Leaving Care duties, whilst still awaiting a 'right to remain' decision from the Home Office. On average over the last 13 months 12 children started a period of care, with nine ceasing per month. In the last 6 months 82 children have entered care, eight of those children and young people had been previously looked after.</p> <p>63 children and young people left care in previous six month, of which 8% were due to a successful adoption and 16% due to the making of a Special Guardianship Order. We have more males than females in care and significantly more children aged between 11-15 years. The number of children accommodated under s.20 has reduced slightly this month however, we continue to have a high number of children subject to an Interim Care Order-i.e. still in care proceedings where their future in care of the LA is yet to be determined.</p>						
PED02 05	Reduce the number of children and young people who enter the care system (financial year, cumulative to end of quarter)	132	68	114		
<p><u>Supporting commentary: Liz Davenport</u> Legal advice meetings continue to add scrutiny to ensuring the threshold for care is met, with cases being diverted under pre proceedings protocol to manage level of intervention rather than when it's safe to do so. The legal process is currently being revised to introduce legal panels to promote additional scrutiny, the final decision for any child entering care remains with the OD. Further work is underway to review those children already in the care system to ensure their care plan reflects their needs, including the suitability of reunification to birth family, or alternative legal order, including special guardianship.</p>						
	Reduce the average caseload in Children in Need Teams (snapshot end of quarter)	23	18	20		
<p><u>Supporting commentary Linda Evans</u></p>						
PED02 07	Increase the proportion of missing incidents where a return interview is completed (financial year, cumulative to end of quarter)	71%	85%	53%		
<p><u>Supporting commentary: Clare Hunt</u> For this period, there have been 78 return interviews completed with 88 young people by the commissioned service. 45% of young people completed a return interview and 67% were completed within 72 hours, this is a decline from the previous</p>						

Ref:	Measure	21/22 Actual	22/23 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
<p>quarter and includes the Christmas holidays. The Declines for return interviews were 97 incidents by 47 young people over half were declined a point of contact.</p>						
PED02 08	Reduce the number of children who repeatedly run away in Halton (in last 12 months, snapshot end of quarter)	38	N/A	4		N/A
<p><u>Supporting commentary:</u> Clare Hunt For this reporting period, there has been a total of 193 notifications. There have been four young people with repeat missing incidents. These four young people have made five or more incidents during the quarter, accounted for 30% of all missing incidents in the quarter. 5% of all young people for the quarter are within the repeat cohort which is made up of 2 males (1 Care, 1 Home) and 2 females (both Care) With You directly engaged with all of the young people in the repeat cohort this quarter.</p>						
PED02 09	Reduce the number of children who go missing in the year (number of children recorded as missing in last 12 months, snapshot end of quarter)	243	N/A	88		N/A
<p><u>Supporting commentary:</u> Clare Hunt There has been an increase 13% of missing incidents from 220 to 193, as well as an increase of 6% young people 83 to 88. It continues to be the case that the majority (44%) of CYP reported missing are residing at home, following the trend seen in the previous quarters. The significant reasons that CYP reported as their main reasons/trigger for going missing this quarter were boundary issues (Home & Care), direct family conflict, substance misuse and issues at school. Looking at the professional reasons identified within the return home interview alongside this, these reasons were largely agreed with, however peer pressure was identified by the professional completing the return home interview as a key trigger for CYP going Missing From Home.</p>						
PED02 10	Record the number of young people flagged as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (snapshot end of quarter)	15	20	12		
<p><u>Supporting commentary:</u> Linda Evans The number of children recorded as at risk of child sexual exploitation is 12. A recent peer review including case audits has identified the need to work collectively with partner agencies review pathways and assessments, including the running of Child sexual exploitation group to ensure all Criminal Exploitation cases are robustly and multi-agency managed by a robust pathway and risk assessment.</p>						
PED02 11	Record the number of young people flagged as at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (snapshot end of quarter)	36	12	22		
<p><u>Supporting commentary:</u> Linda Evans There are 22 children recorded as at risk of criminal exploitation which is a decrease from 27 last month. . A recent peer review including case audits has identified the need to collectively with partner agencies review pathways and assessments, including the running of Child sexual exploitation group to ensure all CE cases are robustly and multi-agency managed by a robust pathway and risk assessment.</p>						

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED02a	Embed a systemic model of social work practice across the whole service, social workers, managers and senior leaders. Peter Murphy (March 2023)	
<p><u>Supporting commentary:</u> Peter Murphy This work is now underway. The Council continues to be supported by Warrington Council Children's Services under the Department for Education Sector Led Improvement Programme. Whilst the plan is in place and work has begun to implement systemic practice, evidence of it becoming embedded in work to support children and families isn't likely to be evident until autumn 2023.</p>		

PED02b	Review and update Workforce Strategy in line with the Knowledge and Skills framework and the Professional Capabilities Framework. Developing the competencies, skills and knowledge of the workforce making them motivated, stable and ambitious will improve the outcomes for families and keep them at the heart of everything we do. <i>Peter Murphy</i> (March 2023)	
--------	--	--

Supporting commentary: Peter Murphy

A workforce strategy for social workers now exists. The action plan is an ongoing piece of work. The Council has approved the Halton Offer to support recruitment and retention amongst social workers. The workforce strategy will be reliant upon a 'grown your own approach' that will likely mean developing an inexperienced workforce through the recruitment of newly qualified social workers. The Service is also looking at other options, including working with Higher Education Institutes with responsibility for providing social work training programmes, supporting an apprenticeship scheme, whilst increasing the number of placements to student social workers. The Service was recently successful in its submission to Frontline Organisations which is Government funded programme supporting the training of graduates to becoming qualified social workers. Whilst there continues to be an over-reliance on agency staffing across the Service, overall the workforce is relatively stable.

PED02c	Implement redevise structure for children and need service to ensure better resilience and management accountability to provide a safe and structured environment for social workers. (Peter Murphy)	
--------	--	--

Supporting commentary: Peter Murphy

A decision was made with the support of the Department for Education in June 2022 to pause any proposed restructure until there had been a period of stability or until such point there had been a further Focused Visit or inspection by Ofsted. Now this has happened in November 2022, work has begun to re-design service structures. This work is likely to be completed by May/ June 2023.

PED02d	Implement redevise quality and assurance framework to monitor improvements in practice (Peter Murphy)	
--------	---	--

Supporting commentary: Peter Murphy

The Service is updating its Performance and Quality Assurance Framework. Additional capacity and to strengthen of these arrangements has been secured with the commission of Audit to Excellence, along with establishing a designated Quality Assurance officer role. It is reassuring that Ofsted in completing the Focused Visit concluded that the self-assessment developed by the Service reflected an accurate picture of practice and key issues.

Objective: Improve outcomes for Children in Care and Care Leavers (PED03)

Ref:	Measure	21/22 Actual	22/23 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED03 01	Reduce the number of children who are placed in residential care (snapshot at end of quarter)	35	20	45		

Supporting Commentary: Liz Davenport / Sam Murtagh

A review of the Local Authorities Sufficiency Strategy is ongoing, this will include other more localised residential options operating as a Community Interest Company linked to the Liverpool City Regional Market Reform Programme. Within Halton two sites for children's homes are being explored along with some joint work with the Community Land Trust. This will enable more placements more locally based and also increase the number of placements with the not for profit sector as opposed to the Independent sector (SM)

There is a significant focus currently in respect of reviewing those children and young people who are placed in a residential placement to ensure that only those children and young people who require this type of placement remain in such placements. It is planned that Halton will host a face to face "Step Down to Fostering" event early in the New Year – this will focus on a cohort of 10 young people currently in Residential who have a potential plan to be fostered (SM)





Weekly high cost tracker meetings take place to ensure appropriate timely plans are in place for young people moving towards independence as well as reviewing progress (SM)





Furthermore, the Care Leavers Accommodation Group continues to meet on a monthly basis to discuss all referrals for those young people aged 17 plus who require their own accommodation in line with their Pathway Plan. (SR)

PED03 02	Reduce the number of children who are placed in independent fostering agencies (snapshot at end of quarter)	35	35	71		
----------	---	----	----	----	--	--











Supporting Commentary: Liz Davenport / Sam Murtagh


All placements are tracked through the resource and placements meeting where sourcing Halton's mainstream foster carers is a primary focus. The current level of sufficiency due to increase of looked after children is resulting in the use of Independent Fostering Agencies, and in some circumstances residential, however as foster carers approvals are also tracked there are means to place with in house carers planned. (SM)



PED03 03	Maintain the percentage of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (snapshot at end of quarter)	99%	95%	96%		
<p><u>Supporting Commentary:</u> Liz Davenport / Sam Murtagh</p> <p>The Care Leavers Accommodation Group is embedded within the Service with registered landlords being part of the meeting which meets on a monthly basis. The meeting reviews and tracks all young people aged 16 and older who require accommodation in preparation for leaving care. Referrals to this group continue to be coordinated and tracked via the Placements Team. Halton have an embedded Supported Lodgings scheme within the service. Halton have placed three young people currently placed with hosts. Lavender House, our commissioned service continues to be operational. This is a four bedroomed group living property in Runcorn and we currently have four young people placed in this provision. We also have two trainer flats which are commissioned from Social Landlords, one in Widnes and one in Runcorn both of which are operational. A recent review of the Commissioned service with P3 outlined some really positive impacts with the young people placed with all being in some form of employment and/or Educational placement, There are plans to increase the number of trainer flats that the local authority Commission with a meeting planned with the Registered Social Landlords (SM)</p>						
PED03 04	Increase the percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET) (snapshot at end of quarter)	51%	65%	55%		
<p><u>Supporting Commentary:</u> Sarah Riley</p> <p>Strong and effective links with the Virtual School continue as supporting care leavers into education, employment and training is a priority area.</p> <p>Monthly tracking is undertaken by the Virtual School to ensure that there are early alerts for young people who are at risk of becoming NEET as well as those currently NEET. The direct work to re-engage this group, undertaken by the KS4 and Post 16 Employability Officer, is to ensure that the views of the young person are heard and that any barriers are addressed when formulating a plan for re-engagement.</p> <p>We have implemented a CSCS card service for NEET care leavers aged 16+, and identified traineeship opportunities within 5 different departments within the Local Authority which are currently being recruited to.</p> <p>We are currently looking to develop and embed a NEET Panel which will discuss all young people aged 16 plus who are NEET with a plan to re-engage them into a positive activity.</p> <p>Monthly meetings are also being held with the Head Teacher of the Virtual School, Divisional Managers for CIC and Care Leavers and Child in Need and Child Protection and the Operational Director to review all care leavers who are not in education, employment and training and consider what support can be provided to support them into a positive destination.</p>						
PED03 05	Benchmarking year – Percentage of CIC Residential and Leaving Care placements that have received a Quality Assurance Visit from the Placements Team within the previous 12 months (cumulative from April to end of quarter)	N/A	N/A	Residential 41% Leaving Care 58%	N/A	N/A
<p><u>Supporting Commentary:</u> Sam Murtagh</p> <p>The increase in the number of placement requests this quarter and some staff sickness have impacted on the team's ability to complete some planned quality monitoring visits. However as well as the planned visit there have been a number of responsive visits that have taken place linked to quality concerns from Professionals as well as a result of OFSTED inspection outcome reports (SM)</p>						
PED03 06	Report on the budget spent on independent and out of borough placements for Children in Care (Forecast end of year) (Sarah Riley/Sam Murtagh)	Projected spend forecast for 2022/23 Residential £13,805,604.33 IFA £2,713,219.28 UASC Residential £1,550,840.21 IFA £189,878.55	Projected 9,583,822	Refer comment	N/A	N/A
<p><u>Supporting Commentary:</u> Liz Davenport / Sam Murtagh</p> <p>In order to address these rising costs, the following initiatives have been embedded help to reduce spend in this area: Residential Step Down to Fostering, Supported Lodgings, Commissioned Care Leavers Group and Training Flats. This is in line with other neighbouring local authorities, There have also been an increase in the number of Continuing Health Care assessments for the young people in care which may result in joint funding being put in place with Health services This area is also outlined within the broader local authorities Transformation plans (SM)</p>						


Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED03a	Ensuring all children in care achieve permanency in a timely way. (Liz Davenport March 2023)	
<p><u>Supporting Commentary:</u> Liz Davenport The Principal Manager of CIC and CL's Team tracks those children and young people who have been in placement for over 12 months to consider if long term matching is appropriate. There is also a tracker to track those children and young people who are placed at home subject to a Care Order to consider when it is appropriate to consider discharging the Care Order. Whilst the tracker is in place, this has enabled a focus for some children and young people to be matched long term within their foster placements however, this needs to be strengthened to prevent drift and delay for all children and ensure that a long term match is considered in a timely manner. For some children and young people who are placed at home, applications are made to Court to discharge Care Orders however, this is not always as timely as it could be. The use of early permanence placements are not routinely sought. New permanence flow chart to be issued with placement options by end Jan 2023 Specific groups will be reviewed in order of placement starting with children in Residential and moving to Placement with Parents. to promote safer long term planning and reduce risk spend and demand in the system . Permission will not be given to cancel reviews and an outline plan will be required for each child at second review or escalation of concern (dispute resolution) will be issued by IRM. A permanency panel is currently being set up to ensure more robust planning and tracking of permanency across all service areas-including CIN/CP and utilisation of increasing IRM essential role in tracking this through the statutory review process.</p>		
PED03b	Ensure that Safeguarding Unit escalate any delays or concerns using escalate policy (Susanne Leece March 2023)	
<p><u>Supporting Commentary:</u> Susanne Leece The Dispute Resolution Process is used by the Independent Reviewing Officer's (IRO) in the Safeguarding Unit to challenge drift or delay in planning for individual children. Resolution is often achieved at the initial, informal stage through the IRO having a discussion with the Social Worker and their Practice Lead. This discussion is recorded on the child's file but has not, until recently been reportable from the system. We are now able to accurately report on IRO oversight and challenge and will produce quarterly reports on this from Q4 2022/23.</p>		
PED03c	Review and quality assure the commissioning of services for Children in Care and Care Leavers to ensure that they meet the needs of Halton's population and inform future commissioning decisions (March 2023 Sam Murtagh)	
<p><u>Supporting Commentary:</u> Sam Murtagh Work remains ongoing within the Liverpool City Region framework for Fostering and Residential placements. The Team continues to work with colleagues across the Council to identify further properties for residential purposes within Halton, to assist in driving costs down. As well as the identification of land sites to develop local children's homes(SM)</p>		
PED03d	Through the quality assurance of Personal Education Plans (PEP), identify areas of need and support to improve outcomes for individual Children in Care	
<p><u>Supporting Commentary:</u> Ben Holmes At the end of the Autumn Term 2022, 96% of PEPs were completed within timescale in secondary and 100% of EY and Primary. 79% of Post 16 PEPs were completed, which continues to be an area of focus for the Spring term, but continues to increase. Internal Moderation of PEP judgements have been established and will be expanded to include partners in the process later this academic year. Initial moderation identified some inconsistencies in judgements, which has now been rectified through staff training and implementation of an updated PEP policy. Moderation and analysis has identified further training and support for Designated Teachers and Social Workers in the writing of SMART targets, which will be offered and targeted in Q4.</p> <p>Of the PEPs completed, the percentage rated as good or better has increased overall, with a return in standards for early years after a dip in the summer term. 91% of EY and Primary and 67% of Secondary and 77% of Post 16. Although there was a reduction in inadequate PEPs at secondary, there has been an increase in Amber (RI) judgements – which is where there will be a focus this term. With the increasing rigour in moderation in Q\$ it is anticipated that there may be a dip in judgements until the SMART target training is embedded within practice.</p> <p>A member of the virtual school team has now taken on responsibility for 'new into care' PEPs, resulting in initial PEPs now being consistently completed within time scales.</p>		

Objective: Improve the offer for children and young people with disabilities and those with Special Educational Needs (PED04)

Ref:	Measure	21/22 Actual	22/23 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED04 01	Increase the percentage of Education Health Care Plan assessments completed within 20 weeks (academic year cumulative to end of quarter)	78.9%	75%	54.1		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Paul Greenwood</i> It has been obvious to see that a combination of actors are leading to a decrease in the team's 20 week completion rate that need to rectify as we move forward. Currently, the combination of trying to address phase transfers all in an autumn term for February and March deadlines and maintaining the rate of new plans been written is unachievable task. The team has also been down to five members where we should have 9. Also, ways of prioritising and managing workloads in the team needs addressing. In order to address these issues we are making plans to bring forward the phase transfers timelines to give appropriate time frames in which to update plans. We now have two new member so f staff that join in January 2023 that will increase capacity and we have one other to recruit. Also, training needs have been identified for the team to develop process and legal knowledge as well as developing the quality of the plan themselves.</p>						
PED04 02	Reduce the number of incidents of fixed term Suspensions (academic year cumulative to end of quarter)	535	500	437		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Debbie Houghton / Scott Middlehurst</i> We have seen a significant increase in suspensions this academic year across both primary and secondary schools. We are only one term into this academic year and suspensions are already close to the 21/22 figure for the year and are predicted to exceed the target set for 22/23. In order to help address this a working group has been established to identify and support children at risk of exclusion and also to offer training and support to individual schools.</p>						
PED04 03	Reduce the number of children subject to fixed term suspensions (academic year cumulative to end of quarter)	308	350	293		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Debbie Houghton / Scott Middlehurst</i> We have seen a significant increase in suspensions this academic year across both primary and secondary schools. We are only one term into this academic year and suspensions are already close to the 21/22 figure for the year and are predicted to exceed the target set for 22/23. In order to help address this a working group has been established to identify and support children at risk of exclusion and also to offer training and support to individual schools.</p>						
PED04 04	Reduce the number of children subject to a permanent suspension (academic year cumulative to end of quarter)	15	30	25		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Debbie Houghton / Scott Middlehurst</i> We have seen a significant increase in permanent exclusions this academic year across secondary schools with 1 of the 25 to date from a primary school. In order to help address this a working group has been established to identify and support children at risk of exclusion and also to offer training and support to individual schools. We are particularly seeing an increase in permanent exclusion from KS3, possibly the cohort most affected by Covid in terms of missing out on transition support from primary when going into high school. At this same point last academic year we had 14 permanent exclusions compared to the current figure of 25 for 22/23.</p>						
PED04 05	Report on the proportion of children subject to Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) placed in independent and out of borough provisions (snapshot end of quarter) – long term target is to reduce	7.4%	3.6%	8%		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Paul Greenwood</i> Current increase in needs around SEMH (especially at KS3) and ASC are still providing in borough placement issues leading to a continued use of OOB placements. The lack of the proposed SEMH school in Halton will not help with this as we move to September and the delays on a build for one of specialist schools is creating place pressures also. We are continuing to move through the expression of interest process for resource bases to hopefully increase numbers in borough for September2023.</p>						
PED04 06	Report on the budget spent on independent and out of borough (OOB) provision for SEND (Forecast end of year)	Overspend £1,108,429	£250000 reduction	Refer Comment	N/A	N/A


<u>Supporting Commentary: Sam Murtagh</u> 108 pupils are currently placed at non-maintained and independent schools 32 referrals to search for an NMISS placement have been received between April 2022 and December 2022 year to date (57 – Jan to December 2022), compared to 31 referrals April to December 2021 (37 – Jan to December). There are currently 20 open referrals, 16 of whom are male with the greatest need of young people seen in KS3 and SEMH. . Of concern are the growing number of more localised ISS/NMSS reporting they are full leading to possible increased travel time as well as transport costs (SM)						
PED04 07	Increase the percentage of children subject to EHCP placed in mainstream provision (snapshot end of quarter)	44.6%	65%	51% (prov)	Refer Comment	Refer Comment
<u>Supporting Commentary: Paul Greenwood</u> <i>The 51% on the parameters of reception to year 11 is based on anyone with a mainstream school named in section I of the EHCP. This will include resource base children as we name the mainstream school in section I of the plan, removing them from the equation would obviously show a lower percentage under the 50% mark/.</i>						
PED04 08	Monitor the percentage of Special Schools with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding	xx	100%	100%		N/A
<u>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</u> <i>All special schools continue to be good or outstanding in Ofsted Overall Effectiveness grading's.</i>						
PED04 09	Increase the percentage of Education Health and Care plans for Child Protection and Children in Care completed in 16 weeks (academic year cumulative to end of quarter) (Adrian Leach)	N/A	75%	Available Q4	N/A	N/A
<u>Supporting Commentary: Adrian Leach /Paul Greenwood</u>						

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED04a	Develop and Implement the Social Emotional and Mental Health Strategy (SEMH) by March 2023. Impact to be monitored through the action plan. (Adrian Leach)	Refer comment
<u>Supporting Commentary: Adrian Leach</u> <i>Available Q4</i>		
PED04b	Review the current framework of support for children and young people with disabilities, including short breaks provision (Sam Murtagh March 2023)	
<u>Supporting Commentary: Sam Murtagh</u> <i>There has been a steady increase in the numbers of children attending short breaks activities:- 35% increase in Q1 (total 134 children) and a 69% increase in quarter 2 (total 214 children engaged). Early information for quarter 3 suggests that again numbers will be higher in comparison to last year. Quarterly and bi-annual meetings are taking place with providers to monitor provision. Two services:- Swimming Lessons and the Personal Assistant Support service were commissioned for one year + 1 year extension option and there has been the recommendation to extend both services to take up the one year to extend the services to March 2024. (SM)</i>		
PED04c	Review direct payments with all recommissions co-produced with parents and young people. (March 2023 Val Armor)	
<u>Supporting Commentary: Val Armor</u> <i>This has been reviewed in terms of commissioning to get the best offer and value for parents and carers. The current commission is now in place until march 23 2023.</i>		
PED04d	Improve quality and timeliness of Education Health and Care Plans. (March 2023 Adrian Leach)	
<u>Supporting Commentary: Adrian Leach</u> <i>Halton are recruiting staff to increase the team capacity as well as addressing the identified training needs of the team in order to develop the quality and timeliness of our plans. In addition, the development of the quality assurance framework and it's coming implementation will start to further identify our strengths and areas for development allowing us to address the quality of plans, advice and timeliness as we move forward. It will be important to be able to draw upon clear evidence and data to support the process.</i>		

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED04e	Quality assure all provision currently being utilised to ensure that provision meets the needs of our children and young people (March 2023 Sam Murtagh)	

Supporting Commentary: Sam Murtagh



No monitoring visits took place during this period, work has been undertaken to further develop the self-assessment that schools complete to draw out more information on attendance, punctuality, behaviour, learning, progress and achievement for each pupil placed, the next cohort of schools for monitoring is being identified and information is being sent out. Of the 33 schools commissioned, 11 schools have been monitored, which encompasses 56% of pupils. (SM)

PED04f	Review in borough specialist provision and revise to meet the needs of Halton's children and young people (March 2023 Adrian Leach)	
--------	---	---

Supporting Commentary: Adrian Leach



Meetings have and are taking place across the sector with specialist provision and ensuring designations are meeting the changing need and profile. Schools are keen to work effectively as a system to meet these needs, but are facing increasing volumes and complexity of cases.

Objective: Raise achievement across Early Years and all Key Stages, and diminish the difference between vulnerable groups and their peers (PED05)

Ref:	Measure	21/22 Actual	22/23 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED05 01	Ensure all eligible children for the vulnerable 2-year-old funding access quality EY provision (internally collected termly information – may not match to published data from Jan census)	91%	100% of eligible	92%		


Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell / Belinda Yen

The DfE provided a target of 516 children to be placed. Halton have placed 463 (not including 13 Out of Borough (OOB) settings) which equates to 92%. This number is slightly lower than usual; process of placement continues as normal; however, some places were declined until parents felt more comfortable for their children to return/commence due to the effects of the pandemic. 95% of day care and pre-school settings are good or outstanding; funded two-year-olds are only placed in good/outstanding Childminders provision 44.

PED05 02	Increase the take up of Early Years Entitlement for 3- to 4-year-olds.	89%	96%	89%		
----------	--	-----	-----	-----	---	---


Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell /Gail Vaughan-Hodkinson

The current 89% figure is based on national data produced from the January annual census as recorded in 'Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-provision-children-under-5/2022>, Published 30th June 2022' This remains the same as the previous quarter as the data set is not due to be updated until June 2023.

PED05 03	Monitor the percentage of Early Years settings (pre-schools, day care, out of school clubs, childminders) with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding (snapshot end of quarter)	94%	N/A	95%		N/A
----------	---	-----	-----	-----	---	-----

Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell /Gail Vaughan-Hodkinson

graded 'Requires Improvement'; and 1% are graded 'Inadequate'. There are currently 9 settings who have not yet been inspected and 15 who are 'meeting the requirements' (this is the judgement awarded to Child minders and Out of School Clubs who have an inspection when there are no children present).







ED05 04	Monitor the percentage of Primary schools with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding	81.6% (As of 30th April 2022)	N/A	79%		N/A
---------	---	-------------------------------	-----	-----	---	-----

Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell









Schools have received a range of inspection outcomes with a number of outcomes of good inspections, 1 Require Improvement and 2 schools who were rated as inadequate but related to specific, exceptional circumstances at school level. Themes are always shared celebrating effective practice and identifying any areas for development across the system. Improvement plans are in place and progressing well with the schools rated inadequate and rigorous challenge and monitoring. Inadequate schools do receive a directive academy order.




PED05 05	Monitor the percentage of Secondary schools with overall effectiveness of Good or Outstanding (snapshot end of quarter) N.B. 7 out of the 8 schools are academies. (snapshot end of quarter)	50% (as of 30 th April 2022)	N/A	67%	N/A	Refer comment
----------	--	---	-----	-----	-----	---------------


Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell
Further inspections have occurred but are not yet published.

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED05a	Monitor and evaluate educational outcomes of all pupils, vulnerable pupils (CIC: EHCP etc.), disadvantaged pupils and the impact of funding streams (including Free EY Entitlement, Catch Up funding, Pupil Premium, Sports Premium etc.) to raise achievement for all and diminish the difference between vulnerable groups and their peers (March 2023 Jill Farrell)	
<i>Supporting Commentary : Jill Farrell</i> <i>Disadvantaged working groups are led by the local authority, but work across education leads, SENDCO and DSL to ensure there is an effective pupil premium strategy and that funding is being used to best effect to secure improved outcomes and life chances for children and young people.</i>		
PED05b	Monitor and evaluate the impact of COVID-19 lockdown and remote learning offer on all pupils and vulnerable pupils learning (March 2023, Jill Farrell)	
<i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i> <i>Outcomes published in summer 2022 based on statutory assessments and exams showed that bespoke working to meet individual need supported by National Tutoring Programme enabled young people to receive individual tuition that made a positive difference to outcomes.</i>		
PED05c	Review the process of risk assessment for schools and settings to target support and drive improvement (March 2023 Jill Farrell)	
<i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i> <i>Outcomes published in summer 2022 based on statutory assessments and exams showed that bespoke working to meet individual need supported by National Tutoring Programme enabled young people to receive individual tuition that made a positive difference to outcomes.</i>		
PED05d	Build engagement, capacity and governors understanding of the strategic roles and responsibilities (March 2023 Jill Farrell)	
<i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i> <i>Governor training and annual conference was well attended and promoted governor roles and responsibilities in relation to SEND and the role of the SEND governor. Peer reviews are being carried out in partnership with school leadership teams and SEND governors.</i>		
PED05e	In partnership with schools, review and design an effective educational vision for the region that meets pupils needs whilst raising ambitions (March 2023 Jill Farrell)	
<i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i> <i>Halton Learning Alliance was relaunched in the late autumn term and Halton Learning Alliance have agreed the educational vision for the region in line with the Priority Educational Investment Area plans. Key priorities include Early Years development; improving outcomes in reading and maths through all key phases and improving attendance A focus of inclusion runs throughout all key priority themes.</i>		
PED05f	Launch Halton Learning Alliance Strategic Partnership to develop an inclusive, ambitious approach developing contributing, successful citizens locally, nationally and globally. All educational stakeholders and community members acting with morale purpose for Halton children, young people and community members (March 2023, Jill Farrell)	
<i>Supporting Commentary: Jill Farrell</i> <i>Halton Learning Alliance was relaunched in the late autumn term and Halton Learning Alliance have agreed the educational vision for the region in line with the Priority Educational Investment Area plans. The group has now been reviewed and revised to ensure a refined strategic board which will be focusing upon the key priorities aligned with the PEIA activity but with a long term strategy and place based thinking.</i>		

Objective: Improve participation and skills for young people to drive Halton's future (PED06)

Ref:	Measure	21/22 Actual	22/23 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly Progress
PED06 01	Maintain the percentage of 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training (snapshot end of quarter, end of year information February)	3.7%	4.0%	4.4%		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> The same issues remain as was in quarter two, a significant greater number of young people are not available to the labour market due to illness, including mental health issues, in 202/23 compared to the previous year. In addition, there are a greater number of young people who are not in education, employment or training this year. All are allocated to a worker to support them, although not all do want support from the team.</p>						
PED06 02	Maintain the percentage of 16-17 year olds whose activity is not known (snapshot end of quarter, end of year information February)	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> The same issues remain as was in quarter two, there are more young people (and/or their families) who have refused to disclose the young person's activity or where they are currently living in 2022/23 than in previous years meaning more young people are recorded as cannot be contacted or refused to disclose. This means their current situation is not known and we have no other means of gaining the information.</p>						
PED06 03	Increase the percentage of 16-17 year olds with an offer of learning (September guarantee)	96.6%	98%	96.02%		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> This is once again a result of the increased number of young people who are not available to the labour market due to illness and who have not sought options for learning due to their illness.</p>						
PED06 04	Increase the percentage of 16-17 year olds participating in education or training that meets the Government definition of full participation (known as Raising the Participation Age)	90.9%	92%	91.2%		
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> Whilst current performance is better than the overall figure for 2021/22 our performance this time last year was 92.9% so we are behind where we were this time last year. Once again, the figure is impacted by the increased number of young people not available to the labour market due to illness at this point in the year.</p>						

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED06a	Closely monitor the cohort of young people not in education, employment or training and identify common patterns/issues to inform actions, guide the effective use of resources and to identify any future commissioning needs (Háf Bell) (March 2023)	
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> Ongoing analysis takes place to respond to need and ensure the resources that are available to the team are being used appropriately.</p>		
PED06c	Work with schools, the College and training providers to review the post 16 offers of learning made to young people and increase the amount of offers made before the end of an academic year. (July 2023) (Háf Bell)	
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> Reviews have taken place with all but one secondary school. The first data return for the current Year 11 cohort isn't due until March 2023.</p>		
PED06d	Work with schools, the College and training providers to report where young people progress to Post 16 as quickly as possible so those who haven't progressed can be identified and contacted to offer support (Háf Bell)	
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i> Good flow of information from institutions, including being able to access information from out of borough institutions quicker this year than previous years, helping us identify young people who need support sooner.</p>		

Ref:	Milestones	Quarterly Progress
PED06d	Work with Post 16 education and training providers in the borough to support the development of provision that does have clear progression opportunities (March 2023) (Háf Bell)	
<p><i>Supporting Commentary: Háf Bell</i></p> <p>Post 16 provision in the borough is limited in terms of range of provision. There is a large range of options at an Outstanding college, although this is oversubscribed and places fill quickly. There is also school 6th form provision and provision in small work based learning providers. Two work based learning providers rely on sub contracted arrangements, limiting control they have over the number of young people they can take. The college and school 6th form work on academic year courses, limiting in year progression.</p>		

5.0 Financial Summary






Q3 2022.23 EIP
Final.docx



Q3 Children and
Families Final.docx




6.0 Appendix I

6.1 Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress		Milestone	Measure
Green		Indicates that the milestone is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Amber		Indicates that it is uncertain, or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Red		Indicates that it is unlikely or certain that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the target will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.

6.2 Direction of Travel indicator

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

Green		Indicates that performance is better compared to the same period last year.
Amber		Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red		Indicates that performance is worse compared to the same period last year.

6.3 Key for responsible officers:

- JF** Jill Farrell, Operational Director, Education, Inclusion and Provision Service
- PM** Peter Murphy, Operational Director, Children and Families Service