



Milorad Vasic
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Our Ref
If you telephone
please ask for

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Date
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August 2020
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To: All Directors of Children's Services

Services available to Children in Care (Looked After Children) and Care Leavers placed in Halton

Halton Borough Council People Directorate would like to notify you of the services and facilities available to children in care that are placed in our area by other local authorities. Please circulate this information to relevant professionals within your area. We hope that the information will help your professional staff to understand and access the range of services that are available to children residing in Halton. This letter includes the process for notifying us of the placement of a child in Halton, information about accessing universal services and contact information for our Children in Care Council.

It would also be useful to receive similar information and contact details about services and opportunities available to Halton children that are placed in your local authority.

Context

The borough of Halton is made up of the two main towns of Widnes and Runcorn, and;

- Has an increasing population - current estimate of 129,410 (2018 ONS). Of these, 40,100 are children and young people aged 0-25;
- is ranked as the 23rd most deprived local authority in England (IMD 2019); and
- 30.3% of Halton's population live in the most deprived areas.

It's all happening IN HALTON

People Directorate
Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 7QF
Telephone: 0303 333 4300 www.halton.gov.uk





Consultation and Notifications

Consultation:

In line with the 2014 amendments to the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010, if you are planning to place a child or young person in Halton, you should consult with us prior to placement. Please contact our integrated Contact And Referral Team (iCART) on 0151 907 8305 or by secure email at contactandreferralteam@halton.gov.uk

When you are considering a placement in a children's home you should take into account the information in the home's Statement of Purpose. You should ask for a copy of the home's location assessment which should include details of the home's safeguarding arrangements, including any measures taken by the home to manage safeguarding concerns arising from the neighborhood where the home is located.

Notification:

Once you have made a decision to place a child in Halton and consultation has taken place as above, notification of the details of children in care and care leavers placed in Halton should be sent to us by the most appropriate method listed below. So that we can update and maintain correct records this would include any change of address and notifications of children in care or care leavers leaving or moving within Halton. Please ensure that notifications highlight any particular risks or vulnerabilities to assist the professional network in Halton in responding effectively to any issues that might arise.

By secure email: contactandreferralteam@halton.gov.uk

If you need to contact Halton Children's Services please call iCART on 0151 907 8305 or for emergencies outside office hours call 03450500148. This includes if you are unsure if a placement is based in Halton.

Halton has made a commitment that any child in care placed out of this authority will receive the same level of monitoring and support as their peers within Halton.

Education

School Admissions:

Halton Borough Council is the admissions authority for all community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools and manages the co-ordinated admission arrangements statutorily required for all schools in Halton. The council coordinates all school admissions to reception class and for the year 6 to 7 transfer. For general in-year admissions there are two processes, one for Primary and one for Secondary.

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For Secondary aged children, if you are moving into Halton, or wish to transfer a child from one school to a Halton school outside of the normal admission round (often referred to as an In-Year Transfer), you **must** make your application **directly to the School Admissions Team** in the local authority who will write to you to inform you of the outcome of your application. Parents/carers of children who are not successful in gaining a place at any Halton school will be informed of their right of appeal and how to access it.

For Primary aged children, if you are moving into Halton, or wish to transfer a child from one school to a Halton school outside of the normal admission round (often referred to as an In-Year Transfer), you **must** make your application **directly to your preferred school (s)**. The school will then advise on their position with regards to availability of places and write to you to inform you of the outcome of your application. Parents/carers of children who are not successful in gaining a place at any Halton school will be informed of their right of appeal and how to access it.

In Halton, all schools **must** give priority to applications from the parents/carers of children in the care of the LA, or children who were previously in the care of the LA and immediately ceased to be so due to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. Details regarding this, and details about the criteria which schools will apply to applications if they are oversubscribed (receive more applications than places available), are available within Halton's composite prospectuses, and can be viewed online by visiting www.halton.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

Child Place Planning Team, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2GW	
Tel: 0151 511 7338/7271	E-mail: schooladmissions@halton.gov.uk

Halton Virtual School:

All professionals working with Children in Care and Care Leavers aged 0-25 placed in Halton have access to advice and guidance from Halton Virtual School. The focus of the Virtual School is to act as the main point of contact for professionals from other Local Authorities and their Virtual Headteachers and to support them in gaining admission to an education provision and access to any appropriate support the young person requires to promote their educational attainment and attendance.

Contact details for the Headteacher of Halton Virtual School	
Tel: 0151 511 7391	E-mail: Sharon.williams@halton.gov.uk

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Careers Information, Advice and Guidance:

The 14-19 Programme Team offer guidance and support to young people who are 16 -19 years old, and 19 – 25 years old with a learning difficulty assessment or Education Health and Care Plan. Young People Case Workers are allocated to young people who are not in education, training or employment and will support them in accessing the right guidance or provision they need. The key focus of the service is to progress young people into post 16 education and training and ensuring that they gain the skills to enter sustainable employment.

<i>14-19 Team, 2nd Floor, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn WA7 2GW</i>	
Website: www.halton.gov.uk/yourfuture www.facebook.com/HPSyourfuture	Email: 14-19Team@halton.gov.uk

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND):

Halton SEND service helps schools to support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, by offering a range of services to make sure those pupils can access the curriculum.

The service includes a team of specialist teachers who can give advice and provide training. The Specialist Teacher services include:

- Outreach services for pupils with communication and complex needs
- Blocks of specialist 1-1 teaching
- Individual consultation and observation of pupils in schools and settings
- Literacy assessments for individual pupils
- Drop in sessions for school staff once every half term to discuss anything related to SEND

The SEND Service is a free service which supports pupils in all primary, secondary schools and colleges who are 0-25. To access the specialist teacher services, schools send a request form which is then allocated to individual teachers/ advisors. If schools apply for outreach, blocks of teaching, or literacy assessments they need to be agreed at panel. Schools must show that they have used their SEN delegated budget and followed the graduated approach as part of their referral in to the SEND Service. A starting point for all settings should be to access training and/or to attend a SEND drop in session.

<i>To speak to the Halton SEND Service please use the contact numbers below:</i>		
We have a team of specialist teachers and advisors who can give advice in the following areas		
• Cre Dyas	0151 511 6068	Physical and Medical (retiring 31.08.20)
• Paula Edwards	0151 511 7268	14-19 Programme Manager

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• Lyndsey Hignett	0151 511 7449	Specialist Teacher for Hearing Impairment
• Stacey Holleran	0151 511 6061	Specialist Advisor for Communication and Interaction
• Judith Hughes	0151 511 6955	Learning Difficulties and Progression
• Ami McNamee	0151 511 8571	Lead for Specialist Teaching/Advisory and ASC
• Julie Metcalf	0151 511 7065	Lead Teacher for Hearing Impairment
• Ian Hebborn	0151 511 7199 Weds-Fri	Specialist Teacher for Visual Impairment

SEN Assessment and Provision Team:

The SEN Assessment and Provision team consists of a lead officer and 7 Assessment Coordinators. The main purpose of the team is to manage and coordinate the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessment process. Team members are able to advise schools, settings, parents and other professionals about the EHCP process. Each school has an Assessment Coordinator (AC) attached to it, and should address queries through their named AC. The ACs will also liaise with schools regarding the Annual review process for EHCPs.

The SEN Assessment and Provision team has a responsibility for all children with an EHCP who live in Halton, even if they are children in care to another Local Authority, or are funded by another Local Authority. They will manage and maintain all EHCPs for children living in the Halton area.

Contact: Eileen Picton (Lead for Assessment & Provision)	
Tel: 0151 511 7461	Email: senat@halton.gov.uk

Halton's Local Offer:

Halton's Local Offer website provides a user-friendly one-stop shop for everyone – children, young people, their parents/carers and professionals to quickly find out about information, support and advice available across education, health and social care from ages 0 to 25 and how to access it. It has dedicated sections covering:

- Help, Support & Advice;
- Education, Early Years & Childcare;
- Health;
- Children's Services & Social Care;
- Transport;
- Leisure;
- Education, Health & Care Plans – this section specifically involves children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability;
- Training & Events;

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- Preparing for Adulthood;
- Case Studies;
- Care Leavers Local Offer;
- You Said, We Did.

Contact: Children & Young People Policy Team

Tel: 0151 511 8661

Email: cypolicy@halton.gov.uk

Halton SEND Local Offer Website:

www.halton.gov.uk/localoffer

Halton's Care Leavers Local Offer:

Halton's Care Leavers Local Offer is sited within the Halton's Local Offer website. It is specifically for children and young people who are about to leave care or have already left care.

It has dedicated sections covering:

- Health & Wellbeing;
- Relationships;
- Employment;
- Education & Training;
- Participation in Society;
- Accommodation;
- Finances.

Contact: Children & Young People Policy Team

Tel: 0151 511 8661

Email: cypolicy@halton.gov.uk

Halton's Care Leavers Local Offer:

<https://localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk/care-leavers-local-offer/>

Halton SEND Partnership (SENDIASS) provides independent impartial information, advice and support about the law surrounding Special Educational Needs and Disability and Halton Borough Council's policies and procedures and the policy and practice in schools and other settings. By being impartial it aims to help parents/carers, children and young people to have clear, accurate and relevant information. All services are available to anyone who lives within the borough, if required the caregiver (be it at a children home, a foster carers ETC) can contact the service for information, advice and support, as could the young person aged 16 – 25.

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Contact: Sharon Spruce	
Tel: 0151 511 7733	Email: SENDpartnership@halton.gov.uk

Early Years, Childcare and Nursery Provision:

Halton Families Information Service (FIS) is your one stop service providing free and detailed information regarding local childcare and activities for young people aged 0-19 and their families. Halton FIS can provide personalised information that meets individual need on childminders, nurseries, pre-schools, out of school clubs and holidays schemes, including vacancies, school pick-ups, their charges and opening times. Halton FIS can provide information for families of children with a disability/additional needs and therefore could be used, for example, to identify local childcare providers who have experience of your child's particular needs. The [online directory](#) is now live and can be accessed anytime of the day for information on settings.

We also hold information about leisure activities suitable for young people up to the age of 19 and most of this information is available via our Facebook page. Halton FIS can also help if you're looking to become an Ofsted registered Childminder – we will provide you with training, information and support in your journey towards your new career.

Parents and carers can now look for childcare using the Directory online and see for themselves information about the settings at any time of day or night. But if they do want a more personalised search FIS can still provide that.

You can ask us about Free Early Years Entitlement funding for your 3 and 4 year old and/or whether your 2 year old child would be eligible to access funded childcare.

Halton Family Information Service, Early Years Team, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2GW	
Tel: 0151 511 7375	Email: haltonfis@halton.gov.uk
Website: www.halton.gov.uk/fis Facebook: www.facebook.com/haltonfis Online Directory: https://cyp.halton.gov.uk/Synergy/Live/SynergyWeb/	

Children's Centres

There are eight Children's Centres based across Halton, providing a range of services, working closely with schools, health visitors, G.P's and other local service providers to ensure continuous support to children and their families. Children's centres provide many different children and family

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services including activities for parents, parents-to-be, their babies, toddlers, young children and the rest of the family. Details of the centres, including the weekly activities can be found at:

Website:

<http://www4.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/FamiliesInformationService/ChildrensCentres.aspx>

Health

Below are the following arrangements for Children in Care provided by the CIC health team within Bridgewater Community Healthcare Foundation NHS trust. Currently due to COVID 19 restrictions regionally agreed plans are in place to deliver these services but are subject to regular review and change in line with national arrangements.

The Children in Care (CiC) Health team has a robust notification process for children placed in Halton from other local authorities. This includes a generic notification process agreed nationally across all NHS CIC health teams, information sharing and liaison with Halton Borough Council iCART team and positive relationships with the residential providers in Halton. This aims to ensure that we are notified about all children and young people who are placed into Halton from other local authorities in order to provide them with a consistent and seamless CIC health service. There is a dedicated Child in Care Team which consists of one Lead Specialist CIC nurse, a Specialist CIC nurse and a CIC nurse. In addition there are two CIC administrators who are based within the Safeguarding Nursing team in Halton.

Once notified of a placement in Halton the CIC health team will ensure that all of the children and young people are entered onto our electronic patient's records system (SystemOne) and if appropriate under responsible commissioner guidance allocated one of the CIC nurses within the team for children and young people age 5-18 years. Pre-school children aged 0-4 will be allocated a Health Visitor (HV).

The CIC team will (where required) request and await health information from the previous placing authority. Once received this information will be used by the CIC nurse/HV to assess the child or young person's general health and wellbeing. The allocated CIC nurse/HV will have a pivotal role in their health care and will liaise with the child or young person's social worker in their placing authority and attend any Care Planning meetings/CIC reviews.

The allocated CIC nurse/HV will have oversight of care and respond to any specific and/or significant issues or concerns should they arise.

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Initial Health Assessments (IHA) will be undertaken on request from the placing authority. If a child requires an Initial Health Assessment, this will be undertaken by a Bridgewater Community Paediatrician. The Community Paediatrician in Halton has an expectation for the social worker from the placing authority to attend the Initial Health Assessment appointment along with the birth parent(s) if this is deemed appropriate. The Community Paediatricians will also undertake follow up health assessments for children with disabilities.

Adoption medicals will be undertaken by the community paediatricians on request from their placing authority and will follow the same process as the IHA above.

Review Health Assessments (RHA) will be undertaken upon request from the placing authority. They will be allocated to one of the CIC nurses/HV. The review health assessment will include an emotional health and wellbeing assessment. This may include using a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ) screening tool.

All Care Leavers upon request from their placing authority will be offered a final health assessment with the CIC lead Specialist Nurse and will be provided with a Care Leavers Health Passport (health summary) on leaving care.

The child or young person's health plan will be quality assured to ensure it meets the nationally agreed RCN standards for Looked after Children. The Children and young people's health outcomes will be monitored to ensure their health needs are being met and addressed.

Should further or specific health issues emerge, the Residential care homes, private fostering agencies alongside individual foster carers can request additional support, advice, training and guidance from the CIC health team upon request.

The placing authority will be invoiced for all completed Initial and Review health assessments at the appropriate tariff in line with all commissioning guidance.

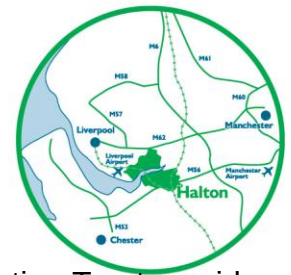
<i>Lead Specialist Children in Care Nurse; Emma Smith</i>	
<i>Tel: 01928 593054</i>	<i>Email: ALWCH.haltoncichealthteam@nhs.net</i>

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Universal Health Services – Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust provides a wide range of services for Children in Care. Universal services are available to all children and their Carers and this includes the 0-19 Healthy Child Service delivered by Health Visitors and School Nurses who offer universal delivery of the Healthy Child Programme through a schedule of health and development assessments and reviews, immunisations, parenting support and health promotion advice which is available to all children and families.

<i>Contact details for Halton 0-19 Service:</i>	
<i>Runcorn Tel: 01928 593056</i>	<i>Email: bchft.0-19Runcorn@nhs.net</i>
<i>Widnes Tel: 01928 495 5200</i>	<i>Email: bchft.0-19Runcorn@nhs.net</i>

Children's Specialist Services, including Paediatric Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, Audiology, Community Paediatrics and Neurodevelopmental Nursing are community based and offer health appointments from Woodview Child Development Centre and other community based sites. The role of specialist services is to assess and support children and young people with additional health needs including disability, developmental delay and neurodevelopmental difficulties to ensure children and young people reach their maximum potential. For Woodview Services there is a single point of referral and full referral details and additional information can be accessed from: <http://www.bridgewater.nhs.uk/halton/>

Family Nurse Partnership is a preventative parenting programme for first time teenage mothers up to 19yrs of age. It offers intensive and structured home visiting delivered by specially trained nurses, from early pregnancy until the child is two. Father/partner involvement is encouraged in the programme. The programme is voluntary however the family nurses work incredibly hard to try and engage CIC and care leavers in the programme recognising the vulnerability of this cohort and the benefits the programme offers.

<i>Family Nurse Partnership Supervisor: Therese Woods</i>	
<i>Tel: 0151 511 5602</i>	<i>Email: ALWCH.FNP_Halton@nhs.net</i>

Emotional Health & Mental Wellbeing:

NHS Halton CCG currently commissions a 'tier less' model Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) from Northwest Boroughs Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust based on the THRIVE concept of provision which is available to Children in Care and their carers. The team delivers specialist assessment, consultation, diagnosis, formulation and treatment in a range of settings, including community and locality settings, which meet children and young people's

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needs for timely and efficient service delivery. There is also provision of inpatient services for young people which provides assessment, intervention and in-patient treatment providing the intensive support needed in times of crisis. We operate both routine and emergency referral system which means that children and young people have access to the appropriate service in a timely way. The routine referrals are all dealt with by Halton Locality CAMHS, ensuring that the referral is viewed by qualified staff who are based in the borough of Halton meaning we have good working relationships with all of our partner agencies in order to best support children and young people either in collaboration working or signposting. All emergency referrals are dealt with by the CAMHS Response Team who are based in St Helens and offer a 24 hour response for any emergencies; following this, the child/young person could be referred into Halton Locality CAMHS for further intervention and support. The service also provides lower level support to young people via face to face consultation and also via an on line resource called KOOH.com, which provides online counselling and self-help.

<i>Tel: 01928 568162 Halton CAMHS – for all routine referrals</i>	<i>Tel: 01744 627618 CAMHS Response Team for emergency referrals</i>
<i>Website: https://kooth.com</i>	

Go4ward offers an emotional health and wellbeing service for children and young people in the care of Halton Borough Council. We work with ages 5-18 (and up to 25 with additional needs) as well as post adoption (again 5-18 yrs. and up to 25yrs with additional needs) and care leavers (up to 25yrs). Go4ward also works alongside carers and other professionals as part of a supportive team response, tailored to the individual needs and circumstances of each child and young person. We predominantly offer counselling to children and young people in the form of play, creative arts and expressive, solution focussed and CBT techniques; person centred counselling and integrative counselling. Referrals are usually accepted via the EHWPB Panel although referrals can be discussed and submitted directly to the service.

Tel: 01744 818930

Youth Justice Services

Youth Justice Services ; incorporating Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton & Warrington work with children and young people (between 10 and 18 years old) who come to the attention of the police and courts because of their involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour. Youth Justice Services will provide “caretaking arrangements” for young people who are cared for by other local authority areas, and living in the Halton area, in line with the YJB National Protocol for Case

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Responsibility, where they are on Court Orders, or have been diverted to the Youth Justice Service through an out of court disposal following arrest.

Tel: 0345 145 0055

Secure email:

YJS@youthjusticeservices.org.uk.cjsm.net

Participation

Halton has a Children in Care Council for Juniors aged 7 – 12 and the Children in Care Council for Seniors 13+. Children in care and care leavers are involved in a variety of meetings on a local, regional and national level. Representatives assist in interviewing for new members of staff and in training staff, teachers and carers. For any advice on participation for Children in Care please contact Sarah Jones, Children in Care Participation and Inclusion Officer:

Tel: 0151 511 7130

Email: stephanie.birchall@halton.gov.uk

Website: www.haltoncicc.co.uk

Advocacy

National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) are the local provider of advocacy services for children in Halton.

They offer information, advice, advocacy and representation to children and young people up to the age of 25, through a network of advocates throughout England and Wales. NYAS delivers Children's Rights, Advocacy, and Independent Visitor Services to Halton children and young people up to the age of 25. The services are for children and young people who are Children in Care, Children in Need, Children on Child Protection Plan or Children with disabilities. NYAS can be contacted for advice in the following ways:

Tel: 0808 808 1001

Website: www.nyas.net

Email: help@nyas.net

Missing Children

Halton is part of a Pan-Cheshire Protocol for children missing from home or care with other Cheshire local authorities and Cheshire Constabulary. Missing children or those that could be at immediate risk should be reported without delay to Cheshire Police on 999, as well as making contact with Children's Services on 0151 907 8305 (Out of hours Emergency Duty Team 0345 050 0148). Safe

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and well checks are carried out by the Police when children are found and independent return interviews are offered to all children once found through We are With You. Please contact us and let us know if you would prefer to undertake the independent return interview for any child you have placed in Halton.

Halton MFH Workers: Georgia Hill and Ellis Curtis

Email:

halton@wearewithyou.cjsm.net

Child Sexual Exploitation

A Pan-Cheshire multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Operating Protocol is in place. Partner Safeguarding Partnerships have adopted the following definition of sexual exploitation that is set out in statutory guidance to build the Strategy around:

“Sexual exploitation is child abuse and children and young people who become involved face huge risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health and well-being.”

The purpose of the strategy is to ensure a robust, coordinated multi-agency response to CSE by taking a proactive approach focused on early identification and intervention can only be achieved through an integrated approach, with effective joint working and a shared understanding of the problem. The strategy and protocol can be found at:

https://www.proceduresonline.com/pancheshire/halton/p_ch_sexual_exploit.html

Email: contactandreferralteam@halton.gov.uk

If you need to contact Halton Children's Services please call iCART on 0151 907 8305 or for emergencies outside office hours call 03450500148. This includes if you are unsure if a placement is based in Halton.

Halton Children and Young People Safeguarding Partnership

To access the Halton Children and Young People Safeguarding Partnership (HCYPSP) Pan-Cheshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children Procedures (of which Halton is a part), please visit: <https://www.proceduresonline.com/pancheshire/halton/index.html>

For specific information on the Halton Children and Young People Safeguarding Partnership please visit <https://hcypsp.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/>

Youth Support and Treatment Service

From 1st September 2020 Halton Borough Council's Team around the Family Early Help teams will provide Specialist Youth Support and Treatment to young people whose lives are affected by

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either drugs or alcohol. This support, advice and guidance will be delivered through an early help holistic approach which looks further than their risk taking behaviour and addresses any underlying causes or contributory factors.

Widnes: Janice Madison, Principal Manager	widneslocalityteam@halton.gov.uk
Runcorn: Alison Wright, Principal Manager	runcornlocalityteam@halton.gov.uk

Halton Youth provision

Over the next few months, Halton Borough Council will be working in partnership with young people, parents and key partners to develop a new Integrated Youth Offer. A 6- week formal consultation period with stakeholders will commence from September 2020. Halton Borough Council will continue to provide a range of services and opportunities for Halton young people until the new service is fully embedded. Further information can be found on [Halton's Local Offer](#).

Further information about general services in Halton can also be found on the Council's website at www.halton.gov.uk.

We hope that this information is useful to professional colleagues from outside our area who are working with children placed in Halton.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Milorad Vasic
Strategic Director, People Directorate

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