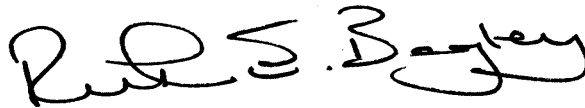


Date of issue: 16th November, 2011

MEETING	EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL (Councillors O'Connor (Chair), Abe, Dar, Davis, P K Mann, Minhas, Sharif, Smith and S P Wright) <u>Education Voting Co-opted Members</u> Kieran McKeown (Roman Catholic Diocese) <u>Education Non-Voting Co-opted Members</u> Charlie McGeachie (Head Teacher Representative)
DATE AND TIME:	THURSDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 2011 AT 6.30 PM
VENUE:	COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH
SCRUTINY OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	GUY FIEGEHEN 01753 875657

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



RUTH BAGLEY
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART 1

**AGENDA
ITEM**

REPORT TITLE

PAGE

WARD



sustainable
forest

AGENDA
ITEM

REPORT TITLE

PAGE

WARD

Apologies for Absence

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

1. Declaration of Interest

(Members are reminded of their duty to declare personal and personal prejudicial interests in matters coming before this meeting as set out in the Local Code of Conduct).

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th October, 2011 1 - 6

SCRUTINY ISSUES

3. Member Questions All

(An opportunity for Panel Members to ask questions of the relevant Director/ Assistant Director, relating to pertinent, topical issues affecting their Directorate – maximum of 10 minutes allocated).

4. Munro Report on Safeguarding – presentation from Clair Pyper, Strategic Director of Education and Children's Services All

(10 minutes presentation- 20 minutes questions)

5. Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children - Clair Pyper, Strategic Director of Education and Children's Services 7 - 16 All

(10 minutes presentation- 20 minutes questions)

6. Ofsted Annual Children's Services Assessment 2010 - Clair Pyper, Strategic Director of Education and Children's Services 17 - 26 All

(10 minutes presentation- 20 minutes questions)

7. School Places – Robin Crofts, Assistant Director, Inclusion 27 - 34 All

(10 minutes presentation- 20 minutes questions)

8. Performance Update - oral report from Clair Pyper, Strategic Director of Education and Children's Services All



AGENDA
ITEM

REPORT TITLE

PAGE

WARD

(10 minutes presentation- 20 minutes questions)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

9. Consideration of reports marked to be noted/for information

(The Panel will consider any reports marked to be noted/for information and determine whether future scrutiny is considered necessary: maximum of 5 minutes allocated).

10. Forward Work Programme 35 - 36
11. Attendance Record 37 - 38
12. Date of Next Meeting- 24th January, 2012

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

Minicom Number for the hard of hearing – (01753) 875030

This page is intentionally left blank

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th October, 2011.

Present:- Councillors O'Connor (Chair), Abe (Vice-Chair), Dar, Minhas, Sharif and Smith

Apologies:- Councillors Davis and P K Mann

Absent:- Councillor S. Wright

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillors Grewal, Pantelic and Strutton

Education Non-Voting Co-opted Members

Charlie McGeachie, Head Teacher Representative

PART 1

26. Declaration of Interest

None were received.

27. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th September 2011

The minutes of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 5th September were approved as a correct record.

Councillor O'Connor wished to express her thanks to Cllr P K Mann for covering her absence at the previous meeting and Chairing the meeting on 5th September.

28. Member Questions

One question was submitted relating to the planned opening of the Claycots school at the old Town Hall site in September 2012. Robin Crofts, Assistant Director for Inclusion confirmed that the current timetable was still on track. Discussions were being held with relevant partners on a range of matters including the issue of proposed catchment area. Once these issues have been considered by the adjudicator in November, further information will be made available to the Panel.

Resolved- That once available, the draft submission be forwarded to all Panel Members.

29. Reducing Family Poverty in Slough

Val Goodwin, Head of Slough Surestart Service provided an update on the work carried out by the council in addressing family poverty in Slough

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel - 12.10.11

A number of Member questions followed. A question was asked relating to the status of the Early Intervention Grant and whether this will remain in place for the future. Questions were also asked about the efficacy of using Free School Meals (FSM) as a measure for attracting the Pupil Premium, the proactive work officers were doing to identify families at risk of poverty and the continuing challenge posed by neighbouring authorities 'exporting' challenging families to Slough.

It was confirmed that the Early Intervention Grant was not a new pot of money, but rather the sum of previous amalgamated grants being brought together in one pot and itself a reduction of approximately one million pounds. The Pupil Premium was however 'new' money and totalled approximately £430 per pupil. The problem however remained the use of free school meal recipients as a measure of determining pupil premium allocation. For a number of reasons the FSM measurement did not suit Slough as take-up was lower than hoped and lobbying to have this amended may need to be considered. Work to identify families at risk of poverty was also ongoing. There were good relationships with partner agencies notably Health and Job Centre Plus who were both referring cases deemed significant. There was also a team of family outreach workers who would follow up each referral as well as make contact with individual families. Finally, officers confirmed that there were some concerns regarding the arrival of vulnerable and challenging families into Slough – families that were being placed in the town by neighbouring authorities. The Chair noted that this issue had been raised at a number of recent meetings and that the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel should make a formal recommendation to Cabinet seeking action to address this issue.

Resolved- That the Chair of the Panel make a formal recommendation to Cabinet seeking a more robust approach to neighbouring authorities placing challenging families into Slough, including the legal base.

30. Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children-Progress Report

Clair Pyper, Director for Education and Children Services presented the paper on the Ofsted Inspection and the work that had been carried out over the preceding month to further address the recommendations made. The Director confirmed that the formal Improvement Notice had been received. Further whilst an attempt had been made, the post of Chair of the LSCB was yet to be filled. Interim arrangements were being looked at to cover any gap. Concurring with comments already expressed, the Commissioner for Education, Cllr Pantelic also stressed both the importance of ensuring that improvements made were sustainable whilst also committing to ensure that regular correspondence with Members would be maintained. Cllr Pantelic confirmed that as the designated Member representative on the LSCB, she was happy to take all Member concerns back to the Board and then feedback responses directly to Members.

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel - 12.10.11

The item was then opened up for Member questions. Questions were submitted on a variety of topics including whether any central government support was available in terms of recruiting a LSCB Chair, the nature of sector-led support, how the Chair of the Improvement Board was selected, possible amendments needed to future scrutiny arrangements and whether the Council had the necessary resources in place to deliver the range of improvements needed. Further questions were raised under Rule 30 including the timetable to deliver improvements and a request for regular updates on the number of contacts, cases and referrals being received by the department.

The Director for Education confirmed that there were strict guidelines in place in terms of recruiting a Chair. The avenues that were available had been tried and in fact it was through such routes that the interim choice had been selected. Sector-Led support was a new process whereby improvement support was made available through existing professionals who were working or had previous experience in the field. The Officer confirmed that considerable investment had taken place to address the recommendations and resources were available to cover the next 18 months. However it was important to note that this was not all about money. The Director confirmed that there were Department of Education guidelines in place stipulating who could Chair. One important consideration was previous experience. Finally responding to the question about future scrutiny arrangements, it was confirmed that existing arrangements were adequate, however given the broad nature of the work being considered, it may be necessary to set up some task and Finish Groups focused on particular aspects of the work. The Officer confirmed that improvements will need to be made within the next 18 months. It was also confirmed that regular updates on the number of cases/contacts or referrals would be provided as requested.

Resolved-

- (a) that a further update on progress be brought to the next panel
- (b) that an item on performance also be brought to the next panel

31. Children with Special Education Needs

Jackie Wright, Head of Service for Children with Learning Disabilities, presented a paper on Special Educational Needs in Slough.

A number of questions were asked in the discussion. This included how children were assessed as having Special Educational Needs, whether Ofsted judgements take into account the positive work carried out by the function and what support is offered to pupils with dyslexia.

The officer confirmed that there was a stringent system in place measuring children's assessments. This system was used to determine the level of support a child would need. Important to note that the service responds to the actual condition exhibited by the child so services are tailored to meet needs. Regarding the Ofsted judgement, the inspectors do take a balanced view so

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel - 12.10.11

will assess the positive work carried out by the service alongside performance in other key areas. However what isn't taken into account is the issue of poverty or the changing demographics in Slough both of which could play an important part. In terms of support offered to pupils with dyslexia, training is provided to all schools whilst a specialist resource of trained teachers is available for additional support.

Members raised the issue of how the council monitors and assists children with special educational needs in the transition between childhood and adulthood. Officers confirmed that this was a closely managed progress with lots of tracking. However, this issue was more complex and would warrant a fuller discussion as a dedicated agenda item.

Resolved- That an item on SEN and the transition between childhood and adulthood be added to a forthcoming agenda.

32. Report on Attainment of Pupils from Ethnic Minorities

Robin Crofts, Assistant Director for Inclusion, presented a paper on the work carried out by the council to address attainment issues amongst pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds.

A number of comments and questions followed. Members emphasised that a range of factors needed to be cited in helping understand performance amongst key groups in Slough. This included both attitudes of pupils themselves, the support offered by families and the particular support structures in place within individual schools. The importance of data was emphasised both in terms of its collection but also how it is used to tailor the support provided to pupils. Attendance is also of crucial importance and something that schools are working hard to improve on a constant basis. It does however remain the case that parents continue to request holidays for children during term time which can have a detrimental impact on the child's schooling.

Members queries whether figures provided would be broken down by gender. Officers confirmed this was possible and the relevant data would be provided outside the meeting.

Resolved- That figures on gender breakdown by made available to panel members outside the meeting.

33. Statement of Purpose for Breakaway, Respite Care Unit

Sue Betts, Manager of Services for Children with Learning Disabilities presented a paper on the Breakaway Respite Care service offered by the council. The Ofsted judgement recognised the service provided as good with the only issue identified being management and leadership which was deemed satisfactory. The service had regularly garnered positive feedback from service users and was recognised as a valued service amongst local people. For this reason, in each budgetary cycle, the level of funding directed

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel - 12.10.11

to the service has always been protected. Members were encouraged to attend the service to see the excellent work carried out.

The panel noted the excellent contribution made by the service.

34. Consideration of reports marked to be noted/for information

No reports were received.

35. Forward Work Programme

Members asked for additional papers to be brought to forthcoming panels including

- A follow up paper on the Ofsted report progress (November 2011)
- A paper on performance management for the next panel (November 2011)
- A paper on SEN and the transition between childhood and adulthood

36. Attendance Record

Resolved – That the attendance record be noted.

37. Date of Next Meeting- 24th November, 2011

Thursday 24th November 2011.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 9.25 pm)

This page is intentionally left blank

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 24th November 2011

CONTACT OFFICER : Clair Pyper, Director of Education and Children's Services
For all enquiries (01753) 875704

WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR INFORMATION, SCRUTINY AND CHALLENGE

PROGRESS REPORT: OFSTED INSPECTION OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

1. Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the progress following the outcome of the Ofsted announced inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children which took place between April 4th and 15th 2011, with the report published on June 1st 2011.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel is requested to:

- a) Note actions and progress since the publication of the Ofsted report
- b) Agree specific areas for further scrutiny, taking into account the agreed role of the Improvement Board.

3. Community Strategy Priorities

Celebrating diversity, enabling inclusion

- By identifying and prioritising services for vulnerable groups in the Slough population, by targeting support to meet the needs of children and young people's identified needs and by ensuring that we build on the good and outstanding judgements in the Ofsted report and by addressing the areas for improvement.

Adding years to Life and Life to years

- Through focussing on the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people and their parents and carers in Slough, and providing targeted services through partnership working primarily with the NHS to secure measurable health improvements

Being Safe, Feeling Safe

- By offering effective support to families to help them do their best for their children so that children and young people are safe in their families and communities

- By recognising that parents are the main carers for their children, and by offering services that enable them to continue to care for their children successfully so that children can grow up within their own families and communities wherever possible
- By carrying out respective roles across the local authority and partner agencies to ensure that the most vulnerable children in our community are protected from harm and they are enabled to live with their families
- By carrying out our statutory role as a local authority to provide services for children in need, to safeguard them and look after children whose parents are unable to do so.
- By working effectively with partner agencies so that they also contribute to safeguarding children and young people and demonstrate improved outcomes for those children and young people and their families.
- By ensuring that children and young people who are looked after have the standards of care and life opportunities that we would want for our own children with contributions from all partner agencies.

Prosperity for All

- By offering early education and family support to parents of young children so that they can focus on meeting their children's needs and overcoming personal and family difficulties that affect their ability to care for their children.
- By promoting educational achievement which gives children and young people in care and leaving care enjoyment in learning and increased opportunities for success in adult life.
- By maintaining high levels of Education, Employment and Training (EET) for young people who are looked after beyond 16 years of age.
- By promoting vulnerable young people's social and emotional development alongside advances in educational achievement.
- By supporting local nursery providers to secure optimum standards so that parents and carers are able to secure economic prosperity/independence for themselves and their family.

4. Other Implications

a) Financial

Financial implications of the Improvement Plan were included in the report to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 5th September 2011.

Members are asked to note that the additional activity identified in the Improvement Plan will be resourced without impact on front line services in line with Ofsted requirements. The estimated cost of activities requiring additional funding were included in the papers to the October Scrutiny meeting. A review of the financial implications is in progress to ensure consistency with the Improvement Plan submitted to the Minister.

b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation
<p>Improve management and leadership capacity and capability; recruit new staff and retain existing skilled staff; provide training programme based on national standards to ensure high quality practice and management.</p>	<p>Improvements in practice in children's social care to focus on and deliver the changes required by Ofsted and the Improvement Board.</p>	<p>Specialist support project between August and November 2011 has engaged staff in, and produced a Quality Assurance Framework including a risk assessment, supervision policy and practice and management expectations.</p>
<p>Review thresholds for children's social care. Ensure partner agencies are participating in the Early Intervention Strategy. Create a clear multi-agency response to the 'Team around the Child'.</p>	<p>Rising child population, increasing complexity of and numbers of vulnerable families and new arrivals into Slough resulting in increased demand for services and financial consequences.</p>	<p>Monitor rise in child population through applications for primary school places, health data and contacts.</p>
<p>Use Sector Support Review of Early Intervention and Prevention to re-engage partners in strategy and implementation; commission services on the basis of identified need.</p>	<p>Engagement of key partners in the Early Intervention Strategy and Improvement Plan.</p>	<p>Improvement Board includes representatives from Health and Police. Children's Partnership Board and LSCB partner engagement is being reviewed.</p>
<p>SBC and partner agencies to assess spending on early intervention and safeguarding and review commissioning of services linked to identified need through the JSNA. Review impact of changes in resources across all agencies in relation to early intervention, safeguarding and looked after children.</p>	<p>Lack of resources to deliver improvement work. Changing financial environment across all partner agencies.</p>	<p>Safeguarding Improvement Plan has identified key areas for additional funding amounting to £231k 2011-12 and £79k 2012-13. to carry out key tasks. SBC Cabinet decision 17.10.11 to fund base budget for looked after children and GOLD project to secure additional short term and permanent placements for looked after children.</p>
<p>Improvement Plan monitored by the Board six weekly, and the Project Group of Theme Leads fortnightly.</p>	<p>Progress against key areas of work does not drive change sufficiently fast</p>	<p>Monitoring of progress in all five themes. Identification of priority areas and dependencies for improvement work. Communication with staff and partner agencies</p>
<p>Ofsted unannounced inspection 2011 (last annual inspection</p>	<p>Ofsted unannounced inspection 2011. Inspectors judge that</p>	<p>Work carried out to date to review and audit cases and</p>

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation
October 2010).	contact, referral and assessment services have areas for priority action	practice. Three month contract for work on performance improvement and quality control includes preparation for unannounced inspection. Report showing progress against Ofsted recommendations.
Development of SBC Workforce Strategy includes specific focus on recruitment, retention and training in children's social care	High staff turnover reduces consistency of service Impact of training on staff not demonstrated through improved practice	Recruitment and retention of staff through the workforce strategy as one of the highest priorities for the Improvement Plan
Management and leadership training to be provided linked with the recommendations in the Improvement Plan	Leadership and management capacity and capability within SBC	Skills and gap analysis to be carried out. Completion of internal structure review within ECS.
Use sector support recommendations to drive agreed improvements in the role and functions of the LSCB.	LSCB changes to focus on key priorities for Slough and improve effective partnership working overseeing safeguarding in Slough.	Interim Chair appointed from 1.11.11.

c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The actions proposed in this report must be designed to comply with the human rights of the clients. There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.

d) Equalities Impact Assessment

An equalities impact assessment is not required in relation to this information report.

e) Workforce

The final Improvement Plan contains sections on Capacity and Capability, and Social Work Practice. The main workforce priorities for the Council in delivering the next stage of the Improvement Plan are the development of a workforce strategy as part of the Council's overall Workforce Strategy with particular focus on:

i. Recruitment and retention of staff to key posts

18 staff have been recruited to permanent posts since June 2011. However, as part of natural turnover, there will be some further vacancies

at Team Manager, Assistant Team Manager and Social Worker level in coming months and a recruitment programme needs to be put in place to attract new candidates with the range of competences identified by the Social Work Reform Board.

ii. Capacity and Capability

Job descriptions to be completed based on the competences issued by the Social Work Reform Board and used in recruitment.

Recruitment of permanent staff into key roles at management and practitioner level.

iii. Training

A training programme for leaders, managers and practitioners based on the Improvement Plan.

5. Supporting Information

5.1 Background

The report to Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 9th June 2011 gave background information about the Ofsted inspection report published on 1st June 2011, and preliminary information about actions following the inspection.

The report of September 5th updated members on the role of the Improvement Board and the development of the Improvement Plan

The report of October 12th gave members information about the Improvement Notice issued by the Minister on 29th September 2011, and updates on the themes of the Improvement Plan.

5.2 A summary of progress against Plan Themes

Theme 1 Social Care Practice

- Staff across children's social care have been involved in the specialist support project which ran from August to November 2011, resulting in the publication of a Quality Assurance Framework including practice and management standards, risk assessment, supervision policy, and other quality assurance systems to ensure consistent practice and quality of casework. This will be given to all existing staff, and new staff and agency staff on induction and used as the basis for all practice.
- There has been improvement in one key indicator as a result of a focus on practice – 'Initial Assessments completed and authorised within the timescales' shows a strong upward trend during October. Work on the second key indicator 'Core Assessments completed within timescale' will be slower to show improvement because it covers a 35 day period, but weekly monitoring demonstrates impact of changed processes and practice guidance.

- Weekly checkpoint reports have been introduced to check key performance indicators, team workloads and themes arising in the service.
- Independent auditors have now reported on the final 20 cases and report some improvements in key areas and identified areas for remedial action and training and development. Any immediate remedial actions have been taken to address individual casework and management on cases raised through the Independent Audit, themes are being used in management, supervision and planning training.
- An internal audit programme is in place ranging from 'deep dive' audits to spot checks.
- Internal organisational changes planned and under way including a temporary increase in capacity through separating the management of referral, assessment and child protection services from Looked After Children services. This will be followed by separation of social work functions to create a child protection team and a children looked after team.

Theme 2 Capacity and Capability

- Staff vacancies and turnover continues to present problems in offering continuity of service to children and families. The highest turnover has been in agency staff. We have recruited 21 new permanent staff since June 2011 and the turnover rate is slowing.
- Interim arrangements have been made to fill the most crucial posts. A Competency Framework is being developed to set out the requirements for new and existing staff based on the recommendations of the Social Work Reform Board. The most urgent priority for the service is to start a recruitment drive for new permanent practitioners and managers immediately.
- The training programme for current and new staff, based on identified needs from the Independent Audit, the 'Childs Journey', the specialist support project, the social work health check and the Social Work Reform Board competences needs to be commissioned and put in place.
- A new staff communication plan is in place, helping to build staff engagement, commitment and morale, and to encourage them to give feedback and ideas as part of their contribution to the Improvement Plan.
- A new caseload weighting system has been developed in conjunction with staff and assessment of staff caseloads is being undertaken.

Theme 3 Quality Assurance and Performance Management

- Paul Burnett has been appointed as Interim Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), pending a permanent appointment by April 2012.
- A new approach to performance management is being developed to ensure focus on outcomes for children and their families.
- Management of the Independent Reviewing Officer service has been moved to the Director to strengthen their challenge role and their ability to hold practitioners and managers across SBC and partner organisations to account; additional sector led specialist support has been agreed to carry out an external review of the Independent Reviewing Officers; IRO Standards are in place and being used and the escalation procedures are

being used systematically; the Participation Officer is working with parents and children on child protection plans, and has had 13 responses, with 5 being interested in being part of a focus group.

- The Sector Support project on Performance Management started work in October.
- The Sector Support project on the LSCB has made a series of recommendations for the Improvement Board and the LSCB to consider and implement.
- The Sector Support project on the role and function of the IRO Service.

Theme 4 Early Intervention and Prevention

- Early Intervention (EI) and Prevention Sector Support Work has produced an interim report for consideration by the Improvement Board (IB). This highlights the importance of the role of partner organisations in the provision of Early Help services.
- The structure and funding for the First Response is being reviewed in the light of the recommendations from the Sector Support work.
- The Early Intervention Strategy was included in the LSCB conference held on 2.11.11 to revive partner engagement.

Theme 5 Leadership, Governance and Finance

- Now that improved and targeted performance information is available, work is focused on ensuring that appropriate actions are developed and followed to address poor or declining performance.
- A strong emphasis on activities that support changed ways of working for practitioners and managers has been developed, supported by the Communications Plan and this will help ensure that staff are involved in and supportive of any changes.
- Risks against the delivery of the Improvement Plan have been analysed and are being regularly reviewed. Project management arrangements are in place.
- Detailed delivery plans are being developed for each Theme in the Improvement Plan now that it has been finalised.

5.3 Improvement Board

The third Improvement Board meeting will take place on 14th November 2011.

5.4 Improvement Plan

The Improvement Plan and the Chair's progress report are currently with the Minister. The Improvement Board will consider the Minister's feedback and make any changes necessary to the Plan before it is finally published and disseminated to members, staff and partners. The Improvement Plan has been updated to include a risk register. A communications plan is being developed as part of the communications strategy for the Improvement Plan.

5.5 Sector Led Support

The sector led support is based on the Improvement Plan, and will consist of the following:

- a. Support for the Director and Lead Member
- b. A review of early intervention and prevention work
- c. A review of the LSCB and partnership working arrangements
- d. A review of quality assurance and performance management arrangements
- e. A review of the IRO service

Work has started on all five areas. The Improvement Board to be held on 14th November will consider reports on the LSCB and Early Intervention and Prevention work.

5.6 Local Safeguarding Children Board

Paul Burnett has been appointed as Interim Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and will act as Chair until the appointment of a permanent Chair by April 2012.

6 Conclusion

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel are requested to note the contents of the report and identify any specific areas to be followed up at future meetings of the Panel.

7. Appendices Attached

None

8 Background Papers

Extraordinary Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 13th January 2010. Agenda item 2: 'Safeguarding in Slough: the Work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board'

Extraordinary Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 22nd April 2010. Agenda Item 2: 'Safeguarding in the Health Service'

Item 3 'Child Protection and the Independent Reviewing Service'

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 23rd June 2010. Agenda Item 8 'Implications of the Rise in the Numbers of Vulnerable Children 2008-10'

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 25th November 2010: Agenda Item 3

'Ofsted inspection, Contact Referral and Assessment Arrangements October 2010'. Agenda Item 4 'Safeguarding in Slough – Update on the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board'.

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny on 25th January 2011: Agenda item 3: 'Ofsted Annual Children's Services Assessment 2010'.

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 9th June 2011: Agenda item 10: Ofsted report on the Announced Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children

Ofsted report on the announced inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services June 2011

This page is intentionally left blank

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 24th November 2011

CONTACT OFFICER: Clair Pyper, Strategic Director Education and Children's Services.
(For all enquiries) (01753) 875704

WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

OFSTED ANNUAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES ASSESSMENT 2010

1 Purpose of Report

To report to Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel members on the Children's Services Assessment for Slough published on November 8th 2011 and consider wider implications for Education and Children's Services, Slough Borough Council and partner agencies.

2 Recommendation

That Education and Children's Services Scrutiny members consider the details of the Children's Services Assessment and the implications for current and future work across the borough, with particular reference to the work being undertaken on the Safeguarding Improvement Plan following the Ofsted announced inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children, published on 1st June 2011.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

• **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling Inclusion**

Children and young people in Slough are part of a diverse culture which is celebrated in our schools and through our communities. Schools and children's services make provision for newly arrived families. Children with additional needs are offered education and care services based on assessment of their needs.

• **Being Safe, Feeling Safe**

Parents want their children to be safe from harm in their community and in the home. Where parents are not able to protect their children, the local authority and partner agencies, including the police and health services, have a statutory duty to intervene. The emotional well-being of children in school is actively promoted through the curriculum including SEAL (Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning).

• **Adding years to Life and Life to years**

Work with vulnerable children, young people and their families ensures that the health and well-being of the borough's children is protected and that they are provided with interventions to keep them from physical and emotional harm, or provide alternative care for them if this is not possible.

• **Prosperity for All**

Schools work to ensure that children and young people's learning equips them for different stages of their lives.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
Continuation of work contained in the Improvement Plan to drive changes and meet requirements of the Improvement Board and Ofsted See report to Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel Progress report: Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children' 24.11.1'	The Ofsted announced inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children in April 2011 resulted in a judgement of 'inadequate' for safeguarding and 'adequate' for looked after children. The Minister issued SBC with an Improvement Notice on 29 th September 2011.	Improvement Board established Improvement Plan written and with the Minister Improvement work under way. Details are contained in Education and Children's Services Scrutiny papers from 9.6.11, 5.9.11, 12.10.11 and 24.11.11
Ofsted unannounced inspection 2011 (last annual inspection October 2010).	Ofsted unannounced inspection 2011. Inspectors judge that contact, referral and assessment services have areas for priority action	Work carried out to date to review and audit cases and practice. Three month contract for work on performance improvement and quality control includes preparation for unannounced inspection. Report showing progress against Ofsted recommendations.
Continued adaptation of monitoring, challenge and intervention role of the local authority as the local authority relationship with schools changes in line with legislation (Education Bill 2010) and guidance.	Lack of progress in schools in special measures, or additional schools being categorised as being in special measures could result in poor education for children in Slough and therefore DfE intervention to bring about school improvement. In early 2011, 6 schools were in categories, this has reduced to 4 by late 2011.	Work through the School Improvement Team to raise standards in conjunction with headteachers and governors has had an impact on schools in categories and those where concerns have been identified about performance and standards. Consideration of change to Academy Status for some schools. Schools have undertaken to use DSG headroom in 2011 to focus on school improvement
The school improvement team has clear and concise plans to support schools where attainment is below expected standards. The team focuses particularly on	Children's achievements at KS2 continue to be below national average	Summer 2011 showed some pleasing improvements at KS2, but Slough results do remain below the national 2011 results across all areas with the exception of

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
those schools where pupil progress is below floor standards, and addresses teaching and learning competences. See School Improvement Strategy and SI Team Plan 11- 12.		<p>mathematics which is inline with the national at both level 4 plus and level 5.</p> <p>Improvements in outcomes in EYFS in 2011 will provide pupils with an improved foundation on which to build through the years of statutory education.</p> <p>It is worth noting that at GCSE, the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C inc E&M Slough has improved by 4.7% to 67.8% and at 5+ A*-C we have improved by 7.2% to 87.3% Both of these results are well above our 2011 statutory targets and national average.</p>
Focus support on EYFS settings to improve assessment techniques	Standards in the Early Years Foundation Stage have been consistently below national average	2011 results above national average. Expected to be in 1st quartile nationally
Implement any recommendations from the Ofsted inspection carried out in October	Standards in one of the two local authority children's homes continue to be 'satisfactory'.	This home was inspected in October 2011 and the report is yet to be published.
For the school to continue to work on the plan as described.	Standards in one schools sixth form continue to be 'satisfactory'	In order to improve standards the school has reviewed and made changes to its curriculum. The school improvement team is undertaking Autumn monitoring visits to secondary schools which includes standards and progress in the 6 th form.
Targeted support for Childminders	Standards in a third of childminders continue to be 'satisfactory'	Standards in childminding have improved with 14% judged outstanding, 51% good, 35% satisfactory and 0% unsatisfactory

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Local authorities have a duty to provide a range of services which relate to schools, children with special educational needs, children looked after, and young people. These include the provision of sufficient school places; powers to act decisively where schools are failing or underperforming; promotion of high standards for all children; school admissions; identification, assessment and provision of services for children with special educational needs; information, advice and guidance for young people; youth offending services; provision of services for children in need, children in need of protection and children looked

after; and services for young people including positive activities, decision making by young people and 14-19 learning. This brief description of a range of duties may change over time, but is currently used by Ofsted in their inspection framework to assess local authority performance. The actions proposed in this report must be designed to comply with the human rights of the clients.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Not relevant to the Children's Services Assessment.

(d) Workforce

The workforce across the borough have contributed to the outcomes of the Children's Services Assessment. Staff in the local authority, schools, voluntary agencies, police, health and other partners have worked together to provide the services described in the CSA. Work is under way through the Improvement Plan to develop a focussed Workforce Strategy for SBC and equip staff in partner agencies to develop their roles in early intervention and prevention, safeguarding and services to looked after children. SBC and partner agencies need to consider future arrangements to retain expertise and skills as funding and staff decrease.

5 Supporting Information

DfE have announced the end of this system of performance reporting. Scrutiny Panel members may wish to consider local reporting arrangements in future.

The Children's Services Assessment for 2011 is that Children's Services perform poorly(1). The report is attached as Appendix 1.

The Children's Services Assessment has been 'good' (3) for the all previous years, summarised in reports to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel.

While there are considerable strengths in services to children in the borough, the Ofsted judgement of safeguarding as 'inadequate' is a 'limiting judgement'.

Ofsted identify major strengths as including:

- day care provision
- nursery and early years provision in primary schools
- the narrowing gap in attainment for five year old children from low income families
- good or outstanding results in most secondary schools
- low secondary school absence rates
- achievement at Key Stage 4
- rates of improvement for level 2 and 3 qualifications
- achievement for young people from low income families
- an outstanding pupil referral unit
- two out of three special schools are good or outstanding
- looked after children receive good support to lead healthy lifestyles, be engaged in decisions which affect them, and are prepared well for independence
- fostering and adoption services are good

Ofsted identify the following as areas for further improvement:

- safeguarding arrangements and capacity to improve
SBC response: See Progress Report: Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children. Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel 24.11.11.
- inspection grades for primary schools deteriorated in 2011
SBC response: Two schools have been removed from categories in 2011; three have been judged as making adequate or good progress; one continues to be the focus of intensive work to improve standards of teaching and learning and management and leadership. The annual cycle of reports to Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on school attainment will include details of these.
- attainment at KS2 has improved from a low base to match the attainment for similar areas but progress made by children from KS1 to KS2 was below average
SBC response: schools, and the staff working in school improvement are focussing on this in specific schools as part of the local authority's monitoring, challenge and intervention role. The annual cycle of reports to Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on school attainment will include details of these.
- standards in Early Years Foundation Stage are consistently below similar areas
SBC response: Foundation Stage results have been published since the Ofsted report was prepared in October 2011, and have shown significant improvement in relation to Slough's previous results and in comparison to other areas. The annual cycle of reports to Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on school attainment will include details of these.
- some areas of provision remain or have been judged to be only satisfactory in 2011, including an academy, a school sixth form, one of the two local authority children's homes and over a third of childminding.
SBC response: the academy and it's sixth form are not a matter for the local authority to comment on. The local authority children's home which was satisfactory was inspected in the week commencing October 24th and the inspection report will be published shortly, showing an overall improvement. Standards in childminding have improved with 14% judged outstanding, 51% good, 35% satisfactory and 0% unsatisfactory.

6 Comments of Other Committees

None

7 Conclusion

The Children's Services Assessment for Slough in 2011 shows a reduction in performance following the Ofsted announced inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children. The work to improve safeguarding, in children's social care and with partners, and to improve the 'early help' offer through multi-agency working is outlined in the Safeguarding Improvement Plan which will be available once

approved by Ministers. An update on progress against specific areas of the Improvement Plan is contained in the paper on the Ofsted inspection presented to this panel on 24.11.11.

8 **Appendices**

'A' Ofsted letter 'Annual Children's Services Assessment'.

Website reference: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/slough>

9 **Background Papers**

None

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231
Textphone 0161 618 8524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 020 7421 6666
Direct F 020 7421 5633
Juliet.Winstanley@ofsted.gov.uk



8 November 2011

Ms Clair Pyper
Strategic Director of Education and Children Services
Slough Borough Council
Town Hall
Bath Road
Slough
Berkshire SL1 3UQ

Dear Ms Pyper

Annual children's services assessment

Ofsted guidance published in April 2011 explains that the annual assessment of children's services is derived from the performance profile of the quality of services for children and young people in each local area. This performance profile includes findings from across Ofsted's inspection and regulation of services and settings for which the local authority has strategic or operational responsibilities, either alone or in partnership with others, together with other published data.

In reaching the assessment of children's services, Ofsted has taken account of inspection outcomes including the arrangements for making sure children are safe and stay safe and performance against similar authorities and/or national measures. More weight has been given to the outcomes of Ofsted's inspections and regulatory visits (Blocks A and B in the performance profile).

The annual assessment derives from a four point scale:

4	Performs excellently	An organisation that significantly exceeds minimum requirements
3	Performs well	An organisation that exceeds minimum requirements
2	Performs adequately	An organisation that meets only minimum requirements
1	Performs poorly	An organisation that does not meet minimum requirements

Within each level there will be differing standards of provision. For example, an assessment of 'performs excellently' does not mean all aspects of provision are perfect. Similarly, an assessment of 'performs poorly' does not mean there are no adequate or even good aspects. As in 2010, while the performance profile remains central to Ofsted's assessment, meeting or not meeting the minimum requirements alone does not define the grade. The assessment has involved the application of inspector judgement.

Slough Borough Council children's services assessment 2011

Children's services assessment	Performs poorly (1)
---------------------------------------	----------------------------

Children's services in Slough Borough Council perform poorly. In 2010, services were performing well. However, a full inspection of safeguarding and services for looked after children, in June 2011, judged safeguarding and capacity to improve to be inadequate. Services for looked after children and the capacity to improve in this area are satisfactory.

In other important respects, the strengths and areas for development remain much the same as in 2010. The large majority of services, settings and institutions inspected by Ofsted are good or better and the very large majority of provision helps children and young people learn and stay safe. The quality of primary schools remains very uneven. A number of secondary schools have become academies in the last year and almost all of them were judged to be good or better at their last inspection; these inspection findings have been taken into account in making this assessment.

Strengths

- The very large majority of registered day-care provision is good or outstanding. All childminding is now at least satisfactory and more providers are outstanding than in 2010. The children's centre that has been inspected is good.
- For children under five, the large majority of nurseries and Early Years Foundation Stage provision in primary schools remain good or better. The gap in attainment between children from low-income families and the majority of five-year-olds in Slough is closing, however, this group continues to achieve below the average for their counterparts elsewhere.
- The very large majority of secondary schools and post-16 education provision are at least good and half the secondary schools are outstanding. Rates of persistent school absence are consistently below the average for similar areas. Achievement at Key Stage 4 and at level 2 and level 3 by the age of 19 has been above the average for similar areas and found nationally for many years. Provisional 2011 results at Key Stage 4 show that good improvement has been maintained. Over the last four years, rates of improvement for level 2 and level 3 qualifications have also been better than the average elsewhere. Young people from low-income backgrounds at the age of 19 do better than the average for their counterparts nationally.
- As in 2010, the pupil referral unit is outstanding. One of the three special schools is also outstanding, one is good and one is satisfactory.

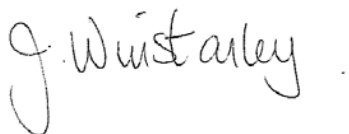
- Looked after children and young people receive good support to live healthy life-styles, get involved in decisions which affect them and prepare for independence. The proportion of care leavers in education, training or work is above the national average. Fostering and adoption services are good. The very large majority of commissioned services are good or better.

Areas for further improvement

- Safeguarding arrangements and capacity to improve are inadequate. There are major weaknesses in leadership and management, performance management and quality assurance. The performance of the youth offending service, including its work in safeguarding, is not as good as that found elsewhere.
- Inspection grades for primary schools deteriorated in 2011. Four schools are currently inadequate and a third of all schools are only satisfactory. Attainment at the age of 11 has improved from a low base to match the average for similar areas, but in 2010 the progress made by children from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 was still below average. Schools in Ofsted categories of concern are making sound progress with good support from the local authority.
- Standards in the Early Years Foundation Stage are consistently below similar areas and the national average, albeit that the gap is closing. Provisional results for 2011 show a marked improvement.
- Some areas of provision remain, or have been judged to be, only satisfactory in 2011. These include an academy, one of the school sixth forms, one of the two local authority children's homes and over a third of childminding.

This children's services assessment is provided in accordance with section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Juliet Winstanley".

Juliet Winstanley
Divisional Manager, Children's Services Assessment

This page is intentionally left blank

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 24th November 2011

CONTACT OFFICERS: Robin Crofts, Assistant Director, Inclusion (01753) 787645
For all enquiries Tony Browne, Head of School Services (01753) 875717
Tony Madden, Project Officer (01753) 875739

WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR INFORMATION, COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

SCHOOL PLACES

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to provide information on:

- The increasing demand for primary school places and steps taken to meet this demand
- The increasing demand for secondary school places and future plans to meet this demand including the impact of academies
- The James review
- Future funding

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

It is recommended that members note the actions being taken to meet the increasing demand for places.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

**Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion
Prosperity for All**

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, so that all children resident in the area can attend school. Local Authorities should also ensure as far as possible that children are offered places at their preferred schools.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

i) Primary

Cabinet agreed the Primary School Places Action Plan 2011-13 at a meeting on 14th June 2010. This plan is currently being implemented using capital grant allocated for school places.

Currently £25.3m has been committed to creating 2760 new primary school places plus a further 350 places have been created at the new Langley Hall Primary Academy. This investment created 9 new forms of entry for September 2009 and 2010 and 5.8 new forms of entry for September 2011, including the new free school. It assumes a further 2 forms of entry will be provided immediately to accommodate new arrivals and includes the Town Hall conversion. This is summarised in the tables below:

Places required for 2008-10	1530	9 forms of entry
Places required for 2011	920	6.8 forms of entry
Places required for 2012	660	4 forms of entry
Total Cost of Places	£25.3m	

To be funded from:	
Basic Need Safety Valve funding (grant)	£9.0m
Primary Capital Programme funding (grant)	£8.4m
Section 106 developer contributions	£3.0m
Modernisation 2011-12 (grant)	£2.2m
Basic Need 2011-12 (grant)	£5.1m
Total Funding	£27.7m

The balance of the funding (£2.4m) has been 100% allocated to funding existing schemes replacing council borrowing wherever possible.

A key solution for creating places quickly and affordably proposed within the Primary Place Action Plan was to add infant annexes at schools across the town, as and when they are required. To date 4 of these have been completed using modular annexes installed over the summer break and 3 more are planned over the next 12 months. In order to ensure that places are available at these schools, when pupils move into year 3, the Local Authority (LA) will need to fund junior annexes, to complete the expansion project. A sum of £800,000 has been agreed for creating infant annexes to fund the modular classes, highway works and any required infrastructure improvements. It is proposed that a sum of £850,000 is allocated for adding junior annexes, on the basis that infant annexes required 3 classes, while junior annexes will require 4 classes.

Education and Children's Services took part in the recent exercise to revise the council's capital programme to reduce the overall level of funding to meet the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The funding levels and schemes referred to within this report are in line with the details presented to members as part of the MTFS.

The primary expansion programme is fully funded based on the assumption that Slough receives at least £6m income for the next 3 years (2012-13 to 2014-15). This seems reasonable given that the DfE has suggested LAs plan a capital programme on the basis they will receive a similar allocation in future years, as was received for 2011-12. For Slough this was £7.2m. The proposed schools' capital programme fully allocates all available and assumed income.

ii) Secondary

The scale of funding required to expand the secondary school estate over the next 5 years is considerable. Between 2008 and 2012, Slough will have added 3000+ new primary places and equivalent growth will be required in the secondary sector once pupils move up the system. Over the next 5 years the following funding will be required to provide the secondary places required (note this excludes post-16 provision which will also need to expand).

Places required for 2011-2016 (11-16) (Over the next 5 years)	1500	10 forms of entry
Total cost of places (assuming £2.5m per form of entry)	£25m	

All sources of income will need to be explored for expanding secondary school provision. As well as the LA continuing to submit data to the DfE to secure new Basic Need allocations, academies and free school promoters will be encouraged to apply for funding for new school places from the DfE, where separate funding streams are available.

iii) New Capital Grant Allocation

On 3rd November 2011, Slough was allocated £9.461m of grant funding as part of a one-off Basic Need allocation by the DfE. Central Government allocated £500m to 100 authorities with pressure on school places for 2012 and 2013; Slough received the 17th highest allocation. This funding has been allocated to Slough in recognition of pressures in both the primary and secondary sectors following submission of our school capacity and pupil forecast data earlier this year.

(b) Risk Management

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Risk/Threat/Opportunity</i>	<i>Mitigation(s)</i>
<i>From section 2 above</i>	<i>Risk: There is a shortfall of primary school places</i>	<i>Actions proposed within this paper continue to be implemented.</i>
	<i>Risk: There is a shortfall of secondary school places</i>	<i>All avenues for providing additional secondary school places are explored with Slough schools making use of new grant allocations.</i>

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. They must ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area and also promote diversity and increase parental choice. The actions proposed in this report must be designed to comply with the human rights of the clients.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

An impact assessment was carried out in 2008 for the initial expansion projects. This may need to be reviewed in light of the continued expansion of primary schools.

The purpose of the plans outlined below are to ensure that Slough Borough Council can meet its duty to provide suitable education for all Slough resident pupils regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity or disability.

5 **Supporting Information**

(a) Primary School Places

5.1 For admissions to reception in September 2011, Slough received 2034 applications by the closing date of 14th January 2011, compared to 1948 for September 2010, 1855 for September 2009 and 1711 for September 2008. There were 2120 places available for September 2011 so all applicants who applied on time were offered a place on 15th April 2011. Around 98% of applicants were offered one of their preferred schools and 87% were offered their first preference. This compares to 93% and 83% last year.

5.2 After the offer date the LA usually receives late applications from families who failed to apply on time and new arrivals to the borough. Contingency plans were made to provide additional places at short notice if necessary and an additional 30 places were provided at Penn Wood Primary School, bringing the total number of places currently provided to 2150. Slough Borough Council continues to receive reception applications and discussions are being held with two further primary schools to offer places during this half term.

5.3 For other primary year groups there is a surplus of places. The latest data is shown below. This is a snapshot and varies from month to month depending on the number of leavers when compared to new arrivals.

Current Year Group	Places Available
Reception	-23 (Shortfall)
Year 1	40
Year 2	51
Year 3	24
Year 4	37
Year 5	66
Year 6	52

5.4 Since 2009 the following projects have been agreed and are being implemented:

Permanent Expansion Projects for 2008, 2009 and 2010	Budget	Total new places to be created	Permanent reception places added
	Expand and modernise Wexham Court Primary Sch	£4,000,000	210
Expand Western House Primary School	£3,020,000	210	30
Expand and modernise Parlaunt Park Primary Sch	£4,000,000	210	30
Change Cippenham Junior to a Primary School	£880,000	300	60
Refurbish former school building - Willow Primary	£4,350,000	420	60
Increase admission number of Priory School	£100,000	90	30
Expand Castlevew Primary School	£800,000	90	30
Total	£17,150,000	1530	9FE added
Additional expansions for 2011			
Expand Claycots Primary School (similar amount funded by school)	£750,000	210	30
Expand Ryvers primary School	£800,000	90	30
Expand Lynch Hill Primary School	£800,000	90	30
Expand Godolphin Infant School	£900,000	90	30
New Free School	£0	350	50
Expand Penn Wood Primary School	£800,000	90	30
Total	£4,050,000	920	6.8FE added
Additional expansion for 2012			
Convert Town Hall for use by Claycots Primary Sch	£1,500,000	360	60
Expand 2 further primary schools	£1,600,000	180	60
Complete expansion of Priory School (phase 2)	£850,000	120	n/a
Total	£4,100,000	660	4FE to be added

5.5 The following table shows the growth in the number of reception classes available in Slough schools (including academies). It also shows the forecasts for demand expected over the next 4 years and the number of new forms of entry that would be required to address the demand and create a small surplus for in year growth.

		Demand	Availability	Bulge classes	Growth required
Previous years	Jan-07	52	54		
	Jan-08	54	56		
	Jan-09	56	56		
	Jan-10	61	59	2	
	Jan-11	65	65	2	
CURRENT	Sep-11	72	72		
Future years – forecasts	Jan-13	75	76*		
	Jan-14	77	76		1FE
	Jan-15	78	76		2FE

* assumes Town Hall conversion goes ahead and 2 further schools agree to expand as planned

5.6 It should be noted that LA forecasts have proven to be accurate and demand continues to rise in line with the forecasts provided to members over the last 3 years. It should be noted that where single figures (rather than a range) are provided they have tended to underestimate demand as actual figures continue to be at the top end of expected ranges.

5.7 Demand for places is monitored through the School Admissions Team. Information on the demand for places is presented to the School Organisation Group (SOG) and SOG considers which schools should be expanded to meet the demand. SOG agrees a priority list and this is reviewed regularly to ensure that the list takes account of the most recent data.

(b) Secondary School Places

5.8 The number of applications for year 7 places for September 2011 from Slough residents was 1591 compared to 1582 for the previous year. All 1591 Slough resident parents who applied for a place received an offer on 1st March 2011. The proportion receiving their first preference (46%) was low by national standards because Slough is a fully selective area and many parents use their first preference to apply to a grammar school but many children are not successful reaching the qualifying mark in the test. Overall 93% were offered one of their preferred schools. Where none of their preferred schools could be offered, applicants received an offer at the nearest school with vacancies. There are still vacancies at schools in neighbouring boroughs for September 2011, such as Churchmead, Desborough and Burnham Upper.

5.9 For other secondary year groups (8-11) the position changes each month due to movement of families in and out of Slough and the highest demand tends to be at the beginning of the school year. There are currently no places available in Slough schools and Slough Borough Council is relying on places being available in neighbouring boroughs to place Slough residents. This includes Churchmead, Burnham Upper and Desborough. Details of the most up to date figures on the demand and supply of places in other year groups for newly arrived pupils, will be available for the Scrutiny Panel meeting, after the next secondary schools admissions panel, which meets on the 21st November.

5.10 There will be a significant increase in the demand for secondary school places as the large cohorts from the primary sector begin to transfer to secondary schools from September 2014 onwards. Slough's school place planning assumes that pupils will continue to use the surpluses available in out-of-borough schools, although growth in demand in Windsor and Maidenhead suggests that eventually fewer Slough pupils than at present will secure a place in their schools.

There are a number of options for creating the capacity needed in Slough, these include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Expand existing schools - | This option has worked well in the primary sector. If new schools can't be built then every secondary school would need to expand to meet the forecast in demand. Expanding grammar schools require careful consideration of admission arrangements to avoid funding places for out of borough pupils. |
| Build new schools - | Possible sites are limited, although we will continue to explore options as they arise. This would include new Free Schools or academies in or near to Slough as these would be funded by central government. |
| Alternative models - | This might include turning primary schools into all-through schools, or building a post-16 facility on another site to free up space in existing |

schools. All options will be explored particularly where they offer good value for creating school places.

5.11 Discussions with secondary Headteachers have been taking place this term to look at options and to decide how schools should be prioritised for expansion. The process has involved all secondary schools, including Academies, so that expansion is progressed in a co-ordinated way. At the meeting it was agreed to start early discussions with one secondary school to explore the possibility of the school increasing its admission number by 45 places. This school would provide places that were accessible to Slough pupils. As discussions have yet to be held with the governing body of the school it is not appropriate to name the school in this report. This would be the first expansion and further expansion plans will need to be considered and agreed in order to provide the 500+ new year 7 places required by 2017/18.

6 **The James Review**

Following the publication of the James Review earlier this year a consultation ran from July to October seeking views on the government's proposals. The key proposals are:

- the DfE will collect information on the building condition of the education estate, and will hold robust data on where additional school places are needed;
- the capital funding available should be used efficiently, allocated by a funding formula that addresses greatest need;
- there should be flexibility in how best to deploy the available funding locally, with partners working together strategically to agree priorities;
- there will be benefits from using a more centralised approach for procurement and building project delivery;
- the DfE will provide a set of standardised designs for school buildings;
- the DfE will review and consolidate the school premises regulations.

7 **Comments of Other Committees**

There are no comments from other committees

8 **Conclusion**

This report provides information on the current demand for primary and secondary school places, forecasts for future demand and steps being taken to meet this demand. It is recommended that members note the plans to meet the additional demand for school places and also that these plans will be reviewed regularly to take into account the latest information on new arrivals.

9 **Background Papers**

None

This page is intentionally left blank

EDUCATION AND CHILDRENS SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12

Draft report deadline	Final report deadline	Agenda dispatch	Agenda item	Meeting date
4 th January 2012	11 th January 2012	13 th January 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children • Child Protection and the Rise in the Number of Looked After Children • Teenage Health – Progress and Current Issues • Strategy for the Adult Learning Service & Impact of Financial Climate on Learning Providers • Elective Home Education 	24 th January 2012
2 nd March 2012	9 th March 2012	13 th March 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Academies on Slough • Children's Social Care Complaints • Special Educational Needs and the Transition between Childhood and Adulthood • Post-16 Provision and Choices in Slough • Youth Offending Team – Performance Update 	22 nd March 2012

This page is intentionally left blank

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE RECORD
EDUCATION AND CHILDRENS SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL 2011-12

COUNCILLOR	MEETING DATES						
	09/06/2011	05/09/2011	12/10/2011	24/11/2011	24/01/2012	22/03/2012	
Abe	P	Ap	P				
Dar	P	P	P				
Davis	P	P	Ap				
PK Mann	Ap	P	Ap				
Minhas	P	P	P				
O'Connor	P	Ap	P				
Sharif	P	P	P				
Smith	P	P	P				
S Wright	Ab	P	Ab				

P = Present for whole meeting
 Ap = Apologies given

P* = Present for part of meeting
 Ab = Absent; no apologies given

This page is intentionally left blank