

Date of issue: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**MEETING**

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
SCRUTINY PANEL**

(Councillors Brooker (Chair), Kelly (Vice Chair),  
Anderson, Carter, Chahal, Chohan, N Holledge, Pantelic  
and Qaseem)

**Education Non-Voting Co-opted Members**

Mercedes Hernandez Estrada (Secondary School  
Representative)  
Maggie Stacey (Head Teacher Representative)

**Non-Voting Co-opted Members**

Hamzah Ahmed (Slough Youth Parliament)

**DATE AND TIME:**

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2017 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.



**ROGER PARKIN**  
Interim Chief Executive

**AGENDA**

**PART 1**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM**

**REPORT TITLE**

**PAGE**

**WARD**

1. 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.*

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th October 2017 1 - 6

3. Action Progress Report 7 - 8

**SCRUTINY ISSUES**

4. 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).*

5. Elective Home Education 9 - 14

6. Joint Parenting Panel Quarterly Update 15 - 26

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7. Forward Work Programme 27 - 30

8. Attendance Record 31 - 32

9. Date of Next Meeting - 8th February 2018

**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. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings. 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.

**Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Wednesday, 25th October, 2017.**

**Present:-** Councillors Brooker (Chair), Anderson (from 6.38pm), Carter, Chahal and Qaseem

**Education Non-Voting Co-opted Members**

Mercedes Hernandez Estrada – Secondary School Teacher Representative

**Non-Voting Co-opted Members**

Hamzah Ahmed – Slough Youth Parliament

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors Kelly, Chohan and N Holledge

**PART 1**

**12. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Brooker declared his positions as Governor at Churchmead and Ryvers Schools. He also declared his membership of Slough Borough Council's (SBC) Foster Panel.

Hamzah Ahmed declared his membership of the Local Safeguarding Panel and his position as Governor at Cippenham Primary School.

**13. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th July 2018**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

**14. Action Progress Report**

**Resolved:** That the Action Progress Report be noted.

**15. Member Questions**

The responses to the members' questions were circulated to the Panel.

**Resolved:** That the responses be noted.

**16. Children's Social Care Ofsted 3rd Monitoring Visit**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Monitoring Visit took place in mid-June 2017, and had identified some improvements in the provision made by Slough Children's Services Trust (SCST). The cases examined by the Ofsted team had not identified any children who could be classified as 'at risk', whilst the appointment of a Senior Leadership Team who were all permanent staff had created a more stable environment.

## Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel - 25.10.17

(At this point, Cllr Anderson joined the meeting).

There had also been evidence that the 'Signs of Safety' methodology was delivering benefits. However, it was recognised that the hub model of social work delivery and the related weekly conversations required more managerial oversight. Whilst SCST's actions were improving, the recording of this information still needed to improve. In addition, SCST was investigating its use of Public Law Outline and whether this should be increased. The working relationship between SBC and SCST was also noted as a positive.

The Panel raised the following points in discussion:

- Since the letter had been published, SCST had focused on its use of Public Law Outline and making managerial oversight more robust. As part of this, a manager had recently been appointed and was conducting masterclasses (with a particular focus on planning to ensure children were placed in permanent care settings). The culture of management was also changing to ensure closer working with families where appropriate.
- The Director of Children's Services from Essex County Council would be visiting SCST in October 2017 to investigate the use of Public Law Outline and offer challenge on SCST's approach. The individual concerned had been selected as they were seen as a national leader in the area.
- External training was being provided by two trainers on private fostering as well as other areas.
- At present, some conversations were not being recorded in sufficient depth. However, audits had noted that record keeping was improving; SCST's first file check had highlighted that 50% of case files were inadequate, a figure that now stood at 18.8% (with 3 files rated as 'outstanding'). To continue this trend, SCST were encouraging social workers to describe the more abstract elements of children's experiences.
- Members would be discussing the 4<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Visit on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017. This would be with a view to having improvements which could be proved with evidence, rather than assurances from management.
- The main challenge remaining from staff inherited by SCST was confidence. This manifested itself from an unwillingness to challenge the views of others involved in the process. Training would be central to improving this; however, the number of issues relating to capability had reduced significantly.
- The team was also expanding the disciplines covered by its staff (e.g. speech / language therapy).
- Early Intervention Hubs involved family support workers as well as social workers. These had been a significant focus for improvement efforts, and were aimed at children who were close to being taken into care. Events such as family group conferences were organised to intercept cases before they deteriorated and offer appropriate support.
- Re-referral rates were not currently an issue. However, the reasons for the ending of child protection plans needed to be clearly documented.

## **Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel - 25.10.17**

- Upon taking over the service, SCST had placed 100 children on protection plans in the first 6 months as the numbers of plans had fallen significantly prior to the Trust going live. However, the number of plans had risen as SCST appraised new cases. SCST was confident that it could justify why any individual in its care was on a plan. Given that Ofsted had not identified any children not on a plan as 'at risk', this suggested that decision making was of a good standard.
- In cases where modern slavery may be an issue, SCST was obliged to investigate the matter. This was a labour intensive responsibility.

**Resolved:** That an item on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Visit be added to the agenda for 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

### **17. Five Year Plan - Outcome 1 Group Progress Report**

The report covered the key action entitled "ensure children and young people are supported to be safe, secure and successful" and outlined the relevant metrics. The number of children on protection plans was below national and local averages, with neglect being the main category. However, it should be noted that the number here was not a KPI as such, as being above or below the average could be justifiable (or in error) depending on the local situation.

The Early Help Strategy was designed to offer support as soon as an issue emerged. As part of this, the Early Help Board had held its inaugural meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017, and had drafted the strategy as included in the agenda papers. A Task & Finish Group had also been set up to start on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017, which would work at an operational level on the strategy. This would help ensure that the early help offer would be relevant and clear for those involved.

The Local Area Collaboratives were created to bring key partners together. This included diverse bodies such as schools, police, the housing service, the voluntary sector and health professionals. By using these existing personnel and resources, solutions tailored to local and individual needs would be designed.

The Panel raised the following points in discussion:

- Neglect was measured using a range of criteria used by the Child Protection Conference. Social workers would present a report, with other professionals then examining the issues raised. This would range from elementary checks such as whether the fridge contained food, to more nebulous discussions over the environment in which the child was being raised. The only areas being examined in such discussions were the parents, carers involved and care being paid to the child.
- The Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service could often have long waiting times for its services. As a result, these would be circulated to members (although it should be borne in mind that CAMHS was a multi-faceted service and figures relating to it should be analysed with due care to this).

## **Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel - 25.10.17**

- Slough's percentage of children not in education, employment or training ran below national and local averages.

### **Resolved:**

1. That the Panel receive information regarding average waiting times for the CAMHS service.
2. That the Panel receive a copy of the 'Little Book of Sunshine'.
3. That the Panel receive a definition of 'rapid response' in the context of Children's Services.

## **18. Section 11 Audits**

The Children Act 2004 stipulates that all organisations that deal with children must promote and safeguard their welfare. This was to be done in a manner which would satisfy the 8 standards outlined in the Act. The audits discussed in the report were to ensure that all services of their safeguarding role (even if they were not dealing directly with children). They also applied to outsourced services.

The audits had been refreshed in February 2017. There had also been the creation of a Corporate 'Champions' Group to raise staff awareness at all levels. June 2017 had seen Slough's progress discussed at the Audit Committee of the Pan-Berkshire Safeguarding Children's Board; progress was noted, although some challenge was offered regarding the provision of evidence for the quality of work taking place. This matter was now being raised with the Corporate 'Champions' Group.

Safeguarding training had been held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017; initial feedback had suggested that this had been well received. In addition, SBC had recently filled posts focusing on safeguarding and the Prevent agenda. SBC had identified areas for action:

- Robust induction and safeguarding training for volunteers.
- Robust procurement procedures for suppliers, ensuring that safeguarding issues are covered.
- Recruitment policies needed to reinforce the culture of safeguarding across SBC.

The Panel raised the following points in discussion:

- Champions were responsible for ensuring that safeguarding was promoted within their service area. There was confidence that this matter was understood, although the exact language of Section 11 may not be so well publicised.
- Whilst work was ongoing and it was understood that awareness could be raised. However, the following initiatives had boosted the issue's profile:
  - Neighbourhood Teams had introduced cue cards to assist them in tenant liaison and making decisions on escalating concerns.
  - Safeguarding training had been given to taxi drivers.

## **Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel - 25.10.17**

- Staff of the new Repairs, Maintenance and Investment service provider had received relevant training. Meanwhile, those due to return to SBC when Environmental Services came back in house on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 would also receive training.

**Resolved:** That the update be noted.

### **19. Childhood Obesity - Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme**

The Panel raised the following points in discussion:

- The Panel requested an update on the progress made on the recommendations made by the 2014 Childhood Obesity Report.
- Members raised concerns over the national picture, where some professionals had speculated that this generation of children could be the first with shorter life expectancy than their parents. Concerns that not enough was being done at a local level were also expressed.
- Despite the concerns officers had that the KPIs on childhood obesity were likely to remain 'red' for the medium term future, the latest figures for under 5s had been rated as 'green'.
- 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 would see a meeting of all Chairs and Vice Chairs of the 4 scrutiny panels. This could be used to co-ordinate activity between the Panel and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee if appropriate.

**Resolved:** That the Panel receive an update on the progress made on the recommendations of the 2014 Childhood Obesity Report.

### **20. Forward Work Programme**

Members would be supplied with the dates of potential meetings with head teachers once these had been identified.

**Resolved:** That the Work Programme be noted.

### **21. Attendance Record**

**Resolved:** That the attendance record be noted.

### **22. Date of Next Meeting - 7th December 2017**

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.32 pm and closed at 7.46 pm)

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**Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel – Actions Arising**

**25<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

<b>Minute:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Report Back To: Date:</b>
17	<b>Resolved:</b> 1. That the Panel receive information regarding average waiting times for the CAMHS service.	Slough Children’s Services Trust	ECS Scrutiny Panel 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
17	2. That the Panel receive a copy of the ‘Little Book of Sunshine’.	Slough Children’s Services Trust	ECS Scrutiny Panel 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
17	3. That the Panel receive a definition of ‘rapid response’ in the context of Children’s Services.	Slough Children’s Services Trust	ECS Scrutiny Panel 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
19	<b>Resolved:</b> That the Panel receive an update on the progress made on the recommendations of the 2014 Childhood Obesity Report.	Scrutiny Officer	ECS Scrutiny Panel 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2017

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel

**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Cate Duffy - Director of Children, Learning and Skills  
Tony Browne - Service Lead, Access & Inclusion

**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 875750 & (01753) 875717

**WARD(S):** All

**PART I**

**FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

**ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION**

1. **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of the report is to provide information on the current procedures used to monitor children educated at home in Slough and to provide details of national policy developments.

2. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that members note the legal context within which the service operates and the current procedures for monitoring home education.

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities applicable to this report**

1. Protecting vulnerable children

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes applicable to this report**

Outcome 1 – Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

For 2017/18 it is estimated that the cost of providing the service outlined below will be £42000. This is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and it is planned that funding will continue at this level in 2018/19, subject to changes in legislation and/or the number of pupils educated at home.

(b) **Risk Management**

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation
The Council continues to follow the current procedures	The risks are as follows:  The LA is not aware of pupils educated at home.	There will be some pupils educated at home who

	<p>Pupils educated at home do not receive a suitable education.</p> <p>Parents refuse to allow annual visits.</p> <p>Annual visits are not completed on time</p>	<p>have not attended school and the LA may not be aware of these pupils. This risk cannot be reduced unless parents are required to register to home educate</p> <p>Annual visits are undertaken if parents give consent.</p> <p>The LA supports and advises parents in a constructive way to reduce the likelihood of them refusing an annual visit. Parents unwilling to consent to a home visit are asked to provide information about the education being provided.</p> <p>The LA commissions a school to carry out the visits. Performance is monitored. If there is an increase in the number of pupils educated at home, visits may be less frequent. The contract to provide the visits is reviewed annually according to the number of home educated pupils</p>
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(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications. There is no legal requirement for parents to register with LAs if they choose to home educate and the LA cannot require parents to co-operate with annual visits.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

None required.

(e) Workforce

There are no workforce implications relating to this report.

## 5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 Parents and carers have a duty to provide an education for their children but there is no requirement for this to take place in school, therefore parents do have the option to provide education at home if they wish. There are currently 121 children known to be home educated in Slough.
- 5.2 There is no national compulsory registration system, so there will be some families home educating who are not known to the LA.
- 5.3 If parents contact the LA about home educating they are given advice about the implications of this in terms of their responsibilities. If their child is on roll at school they must advise the school in writing before home educating. Their details are then added to the LA's home education database.
- 5.4 Each pupil known to be home educated is offered an annual monitoring visit. The LA has no legal power to insist on a visit and relies on parents to co-operate. Two members of staff visit and at least one is a qualified teacher. The visits are undertaken by Littledown School staff. The LA has a service level agreement with the school and staff complete a report following each visit. The LA reviews the reports and decides on the next steps. In most cases the education provided is satisfactory and no further action is taken. Some parents require additional support and advice. In a minority of cases there is no education being provided and steps are taken to return the pupil to school.
- 5.5 Details of the pupils known to be home educated are below

Number of pupils known to be home educated	121 (65 primary & 56 secondary)
Vulnerable children	3 pupils – active social care involvement 3 pupils – active early help involvement 6 pupils – EHC plan
RAG rating in terms of education provided	Red 6 Amber 11 Green 69 Not yet assessed 35 (mainly new additions to the database)
Gender	Male - 62 Female - 59

Year Group	Number pupils
Under 5's	6
Yr 1	7
Yr 2	4
Yr 3	14
Yr 4	8
Yr 5	9
Yr 6	17
Yr 7	10
Yr 8	12
Yr 9	12
Yr 10	8
Yr 11	14
Total	121

5.6 The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) completed a survey of LAs in October 2017. A summary of the findings are in Appendix 1 below. The ADCS recommends a registration system is introduced to ensure that LAs are aware of the pupils who are home educated in their area and that LAs have the powers to monitor the education being provided.

5.7 A private members bill sponsored by Lord Soley and known as the Home Education (Duty of Local Authorities) Bill, is due to have its second reading in the House of Lords in late November. A third reading would follow and then it would move to the House of Commons. The bill would give Local Authorities powers to monitor home education and parents would be required to register if they intended to home educate. The DfE are considering issuing new guidance to LAs on home education.

## 6. **Comments of Other Committees**

6.1 There are no comments from other committees

## 7. **Conclusion**

7.1 The LA provides information, advice and guidance to parents who are home educating or considering home education. Once parents have made the decision to home educate the LA monitors how the education is provided as far as possible within the current guidance and regulations. There are proposals to tighten the regulations in a private members bill but this is in its early stages.

## 8. **Appendices Attached**

'A' - Summary Analysis of the ADCS Elective Home Education Survey October 2017

## 9. **Background Papers**

Home Education (Duty of local Authorities) Bill 2017-19

## Summary Analysis of the ADCS Elective Home Education Survey October 2017

### Executive summary

In October 2017, the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) issued a survey to all 152 local authorities (LAs) in England to understand better the volume and characteristics of the cohort of children and young people who are known to be home schooled and the support on offer to them and their families. Headline findings from this exercise, include:

- 118 responding LAs recorded a total of 35,487 children and young people known to be home schooled in their localities on school census day, Thursday 5 October 2017. It could be inferred that approximately 45,500 children and young people were being home schooled in England.
- 92% of respondents reported year-on-year increases in the number of children and young people being home schooled.
- Overall, slightly more males are known to be home schooled than females up to the end of key stage three, however, this trend reverses in key stages four and five where there are more females than males known to be home schooled. Overall, there is a significant jump in the number of children being home schooled between key stages one and two.
- This cohort of children and young people is extremely fluid with the aggregated results of this survey suggesting between 35,819 and 49,154 were home schooled at some point in 2016/17, an in-year variation of 37%.
- The majority of respondents reported over 80% of their known cohort had previously attended school, with general dissatisfaction with school being the most commonly cited reason for families choosing to home school.
- 92% of respondents reported 0 – 10% of their known home schooling population had special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- 37% of respondents reported they were aware of children in their area who were home schooled yet attending unregistered schools or tuition centres. Serious concerns about the quality of education on offer and the safety and welfare of attendees were reported.
- Whilst the majority of home schooling families engage with their local authority and take up the offer of visits, respondents reported a small number of families refuse to meet or to share evidence of the education provided at home in different ways e.g. via samples of work or report from a tutor.
- 65% of respondents reported having one or fewer full time equivalent staff to coordinate and monitor home schooling provision in their locality.

Commentary provided by LA staff highlighted concerns about the growth in numbers of children and families choosing to home school, many noted the absence of a registration requirement hinders the fulfilment of LA's statutory duties to identify children who are not receiving a suitable full-time education and to safeguard them. The growing complexity of this cohort's needs, links with unregistered schools and apparent breakdowns in the relationship between schools and families were also raised as issues multiple times. LA staff recognised that home schooling experiences can be suitable and nurturing, however, concerns arise when the education provided is not suited to the child's aptitude and ability or where the choice to educate at home is a further component of abuse and neglect. When the LA is denied the opportunity to see and speak to a child this is when the greatest concerns arise.

ADCS believes parents and carers who opt to electively home educate should register with the LA and LAs should be resourced to establish systems and safeguards to assure themselves that children and young people who are home schooled are receiving a good standard of education, delivered in a suitable learning environment, and that they are safe. These conclusions were first drawn in the Badman review of elective home education in England in June 2009; ADCS members firmly believe that many of Badman's recommendations remain pertinent to this day and should be adopted.



**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Cate Duffy – Director of Children, Learning and Skills  
Rodney D'Costa – Service Lead Children's Commissioning,  
Partnership & Performance

**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 875751& (01753) 787649

**WARD(S):** All

**PART I**  
**FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

**JOINT PARENTING PANEL QUARTERLY UPDATE**1. **Purpose of Report**

This report provides Members with an update on the work of the Joint Parenting Panel (JPP). As this is the first such (quarterly) report under the JPP's refreshed Terms of Reference, the review covers the period from April 2017 to date. Subsequent reports to Members will cover a quarterly update of the JPP, scheduled to fit in with the cycle of meetings for this scrutiny panel. See Appendix A for the draft JPP Terms of Reference – this is subject to confirmation by JPP at its meeting on 13 December 2017.

2. **Recommendations**

- a) That Members note and comment as appropriate on the report; and
- b) That Members consider any specific topics they wish to be included in the usual quarterly update on JPP work.

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities applicable to this report**

Priority 1 – Protecting vulnerable children

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes applicable to this report**

Outcome 1 – Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives.

4. **Other Implications**(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications relating to this report.

(b) **Risk Management**

The role of the JPP is to scrutinise the work of partners in the discharge of their corporate parenting role. This work is already contained within the service planning and risk management framework of the relevant Council Directorates

and other agencies and there are no direct risk management matters relating to this report.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications relating to this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

None required.

(e) Workforce

There are no workforce implications relating to this report.

5. **Supporting Information**

**Context for Corporate Parenting in Slough**

5.1 As this is the first JPP update to committee, Members will wish to be informed of the context for corporate parenting. This includes the Terms of Reference for the JPP, the joint Corporate Parenting Strategy (and related Action Plan); Joint Care Leavers Strategy 2017; and the Joint Pledge to our Children Looked After. All these come under the remit of the JPP and are discussed in the following paragraphs.

5.2 The draft **Terms of Reference** (Appendix A refers) state that the JPP is a private meeting of Slough Borough Council (SBC), and is the primary vehicle for councillors and Non – Executive Directors of Slough Children’s Services Trust (SCST) to demonstrate their commitment to deliver better outcomes for children and young people in care and care leavers. The JPP is therefore a key mechanism for ensuring that services meet the needs of children looked after and care leavers, discharging this function through scrutiny of officers and their work, engaging with children and young people (“Voice of the Child”) as well as through a programme of annual visits to children’s homes / establishments. In short, corporate parenting and the JPP is about all officers and members / appointed officials across the council and partner agencies championing the cause of children looked after and care leavers in Slough *as if they are our own children*.

The Terms of Reference have been refreshed and are subject to confirmation by JPP at its meeting on 13 December 2017.

5.3 Slough’s joint **Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-18** outlines the values, principles and key priorities to support children and young people who are looked after by Slough Borough Council / Slough Children’s Services Trust. The strategy contains six priorities as below.

Our children looked after and care leavers will be:

1. supported by strong and effective corporate parenting
2. enabled to reach their educational attainment
3. encouraged to keep safe
4. encouraged to develop positive relationships
5. respected and engaged in planning for their future, and supported as they move into adulthood
6. supported to have good health and wellbeing

There is a related detailed Action Plan against the above six priorities. Officers are currently reviewing the Action Plan for progress and an update will be given to this committee as part of the quarterly update on JPP work.

- 5.4 The **Joint Care Leavers Strategy 2017** is about setting out what care leavers can expect whilst in our care and after, to ensure that they have the same life chances as their peers, whether living in Slough or outside the Borough. In relation to care leavers, the strategy therefore articulates Priorities (what Slough will do), How? (it will be done); and a detailed Delivery Plan so that there is an objective measure of progress.
- 5.5 The joint **Pledge to our Children in Care** sets out 19 promises to Slough’s children looked after.

**2017/18 Cycle of JPP Meetings**

- 5.6 The agenda for JPP meetings is constructed around “themes”. The following Table sets out the JPP meetings held to date in this financial year, summarising the key points and the impact on outcomes for children and young people.

It should be noted that meetings of the JPP are private and therefore agenda papers are not in the public domain.

<b>JPP Meeting</b>	<b>Thematic Discussion</b>	<b>Impact on Outcomes</b>
22 June 2017	Corporate Parenting Strategy, Priority 4: Our Looked After Children and Young People will be encouraged to develop positive relationships	<p>The report covered a number of examples with a positive impact on children and young people, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• initiatives that resulted in increased stability of social workers allocated to children, thus promoting stability in relationships</li> <li>• development of a participation strategy so that the voice of the child is heard and can influence / shape service delivery</li> <li>• commissioning independent advocacy and visiting services so that all children who require this receive support</li> <li>• revised complaints procedure to make this more accessible and responsive to the needs of children and young people and so that learning from complaints is</li> </ul>

JPP Meeting	Thematic Discussion	Impact on Outcomes
		<p>embedded as part of the quality assurance framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of the Reach Out! Helpline so that children and young people can speak to a trusted person about anything that might be of concern, even at evenings and weekends</li> </ul>
27 July 2017	Education, Employment and Training (EET) Strategy for Children Looked After / Care Leavers	<p>The EET Strategy aims to deliver the following outcomes to children and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure you have access to the best possible education, training and job opportunities</li> <li>• Support you to attend and achieve your potential whether at school / college, university in training or work</li> <li>• Support you to make a successful transition into adult life</li> <li>• Place your voice at the centre of what we do</li> </ul>
11 September 2017	Corporate Parenting Strategy , Priorities 3: Children in care will be encouraged to keep safe	<p>JPP received a detailed report outlining initiatives which had the following impact on outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and families receive early help and provision of support services when needed –avoiding the need for children’s social care intervention</li> <li>• Children and young people are proactively supported to remain at home and only those that need to be looked after enter care</li> <li>• Children and young people are supported to remain in the family</li> </ul>

JPP Meeting	Thematic Discussion	Impact on Outcomes
		home and prevented from coming into care, where care is required; this is for the shortest time based on individual needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The voice of the child is clear and transparent in all assessment work</li> <li>• Children In Need (CIN) and care planning is effective for children</li> </ul>
5 October 2017 (workshop)	JPP Balanced Scorecard	The key output from the workshop was consensus amongst JPP on a balanced scorecard with quantitative and qualitative measures that reported on progress against the corporate parenting strategy priorities, children’s social care performance framework and the voice of the child
<p><b>Other:</b> Ofsted conducted a Monitoring Visit (MV) of SCST on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21 September 2017. The MV focussed on children in care. As part of the formal feedback, Inspectors commented on the JPP as follows “The engagement of the joint parenting panel with children looked after has improved markedly since the inspection. Using a themed approach, the panel routinely considers progress against the promises to children looked after that are contained within their ‘Pledge’. Involvement of partners is good. Children in the ‘Reach out!’ group have not always enjoyed the format of the joint parenting panel. In response, members of the panel have worked with children to develop a children’s scrutiny committee. The committee, which will be chaired by children and participation workers, is due to be launched in October 2017. Children are excited about this new development”.</p>		

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

6.1 None.

7. **Conclusion**

7.1 Members are invited to note and comment on this update of the JPP. The report sets out the context for the work of the JPP and key points from the 2017 /18 cycle of meetings and other events to date, noting what this means for outcomes for Slough’s children and young people.

8. **Appendices Attached**

A – Draft Terms of Reference, Joint Parenting Panel

## 9. **Background Papers**

Note: meetings of the JPP are private and therefore agenda papers are not in the public domain.

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-18

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/downloads/Corporate-Parenting-Strategy-16-18.pdf>

Joint Care Leavers Strategy 2017

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/downloads/Joint-care-leavers-strategy.pdf>

Pledge to our Children in Care

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/downloads/Pledge-to-children-in-care.pdf>

Ofsted Monitoring Visit

[https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local\\_authority\\_reports/slough/056\\_Monitoring%20visit%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20as%20pdf.pdf](https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/slough/056_Monitoring%20visit%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20as%20pdf.pdf)

## **Joint Parenting Panel**

### **Slough Borough Council & Slough Children's Services Trust**

#### **Terms of Reference 2017/18**

#### **1. Purpose of the Joint Parenting Panel**

- 1.1 The Joint Parenting Panel (JPP) is a private meeting of Slough Borough Council (SBC), and is the primary vehicle for the council's councillors and Non – Executive Directors of Slough Children's Services Trust (SCST) to demonstrate their commitment to deliver better outcomes for children and young people in care and care leavers.
- 1.2 The Panel is a key mechanism by which both councillors and Non Executive Directors of SCST can ensure that services meet the needs of children and young people in care and care leavers.
- 1.3 In particular this includes:
- High quality care, nurturing supportive and meaningful relationships that encourage their growth of self-esteem, confidence and resilience; enabling young people to cope with change and difficult times
  - The highest standard of education which is consistent with the needs and abilities of the child
  - Opportunities and encouragement for self-development and keeping fit and healthy
  - Encouragement to take up hobbies, acquiring life skills and being a good citizen
  - Opportunities for education, employment and training, including open days and work placements, apprenticeships
  - Assistance with the transition from care to looking after themselves, including the provision of suitable accommodation.

#### **2. Responsibilities of the Joint Parenting Panel**

- 2.1 The Panel should:
- Provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting
  - Ensure that councillors and non-executive directors undertake their annual programme of visits to children's homes
  - Ensure that the needs of children and young people in care and their carers are prioritised and these are reflected in the pledge to slough's children in care
  - Receive regular reports on the level, range and quality of services provided to children and young people in care and care leavers, and identify areas for improvement

- Receive regular reports of key performance and quality indicators (as set out in the corporate parenting scorecard) relating to children and young people in care, and identify areas for improvement
- Engage with, and support the work of the reach out (children in care council) groups
- Listen to the views of children, young people and their carers and involve them in the assessment and development of services
- Champion the provision of dedicated, specialist council-based work placements and apprenticeships for young people in care
- Promote achievement and acknowledge the aspirations of children and young people in care by supporting celebration events and activity days
- Meet with Ofsted inspectors (where appropriate) for their input into inspections
- Encourage members to participate in the slough fostering panel
- Agree an annual work plan for the panel, based on the corporate parenting strategy priorities/pledge to looked after children
- Review membership of the panel and the impact that the panel has had on the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers
- Report formally to the education and children's services scrutiny panel and cabinet/council where appropriate.

### **3. Membership & operation of the Panel**

3.1 Membership will be reviewed annually as follows:

- (a) For the council by the relevant political groups, at the commencement of each municipal year.
- (b) SCST Board nominations to the Panel will be received annually at the commencement of each municipal year.

3.2 In order to avoid any potential conflicts of interests, the Chair of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel and the council's representatives on the SCST Board shall be prohibited from sitting on the Panel as a member.

#### **Chairing the Panel**

3.3 The Panel shall be co-chaired by the council's Cabinet member for children, education and families and a nominated Non-Executive Director of the SCST.

3.4 The Chair of the Panel shall alternate at each subsequent meeting, with an equal number of meetings chaired by the council's Cabinet member for children, education and families and the Non-Executive Director of the SCST.

3.5 Vice chairs shall be confirmed at the commencement of the municipal year, and must include one council member of the Panel, and one Non-Executive Director of the SCST.

#### **Voting Members**

3.6 The Panel will be made up of voting and non voting members.



3.7 The members of the Panel that can cast a vote on any matter shall be as follows:

- The council's Cabinet member for children, education and families, SBC (Co-Chair)
- Non Executive Director of SCST (Co-Chair)
- Six councillors, including the council's Vice Chair (\*All seven elected member appointments to the Panel will be made on a politically proportionate basis)
- One SCST non-executive director (SCST Vice Chair)

3.8 The quorum of the Panel shall be a minimum of three voting members of the Panel.

3.9 If a vote is called, and there are equal numbers of votes for and against, the relevant Chair will have a second or casting vote.

3.10 In the absence of the Chair, the relevant Vice-Chair shall preside over the meeting and will retain the Chair's casting vote.

#### Non voting members

3.11 Non voting members are required to attend all meetings, or to nominate a substitute in the event of their absence.

3.12 The non voting members of the Panel shall be as follows:

- The council's Director of Children, Learning and Skills
- Chief Executive, SCST
- Foster carer
- Reach Out! Group representative
- Housing representative
- Thames Valley Police representative
- LAC Nurse (BHFT) or designated Slough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) representative
- Virtual School Head  
The council's Service lead for Communities and Leisure

#### Meetings

3.13 The Panel will meet a minimum of four times a year.

3.14 Each meeting of the Panel will be based on one of the key themes within the Corporate Parenting Strategy (based on the Pledge), as agreed at the first meeting of each municipal year (see appendices 1 and 2).

#### Accountability/Governance

3.15 The Panel will provide a quarterly report to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel setting out work to deliver the Corporate Parenting Strategy. This report will be presented by the council's Chair of the Panel.

- 3.16 The Panel will provide an annual report on its work to deliver the Corporate Parenting Strategy to Cabinet and the council. The report will be presented by the councils Chair of the Panel.
- 3.17 The SCST Chair will present the annual report to the SCST Board.

### Administration

- 3.18 The agenda for each meeting shall be agreed by the Council's Director of Children, learning and Skills as part of the Panels ongoing Forward Work Plan for the municipal year.
- 3.19 Administrative support will be provided by the council's Democratic Services Division, who will arrange the meetings of the Panel; maintain its Forward Work Plan and publish its agendas. The agreed agenda will be despatched by Democratic Services, at least five working days in advance of the meeting.
- 3.20 An officer from the council's Democratic Services Division will be responsible for the minutes of the meeting and their subsequent circulation.
- 3.21 Attendance at meetings and access to the minutes will be restricted to members of the Panel and those listed under voting and non voting members, as set out above.
- 3.22 Requests from non-members to view the minutes will be considered based on the request fulfilling a valid 'need-to-know' requirement.
- 3.23 These terms of reference will be reviewed annually by the council's Director of Children, Learning and Skills and the Chief Executive of the SCST.
- 3.24 Any revisions must be endorsed by the Panel and the Member Panel on the Constitution Committee before being approved by full council.

### Appendix 1: Slough Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016 – 2018

#### Priorities

Slough's Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016 – 2018 includes six priorities, which are based on Our Pledge: our promises to our looked after children (see Appendix 2)

Our looked after children and young people will be:

- 1) Supported by strong and effective corporate parenting
- 2) Enabled to reach their educational attainment
- 3) Encouraged to keep safe
- 4) Encouraged to develop positive relationships
- 5) Respected and engaged in planning for their future, and supported as they move into adulthood
- 6) Supported to have good health and wellbeing

### Appendix 2: Our Pledge: our promises to our looked after children in Slough

- 1) We will make sure that social workers take the time to get to know and understand you. We will make sure that social workers are friendlier and listen to you more.
- 2) We will help you to have the same social worker for a long time.
- 3) We will make sure that foster carers treat you the same as their own children, so there is no favouritism and give you the care and love that you need.
- 4) We will make sure you have access to and are provided with the right advice and support to ensure you are physically and emotionally healthy.
- 5) We will help you have a healthy diet (one of your 5 a day) and make sure you have opportunities to take part in activities that will keep you healthy.
- 6) We will help you to stay where you are living in that is what you want.
- 7) We will help you to get the best educational outcomes and have a computer to help support you with your education.
- 8) We will make sure you have the opportunity to take part in activities and hobbies.
- 9) We will help you to keep in touch with your friends and receive the right information about staying over at your friend's house.
- 10) We will help you to be involved in the decisions that are made about you and any decisions and plans that are made about your future.
- 11) We will help you to be involved in choosing your placement and to know more about where you are moving to, including being able to visit any new carers before you move.
- 12) We will ensure you receive the best advice and support about applying for college and university, applying for a job and for your future career.
- 13) We will help and support you to learn about budgeting, how to cook, clean and other independent living skills.
- 14) We will support you to find a place to live, that is safe and secure and is suitable for your needs. We will ensure we plan ahead to make sure that, together, we find the right place for you, when you move on from care.
- 15) We want to support you to have contact with your family and friends. If this is not possible we will tell you why.
- 16) We will offer you the support of an advocate or independent visitor if you feel that you are not being supported. Sometimes you may find it difficult to say what you want and you may want some support to put your views forward.
- 17) We will listen if you have a complaint or would like to praise someone.
- 18) We will make sure you can speak to someone who you trust about anything you are worried about, even at evenings and weekends.
- 19) If we make a promise to you we will keep it.

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Dave Gordon – Scrutiny Officer  
**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 875411

**WARDS:** All

**PART I**  
**TO NOTE**

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**2017/18 WORK PROGRAMME**

1. **Purpose of Report**
  - 1.1 For the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel (ECS Scrutiny Panel) to discuss its current work programme.
2. **Recommendations/Proposed Action**
  - 2.1 That the Panel note the current work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year.
3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**
  - 3.1 The Council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities. The ECS Scrutiny Panel, along with the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and other Scrutiny Panels combine to meet the local authority's statutory requirement to provide public transparency and accountability, ensuring the best outcomes for the residents of Slough.
  - 3.2 The work of the ECS Scrutiny Panel also reflects the priorities of the Five Year Plan, in particular the following:
    - Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives

4. **Supporting Information**

4.1 The current work programme is based on the discussions of the ECS Scrutiny Panel at previous meetings, looking at requests for consideration of issues from officers and issues that have been brought to the attention of Members outside of the Panel's meetings.

4.2 The work programme is a flexible document which will be continually open to review throughout the municipal year.

5. **Conclusion**

5.1 This report is intended to provide the ECS Scrutiny Panel with the opportunity to review its upcoming work programme and make any amendments it feels are required.

6. **Appendices Attached**

A - Work Programme for 2017/18 Municipal Year

7. **Background Papers**

None.

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL****WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

Meeting Date
8 February 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slough Children's Services Trust – annual update</li> <li>• Ofsted – 4<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Visit</li> <li>• Annual Update on school standards and achievement</li> <li>• School Place Planning</li> <li>• 5 Year Plan – 'Enjoy and Achieve'</li> </ul>
14 March 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 – 19 provision and links to economic strategy</li> <li>• Quarterly report on the work of the Joint Parenting Panel</li> <li>• 5 Year Plan – 'Achieve Economic Wellbeing'</li> </ul>
18 April 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of school to school support in Slough— including the impact of Academy sponsorship</li> <li>• School Governance</li> <li>• Teacher Recruitment and Retention</li> </ul>

**To be programmed:**

- Progress with SEND reforms implementation
- Progress with 30 hours Early Years entitlement
- Quarterly updates on Joint Parenting Panel

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**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE RECORD**  
**EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL 2017 – 18**

COUNCILLOR	MEETING DATES						
	18/07/2017	25/10/2017	07/12/2017	08/02/2018	14/03/2018	18/04/2018	
Anderson	P	P*					
Brooker	P	P					
Carter	P	P					
Chahal	P	P					
Chohan	P	Ap					
N Hollledge	P	Ap					
Kelly	P	Ap					
Pantelic	P	Ab					
Qaseem	Ab	P					

P = Present for whole meeting      P\* = Present for part of meeting  
 Ap = Apologies given                Ab = Absent, no apologies given

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