

Date of issue: Tuesday 18th October 2016

MEETING

**JOINT MEETING OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE AND EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S
SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**

(Councillors Anderson, Bedi, Brooker, Chahal, Chohan,
N Holledge, Mann, Morris, Nazir, Pantelic, Parmar,
Qaseem, Sadiq, A Sandhu, R Sandhu, Strutton and
Usmani)

Education Voting Co-opted Members

James Welsh (Catholic Diocese of Northampton)

Education Non-Voting Co-opted Members

Jo Rockall (Secondary school teacher representative)
Maggie Stacey (Head teacher representative)

DATE AND TIME:

WEDNESDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 2016 AT 6.30 PM

VENUE:

VENUS SUITE 2, ST MARTINS PLACE, 51 BATH
ROAD, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL1 3UF

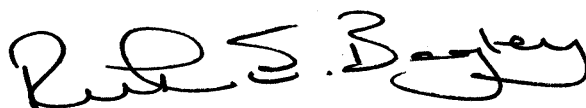
**SCRUTINY OFFICER:
(for all enquiries)**

DAVE GORDON

01753 875411

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

1. Election of Chair for the Joint Meeting
2. Declaration of Interest

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary or other Pecuniary or non pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 3 paragraphs 3.25 – 3.27 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 3.28 of the Code.

The Chair will ask Members to confirm that they do not have a declarable interest.

All Members making a declaration will be required to complete a Declaration of Interests at Meetings form detailing the nature of their interest.

SCRUTINY ISSUES

3. Member Questions

(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. Update from Slough Children's Services Trust 1 - 4

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. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

The Council allows the filming, recording and photographing at its meetings that are open to the public. Anyone proposing to film, record or take photographs of a meeting is requested to advise the Democratic Services Officer before the start of the meeting. Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the meeting room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non hand held devices, including tripods, will not be allowed unless this has been discussed with the Democratic Services Officer.

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Joint Meeting of Overview & Scrutiny Committee
and Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 26th October 2016

CONTACT OFFICER: Jo Moxon (Interim Director of Children's Services) &
Nicola Clemo (Chief Executive Slough Children's Services Trust)

(For all enquiries) (01753) 87 5751 & (01753) 47 7218

WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION

FIRST YEAR PROGRESS UPDATE FROM SLOUGH CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRUST)

1 **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update Members on the first year progress of the achievements of Slough Children's Services Trust (SCST) in delivering outcomes for Slough's children, young people and families against the backdrop of the agreed Improvement Plan and collaborative working with Slough Borough Council (SBC) and other partners.
- 1.2 To provide an opportunity for Members to consider how the Council can best support this work.

2 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee / Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Panel:
- a) note the progress made by SCST in its first year of operations
 - b) discuss the opportunities for how the Council's services can further support the most vulnerable children in the Borough.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Priorities:

- Safer Communities
 - Carrying out the statutory role of the local authority to provide services for children in need, to safeguard them and look after children whose parents are unable to do so.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Outcome 5: Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances

The establishment of the SCST aims to make Slough children's services one of the best providers of children's social care in the country, providing timely, purposeful support that brings safe, lasting and positive change.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications specific to the recommendations in this report.

(b) Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this report.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

In September 2015, the Secretary of State issued a Direction transferring various children's services to Slough Children's Services Trust ("the Trust"). Although the Trust discharges functions on behalf of Slough Borough Council, the Council retains all its legal obligations for the statutory duties.

On 30 September 2015, the Council entered into a contract with the Trust governing the provision of services by the Trust. The Trust went 'live' on 1st October and staff were brought together on 5th October. The contract with the Trust sets out how the relationship between the Trust and the Council should operate in the best interests of securing high quality services for the most vulnerable children and young people in Slough.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for the completion of an EIA in relation to this report.

5 **Background**

5.1 The Trust was established following successive poor Ofsted reports on Slough's Children's Services. This is only the second such Trust in the country.

5.2 The Trust assumed responsibility for children's services on Thursday 1 October and launched a "Vision for the future of Children's Services" on Monday 5 October, the same day staff moved into the new accommodation in St Martins Place. Following the Trust's commissioning of a benchmarking audit by independent social care specialists an Improvement Plan was developed by SCST. Ofsted re-inspected in November 2015 when the Trust had only been in place for 7 weeks. Ofsted again found the services to be inadequate and the Council and Trust have jointly prepared an Improvement Plan. The Improvement Plan follows the themes already established as the Trust's Improvement themes:

- Improving Quality
- Improving Learning
- Improving Information
- Improving Workforce

- 5.2 The partnership between SBC and SCST is underpinned by a formal Service Delivery Contract (SDC), dated 30 September 2015 which includes, inter alia, schedules relating to: services in scope; Council responsibilities and dependencies; and performance framework.
- 5.3 Governance arrangements include scheduled Partnership Boards and a Joint Improvement Board. These forums provide an opportunity to exchange information and views in a collaborative way and in the context of the Trust's and the Council's progress in delivering on the Improvement Plan. At the time of drafting this report, a meeting of the Joint Improvement Board is scheduled for 17 October 2016.
- 5.4 The creation of a Head of Children's Partnerships (HoCP) post within SBC supports the partnership arrangement between SBC and the Trust. This post reports to the statutory post of Director of Children's Service (DCS) and was agreed amongst all stakeholders. The HoCP commenced in post on 26 September 2016. Members will also wish to know that a Head of Education Services post was recently created and filled. This post also reports to the statutory DCS. Overall, these appointments further underline the commitment of all parties to deliver joined-up sustainable improvements in outcomes at pace for Slough's residents across the *full remit* of Children's Services.

6 **Summary of First Year Progress (Separate Report to Follow)**

- 6.1 The Trust has prepared a report about its first year containing full information about successes and challenges which will provide Members with data and accompanying narrative. The Scrutiny Committee will receive a presentation summarising the key points from the Chief Executive of the Trust. This will create an opportunity for Members to debate and consider the outcomes of the Trust's establishment. Members will be provided with the Annual Report by the Trust prior to the meeting.

7 **Background Papers**

None.

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