Updates:

Joint Targeted Area Inspection
Inspectors from Ofsted, Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue will begin a Joint Targeted Inspection of children’s services in Halton, week commencing 8th July 2019.

The focus of the inspection is children who are at risk of, or who are experiencing sexual exploitation and children who are at risk of, or who are experiencing criminal exploitation. Inspectors will also consider children missing from home, care or education through the lens of child exploitation.

As this is a deep dive inspection in a crucial area of our work and there will be 16 inspectors on site.

Inspectors will arrive at 11am on Monday and will be with us until Friday 12 July. Throughout this time, please be aware that inspectors will be in Council buildings therefore please be mindful of conversations taking place in break-out areas, lifts or other facilities.

Inspectors will wear identification and orange lanyards. All Council staff should wear their Halton Borough Council blue lanyard to hold their door pass.

New look signage for Mersey Gateway
New look signage set to be installed across Mersey Gateway route as part of future-proofing exercise as Silver Jubilee plans develop.

There will be a new look to signage on and approaching the Mersey Gateway Bridge starting this month.

Drivers and residents will see the ‘Large Red C’ symbol on the new signs – the ‘C’ stands for ‘charge’.

It will be very familiar to anyone who has seen congestion charge signage in London and be instantly recognisable to many people as symbolising there is a charge to pay for crossing the bridge.

The ‘Large Red C’ will appear alongside the directional signage and reminders for people to pay tolling operator merseyflow by midnight the day after they cross the bridge as well as being painted on the road itself in key locations.

The new look to signage is being introduced as a result of a review of all scheme signs ahead of the re-opening of the Silver Jubilee Bridge next year.

It is also in line with emerging government plans to introduce a consistent approach across the UK to use the Large Red ‘C’ to indicate to drivers that they have to pay a charge on a particular route.

Work to install the new signage is already underway and will be completed in several phases over the coming months.

Some signs will be simple and quick to update, whereas others are more complex and will require occasional off-peak and short-term lane closures on the bridge and on some approach roads due to the type of signage and its specific location. All installation and update work will be done at off-peak times to ensure there is no delay to traffic using the key route.

If you have any further questions or comments regarding the new signage, please direct them to enquiries@merseygateway.co.uk.
**LCR Climate Action Plan**
Having declared a Climate Emergency, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has set out ambitious targets for tackling climate change and will develop a full Climate Action Plan by December 2019.

Amongst the first targets for the Liverpool City Region are plans:

- To deliver Europe’s largest tidal power project by 2030
- To triple the volume of energy generated by offshore wind in Liverpool Bay by 2032
- To replace all methane with hydrogen from the city region’s gas grid by 2035
- To deliver a network of at least eight zero-carbon refuelling stations (hydrogen and electric charging) across the city region by 2025
- To meet the city region’s hydrogen demand from transport, industry and heat from clean hydrogen produced within the city region from 2023

The Combined Authority is already tackling climate change in a variety of ways, including:

- A zero carbon target of 2040
- The Mersey Tidal Commission
- A £10m Green Investment Fund
- £460m investment in new, state-of-the-art trains for Merseyrail network – improving and futureproofing green public transport
- The cleanest bus fleet outside of London – with 7 out of 10 vehicles already low emission and 25 zero emission hydrogen buses arriving next year
- Establishment of a Clean Air Taskforce
- A “Brownfield First” approach to development
- Investment into the first phase of a £16 million 600km cycling and walking network.

Read more on this [here](#).

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**House of the Future competition launched**
Pupils across the Liverpool City Region are being challenged to design how our homes could look in years to come as part of the House of the Future Competition.

This exciting competition, which is free to enter, explores important current issues in our environment, cities and communities, and considers how design responds to our changing needs.

It invites pupils in years 5 and 6 to come up with ideas for our future homes with the chance to win prizes for themselves and their schools.

Children will be encouraged to think about important issues in their environment, how they would like their spaces to feel, different types of materials, what activities they think are important and more.

They will then transform these ideas into a choice of visual work, 3D models, or both, to communicate their house designs and vision.

The competition closes on 25th October 2019 and all the judge’s selections will be exhibited in early 2020. To find out more about the competition itself [click here](#).

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**FREE summer holiday sports**
A full calendar of free activities have been scheduled to keep children busy over the long summer holiday.

Activities include football, netball, archery, yoga, cricket, tennis, climbing wall plus much more.

Sports Development, our leisure centres and Cheshire Police are working in partnership to provide KOPS & Kids (Keep On Playing Sport) – activities will include badminton, basketball, football, indoor athletics, table
LCR Pride reveals full line up for Pride 2019

LCR Pride Foundation founders have highlighted the festival’s importance in the 50th anniversary year of the Stonewall uprising.

LCR Pride Foundation has revealed its full line up for Pride in Liverpool 2019 and urged the city region’s LGBT+ community, allies and supporters to come together on Saturday 27 July in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

The full Pride in Liverpool line up has been revealed, including the new ‘Showcase Stage’ programmed in partnership with LIMF academy, plus more acts for the Barclays Stage and a host of other venues.

For more information visit www.lcrpride.co.uk

Partnership work to tackle illegal money lending in Halton wins national award

A campaign to raise awareness of the perils of using loan sharks in Runcorn, Halton, has won a national award.

Operation Gripped, a three-way partnership, received this year’s prestigious Outstanding Trading Standards Initiative Hero Award from the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI).

Runcorn Policing Team has been working alongside Halton Council Trading Standards and The England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) to educate communities about the risks of illegal money lending and highlight safer borrowing methods to help prevent the use of loan sharks.

In a short space of time successes have included the Spot the Shark social media
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competition that reached over 64K, Christmas card design competition across local schools; and with Sandymoor High School students produced a profile raising, imaginative Lego animation.

The CTSI Hero Awards celebrate those who make outstanding contributions towards consumer protection in our communities.

Watch the Lego Stop Loan Sharks animation produced by Sandymoor High School students here:

To report a loan shark call the 24 hour hotline 0300 555 2222, text a report to 078600 22116 or visit www.stoploansharks.co.uk.

Latest funding update
The funding update provides brief summaries of funding programmes with relevant upcoming deadlines and web links for further information, please circulate the update as appropriate.

If you have a project or an idea that you require advice and funding assistance with, please fill out this Enquiry Form.

Council Business:
Health and Wellbeing Board (10 July)
Council (10 July)
Executive Board (18 July)

For the full calendar click here.

Liverpool City Region CA business

For the latest news from the Combined Authority, click here.

Combined Authority: Recent/future meetings (click on link for agenda packs and minutes):

Transport Committee (18 July)
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (26 July)

For the full calendar click here.

Staff news:

Counter Terrorism Awareness
In May over 75 council managers and staff attended a Counter Terrorism Awareness session delivered by Cheshire Police Counter Terrorism Team in partnership with our Health & Safety Team.

The aim of the session was to raise awareness in Council buildings of bomb/lockdown procedures in preparation for a number of bomb/lockdown exercises that are planned to take place over the coming year.

Current intelligence dictates Halton to be a low risk area, however, continued vigilance, communication and training is an ongoing requirement to ensure staff are aware of procedures in place.

Some incidents may require further action and the Counter Terrorism Team have issued the following:

‘RUN, HIDE, TELL’
While the chances of being caught up in a terrorist incident remain rare, it is important to be prepared and know how to protect yourself if the need arises.

Counter Terrorism Policing has released guidance that sets out three key steps for keeping safe in the event of a firearms or weapons attack.
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If you are caught up in an incident our advice is to ‘Run, Hide and Tell’ – guidance which can be applied to many places and situations. We know from case studies and testimony of people who have survived attacks that this advice can save lives.

The Counter Terrorism Policing website has a range of advice about how to stay safe and how both the public and industry can help report suspicious activity.

If you require any further advice and guidance please contact Lynn Pennington-Ramsden, Principal Health & Safety Adviser.

Your views sought in latest staff survey
A reminder that you have until Friday 19 July to complete our latest staff survey. As a Council it is important that we ask for the views and opinions of our employees on a regular basis. This helps us inform the decisions of the Council.

The latest staff survey is open now for you to complete here. We’d also be grateful if you could take some time to check and update your Workforce Profile just scroll down and click on ‘my profile; and enter your employee number.

The Employee Recognition & Award Scheme is also open with a number of award categories to choose from.

The Staff Survey and the Workforce Profile should take 10 minutes and 5 minutes respectively to complete. Please be assured that all your individual responses will be strictly confidential. The Staff Survey gives a “snap shot” of the organisation at a moment in time and provides crucial information which informs key plans, policies and procedures.

The Workforce Profile informs current and future organisational workforce plans, policies and procedures, as well as complying with the Equality & Diversity Act 2010, numerous statutory requirements, such as the Adult Social Care – Workforce Data Set (ASC-WDS) and the Department for Education Children’s Social Work Workforce Census.

If you require paper copies of any of these documents for colleagues, please contact John Gallagher

The closing date for all three elements is Friday 19 July 2019.

Upcoming training courses:

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<td>Conflict Resolution</td>
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<td>First Aid Re-Qualification (2 day)</td>
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<td>Equality &amp; Diversity</td>
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<td>Moving &amp; Handling Objects</td>
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If you have any items you would like to include in the News in Brief, email michelle.osborne@halton.gov.uk