

Date of issue: Monday 9th July 2018

MEETING	EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL (Councillors Brooker, N Holledge, Kelly, Matloob, Minhas, D Parmar, A Sandhu, Sharif and Strutton) <u>Education Non-Voting Co-opted Members</u> Mercedes Hernandez Estrada – Secondary School Representative <u>Non-Voting Co-opted Members</u> Alaa Fawaz – Slough Youth Parliament
DATE AND TIME:	TUESDAY, 17TH JULY, 2018 AT 6.30 PM
VENUE:	VENUS SUITE 2, ST MARTINS PLACE, 51 BATH ROAD, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE, SL1 3UF
SCRUTINY OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	DAVID 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.



NIGEL PALLACE
Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART 1

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

1. Declarations of Interest

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable



AGENDA
ITEM

REPORT TITLE

PAGE

WARD

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 4 paragraph 4.6 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed. 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. Election of Chair for 2018 - 19
3. Election of Vice Chair for 2018 - 19
4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th April 2018 1 - 6
5. Action Progress Report 7 - 8
6. 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).

SCRUTINY ISSUES

7. Joint Parenting Panel Quarterly Update 9 - 30
8. Children's Social Care - Verbal Update
9. Forward Work Programme 31 - 36

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

10. Date of Next Meeting - 24th October 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, 18th April, 2018.

Present:- Councillors Brooker (Chair), Kelly (Vice-Chair), Chahal (from 6.58pm), Arvind Dhaliwal, Matloob, Qaseem and Sharif

Education Non-Voting Co-opted Members

Mercedes Hernandez Estrada – Secondary School Representative

Apologies for Absence:- Cllr N Holledge

PART 1

54. Declarations of Interest

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

55. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2018

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2018 be approved as a correct record.

56. Action Progress Report

Resolved: That the Action Progress Report be noted.

57. Member Questions

The response to the written questions was circulated. Members were reminded that whilst academies may have post holders called Trustees or Directors, these were essentially the same as traditional Governor roles. In addition, Academy Trusts usually had a small number of Members who sat above these positions and focused on the wider strategic operation of Trusts. The matter was currently scheduled to be covered as an agenda item in 2018 – 19.

Resolved: That the response be noted.

58. School To School Support In Slough

The Slough Teaching School Alliance (STSA) had 3 member institutions, which were employed as hubs to create a sustainable support network. These schools had to meet nationally agreed criteria to be members, and then took on different strategic priorities to ensure the best possible coverage in the area. Given the size of Slough, this was a high number of accredited teaching schools and provided a solid base for improvement.

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The School Improvement Fund had also raised the profile of Slough schools; it was an innovative scheme, and SBC were unaware of any other authorities running such an initiative. The encouragement of joint bids to maximise available funding had also bolstered dialogue between institutions, whilst a head teacher had been seconded for 2 days a week to assist co-ordination between SBC and the STSA.

The Panel raised the following points in discussion:

- As well as the general positive feedback, SBC had been commended by the Regional Schools Commissioner for the School Improvement Fund. Recently, £49,500 had been dedicated to this to top up the existing funding. However, after this had been allocated then there would be no further money for the initiative under current plans.
- Bids were assessed on a range of established criteria and funding allocated accordingly. Visits to schools to talk to staff and students were also part of the process once projects were underway.
- Given the nature of the funding available under the School Improvement Fund, bids tended to be joint applications from a number of institutions. When funds had been awarded, updates on each project would be collected and circulated every half term, with a full report presented to SBC and the Regional Schools Commissioner once a term.
- Both the geography of the schools involved and the nature of the projects being funded (e.g. special educational needs, higher ability students, nursery children and GCSE candidates were amongst those who were the subject of funded initiatives) ensured that children across Slough were receiving the benefits of the School Improvement Fund. It was hoped that these successes would encourage a high number of bids for the new funding available.
- The School Improvement Board had held 2 meetings so far. The Board had been created to provide a strategic overview and conduct an Annual Risk Assessment. It was building on SBC's established relationships with academies across Slough, and was receiving an encouraging level of support from local head teachers.
- Funding was recognised as an issue; the centrally retained element had been abolished, meaning that consultants now had to be financed through the General Fund. As a result, this could be affected by changes in SBC's corporate priorities, and the model may need to be adapted accordingly. Present systems would be in place for 2018 – 19, but guarantees beyond this date could not be given.
- The National Funding Formula was starting to take effect, and was having an impact on all schools (including academies). Initial estimates indicate that the impact on Slough may be greater than that experienced by other authorities; this could place pressure on the level of support staff in schools. However, class sizes would not be affected (although this could have an impact on teacher workloads).
- Slough had 12 Multi Academy Trusts (MATs); however, these tended to be small in size (2 – 4 schools) whilst Department for Education

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advice was that MATs needed to incorporate 12 – 16 schools to be financially viable in the future. As a result, there may be some alterations to the local picture in coming years.

- Sponsored academies were those which took over local schools deemed to be under performing. These had generally had a good impact, and also worked well with SBC (despite there being no legal compunction to do so).

(At this point, Cllr Chahal entered the meeting)

- Whilst there had been national examples of under performing schools struggling to find sponsors, this had not happened in Slough. In addition, there were no such examples in Berkshire as a whole.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

59. School Places Planning Update

Local authorities were under statutory obligation to ensure that there were enough school places for the local population. The report presented outlined Slough's predicted position for the next 5 years; however, given the changeable nature of local demographics in Slough, the plan required flexibility.

Birth rates had increased significantly from 2000 onwards (over 50% by 2010). However, sufficient forms of entry had been created to provide education for all, and (based on the latest birth rate data – 2015 – 16) this would continue to be the case. The dynamic movement of the local population also meant that (on average) 1 additional class of students had to be accommodated by local primary schools every year. This was built in to the system; however, the last year had seen an atypical reduction in primary students during the academic year. Bulge classes were also in place if required; as a result, SBC was in a good position to react quickly to any changes in demand.

A series of new Free Schools and expansion projects, plus the existing forms of entry, should allow SBC to cover demand for secondary school places until 2021 – 22. There was also a significant programme of expansion underway for Early Years, whilst Cabinet had approved projects to increase Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) places in March 2017. The exact specifications of the project in Arbour Vale were still being defined.

In total, £60 million may be required to fund these projects over the next 5 years. Given the financial situation, a significant amount of borrowing may well be required for this. However, overall SBC was in a good position to provide education for all local children.

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The Panel raised the following points in discussion:

- The Grove Academy had opened in September 2017. At present, it was using the former Thames Valley University site, but would move to its permanent Chalvey base in 2020. The geography of the proposals (e.g. flood plain) would make planning permission complex; no date could yet be specified as to when this assent would be given.
- Applications for local school places were monitored monthly to assess trends. Whilst both primary and secondary demand had recently reduced, it was impossible to state whether this was a permanent change in the pattern yet. Equally, the impact of developments in Slough may prove hard to predict; for example, whilst Crossrail may bring in new residents, would these tend to be young, single professionals with no children? Given this, the devised projects were designed to deal with any level of population change created by SBC's new house building.
- Langley Grammar school had recently redefined its catchment area; this had led to an increase in the number of local children attending. However, grammar school admissions were complex due to the admissions criteria and the number of children from outside Slough who attended.
- Upton Court Grammar School had also received more Slough pupils in 2017 – 18 than previous years; however, whether this indicated an overall increase in the number of Slough children at grammar schools (or just a shift in the schools which were attended by a static number) would require further analysis.
- Grammar school entry was determined by 1 test, which was universally applicable to all 4 Slough grammar schools.
- Splitting siblings was recognised as a major issue in the admissions process; Slough's current surplus was helping avoid this in as many cases as possible. The Admissions Team would assist parents on a case by case basis.
- The borrowing mentioned in the introduction above would place pressure on the Capital Programme, and require eventual repayment over time.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

60. Special Educational Needs and Disability Update

Responsibility for SEND had moved from Slough Children's Services Trust to SBC in October 2017. A major element of the responsibilities were prescribed by The Children and Families Act 2014; in particular, the age range for which SBC had responsibility had now extended to 0 – 25 years old. An emphasis on aspirations had also been made in this legislation.

There were 2 levels of support; Tier 1 and the more intensive Tier 2 (where students required Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) as part of their provision). Whilst the proportion of children and young people in Slough with

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Tier 1 support was significantly below national averages, the proportion requiring Tier 2 was significantly above national averages.

Overall, the system now had a more holistic focus (rather than being specifically academic). As a result, SBC's SEND service worked with Social Services, health care providers and parents to build a rounded support package. Given this change in focus, previous Statements of Special Educational Need required conversion to EHCPs. At the time of this meeting, of the 650 statements inherited, 98 had yet to be converted; these would be prioritised, whilst ensuring that the quality of them would not be compromised by the desire to resolve the outstanding cases. The SEND service had also been working on governance for a year to ensure that all individual provision needs were met.

Staffing was now close to complete, with only one position currently vacant. The service was anticipating an imminent Ofsted inspection; unlike their school equivalents, these did not offer gradings but rather would require authorities deemed to have areas of weakness to provide written statements of action. Since September 2016, nearly half of the 30 local authorities inspected had fallen into this category; no action arose in the cases where Ofsted did not deem there to be areas of weakness. Should a statement of action be required after the inspection, the local authority would have a year to complete the actions outlined in its implementation plan.

Parent Carer Forums were vital in raising awareness and involving parents and carers in decision making. Slough's forum ('Special Voices') was undertaking vital work on the matter. The appointment of the SENCO School Effectiveness Officer had also been vital, with co-ordination between schools (e.g. 2 new forums set up since January 2018) and work on upskilling imperative in supporting SEND work across Slough. Work on banding would conclude at the end of 2018, whilst a steering group was assisting on developing the local offer.

The Panel raised the following points in discussion:

- The disparity between Tier 1 and Tier 2 statistics has been discussed with the SENCO Network. Whilst no firm conclusions have yet been drawn, it may indicate issues with early identification of children with special education needs. As a result, this would be an area where SBC and school joint working would be prioritised.
- The working groups were assisting with joint working. SBC was receiving positive feedback on the matter, and the high level of attendance from local schools was very positive.
- The Implementation Grant was being used to support the conversion of statements into EHCPs. This was not ringfenced, but had been agreed for the duration of 2018 – 19.
- Briefings with schools had been held regarding the Ofsted inspection. An operational group had been meeting frequently (once a fortnight at first, now monthly) and the Clinical Commissioning Group was also supportive. Schools were aware of the criteria used by Ofsted and

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were using self evaluation forms to prepare; Task & Finish Groups were also being commissioned on the matter.

- Some families were resistant to having their children assigned as SEND. Work with schools was being undertaken to offer support on this and ensure that the most positive messages were conveyed. It was hoped that this may also assist with the early identification issues mentioned earlier in these minutes.
- Children with EHCPs had nominated support, so would not be affected by any changes in the level of support staff employed by schools. However, current banding arrangements were complex and may not be fully aligned with the priorities emerging from the 2014 legislation; this was being reviewed.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

61. Attendance Record 2017 - 18

Resolved: That the attendance record be noted.

62. Date of Next Meeting - 17th July 2018

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.58 pm)

Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel – Actions Arising

18th April 2018

Minute:	Action:	For:	Report Back To: Date:
	No actions arising		

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 17th July 2018

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 UPDATE1. **Purpose of Report**

This report provides Members with an update on the work of the Joint Parenting Panel (JPP) since the last JPP meeting held on 19th April 2018.

2. **Recommendations**

That Members note and comment as appropriate on the report.

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 – Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful.

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.

5. **Supporting Information**

Context for Corporate Parenting in Slough

5.1 The context for corporate parenting 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. The scope of these documents can be summarised as follows:

- The **Terms of Reference** 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. 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*.
- Slough’s joint **Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-18** outlines the values, principles with 6 key priorities (and a related Action Plan) to support children and young people who are looked after by Slough Borough Council / Slough Children’s Services Trust.
- 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.
- The joint **Pledge to our Children in Care** sets out 19 pledges to Slough’s children looked after.

2018/19 Cycle of JPP Meetings

5.2 The last JPP meeting held on 19 April 2018 related to the 2017/19 “cycle”. The 2018/19 JPP meeting dates are: 26 July, 4 October, 12 December 2018 and 18 April 2019.

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

JPP / Other Meeting	Thematic Discussion	Impact on Outcomes
19 April 2018	<p>Corporate Parenting Strategy Priority 1 – Our looked after children and young people will be supported by strong and effective corporate parenting</p>	<p>JPP received a presentation on Slough’s achievements related to corporate parenting (see Appendix 1), the main points of which are summarised below.</p> <p>Following the previous Ofsted Inspection of Slough’s Children’s Services (report published on 17 February 2016), there has been significant work by SBC / SCST and partners to strengthen our corporate parenting “offer”, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Parenting Strategy revised in June 2016 with a clear vision and articulation of priorities (this strategy is due to be refreshed by September 2018) • Corporate Parenting Panel reimagined as the Joint Parenting Panel, with a focus on outcomes of children and ensuring that the voice of the child is paramount • JPP score card introduced – an agreed set of performance indicators are now produced to facilitate scrutiny of our corporate parenting role • Annual elected member training covering the role of corporate parenting,

JPP / Other Meeting	Thematic Discussion	Impact on Outcomes
		<p>including an opportunity to hear directly the experiences of our young people in care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCST commissioning and sufficiency strategy refreshed to help target priorities for the Children in Care cohort • SBC Housing Strategy 2016/21 to cater for the needs of care leavers • Council Tax exemption for care leavers up to the age of 25 years • Education, Employment and Training Strategy 2017/20 for our care leavers and children looked after – this includes providing internships / apprenticeships for some of our Children in Care • Life Skills (targeted support to help our care leavers transition into adulthood and independence) • Support from Slough schools for children looked after which complements the work of SCST's Virtual School • Transition support to adult social care for children in care where applicable
<p>Other: Ofsted conducted a Monitoring Visit (MV) of SCST on 1 May 2018. This sixth MV focussed on Children Looked After. Refer to paragraph 9, hyperlink to Ofsted report, published 25 May 2018).</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, covering the meeting held on 19 April 2018.

8. **Appendices**

1 – Presentation to JPP 19 April 2018: Themed Discussion, Corporate Parenting Strategy Priority 1 – Our looked after children and young people will be supported by strong and effective corporate parenting.

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>

Virtual School Annual Report 2016-17

<http://www.scstrust.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/SCST-Virtual-School-Annual-Report-2016-17.pdf>

6th Ofsted Monitoring Visit

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/slough> (look for 25 May 2018)

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Joint Parenting Panel

Themed discussion: Priority 1 of the

**Corporate Parenting Strategy – our children looked
after and young people will be supported by strong
and effective corporate parenting**

**Rodney D’Costa
Thursday 19 April 2018**



Outline

- Context for Corporate Parenting:-
 - 1) Previous Ofsted Inspection Report (17 Feb 2016)
 - 2) Principles
 - 3) Profile Children Looked After (CLA)
 - Strengthening corporate parenting – Slough Achievements
 - Discussion – comments invited from JPP on current **Pledges** to our Children in Care, previously circulated (to assist with planned September refresh of Slough’s corporate parenting strategy)
-

Context – 1: Extract from Ofsted Inspection Report

“Slough’s children looked after and care leavers do not regard the council as a good corporate parent. Inspectors agree with them. The corporate parenting strategy is a superficial document that uses old data and priorities, and includes no action plan. The corporate parenting panel has not received comprehensive performance information. This has limited its ability to provide scrutiny and challenge. IROs have not monitored the council’s performance as a corporate parent effectively. The council has not provided the CiCC with enough support to be as representative and influential as it should be. Since taking over, the trust has recognised these shortcomings and is taking action with the council to remedy them. (Recommendation)”

17 February 2016

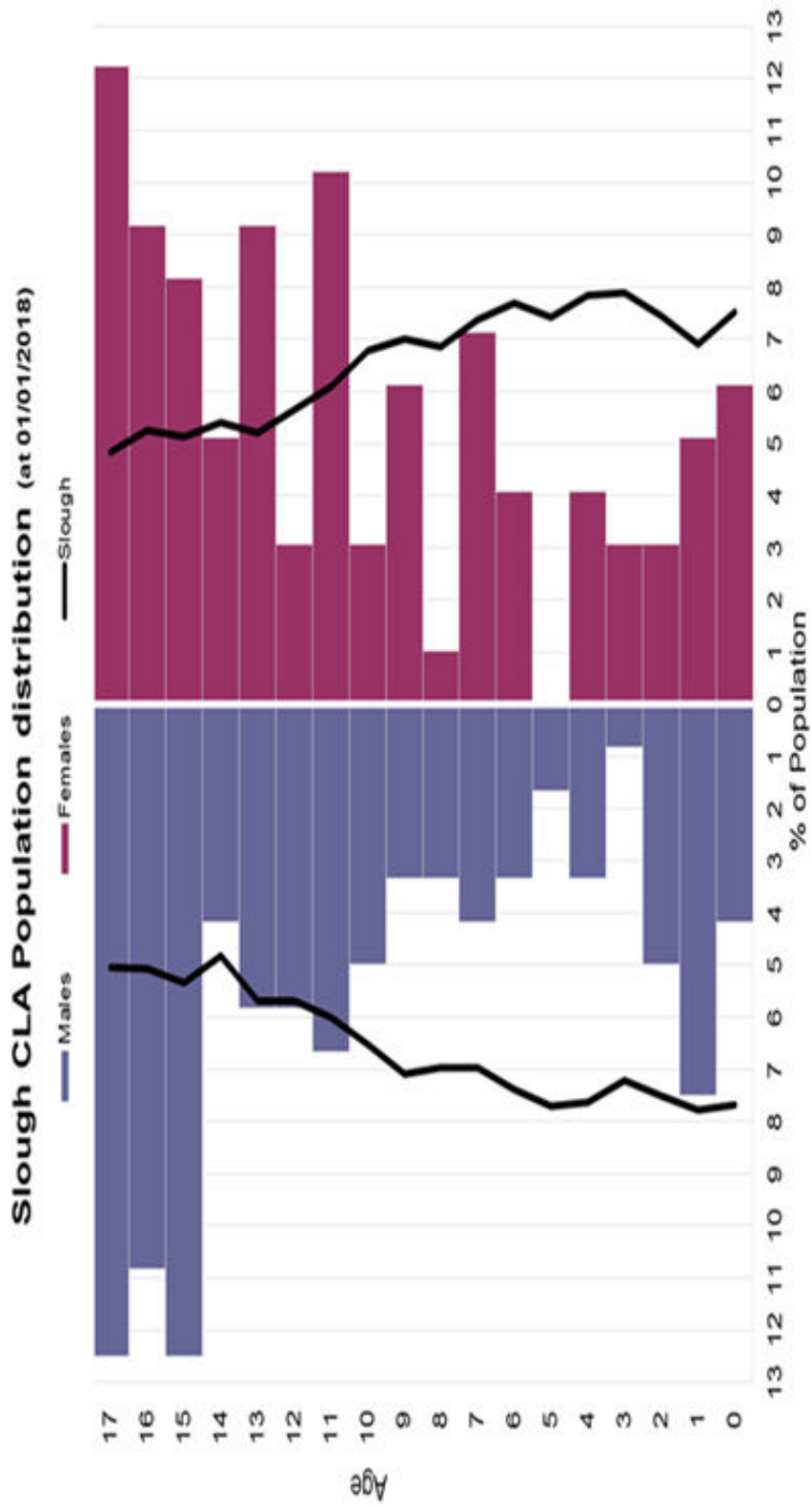
Context – 2: Seven Corporate Parenting Principles

The council must take into account 7 principles when making decision about children and young people in care or leaving care:-

1. To act in the child's best interests, and promote their physical and mental health and wellbeing
2. To encourage the child to express their views, wishes and feelings
3. To take into account the child's views, wishes and feelings
4. To help the child to gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and the organisations it works with
5. To have high aspirations for the child, and help them to achieve the best outcomes they can
6. For the child to be safe, and to have stability in their home lives, relationships, education and work
7. To prepare children for adulthood and independent living

(As set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 DfE)

Context – 3.1: Slough Population Distribution



Context – 3.2: Key Facts

- Since last year there has been an increase in the proportion of our CLA that are Placed inside Slough or within 20 miles, rising from 69% to 72%
- A third of the CLA population comprises older teenagers (15 - 17 years old)
- Generally speaking the older age group came in to care mainly due to parents struggling with implementing boundaries, family break down, homelessness and some wishing to be in care
- For the younger age group the primary reason for being in care is as a result of parental neglect / abuse

Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (1)

➤ Corporate Parenting Strategy revised June 2016

Outcome:

- Clearer vision
- Clarified role of corporate parent
- Linked to an Action Plan
- Linked to 19 Pledges to Slough's Children in Care (co-produced with children and young people)

Development Areas:

- Refresh of Corporate Parenting Strategy scheduled for September 2018
 - Refresh Pledges (fewer and “SMART”)
-

Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (2)

➤ Corporate Parenting Panel Reimagined

Outcome:

- Renamed Joint Parenting Panel with revised terms of reference, dual Trust / SBC chairing, inclusive of all Slough partners
- JPP meetings include a focussed thematic report / presentation on the 6 priorities of the corporate parenting strategy, with cases studies centred on the impact of this work on our children in care to help facilitate better understanding and scrutiny of the issues
- Scrutiny of JPP provided by Education & Children's Social Care Scrutiny Panel (1/4ly)
- Voice of the Child – innovative representation via *Reach Out! Young People's Scrutiny Forum*
- Elected Members involved in annual celebration events marking achievements of our CiC

Development Areas:

- Continue to support *all* elected Members' understanding of the corporate parenting agenda
 - Arrange planned visits of elected Member to Children's Homes
-

Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (3)

- **JPP Score Card agreed October 2017, co-produced by Officers and elected Members, now implemented**

Outcome:

- Key Performance Indicators and Dashboard specific to corporate parenting helps focus discussion on performance

Development Areas:

- Fully embed the Score Card as a tool for scrutiny (linked to LGA's "10 Questions to ask if you are scrutinising services for looked-after-children") and thus drive service improvement and outcomes for children in care
- Consider including early help indicators where appropriate (as a way of potentially identifying future [older] children looked after)

Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (4)

- **Annual elected Members' training provided for corporate parenting (7th February 2018) with further dates (post municipal elections) as necessary**

Outcome:

- Opportunities for elected Members to get updates and refresher training as well as directly hear of the experiences of young people

Development Area:

- Continue to support **all** elected Members' understanding of the corporate parenting agenda
-

Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (5)

➤ SCST's Commissioning Strategy agreed and Children Looked After Sufficiency Strategy refreshed

Outcome:

- Enhanced identification of need and opportunities to target priorities for CiC cohort within available resources

Development Area:

- Potential agenda item for a future JPP to assess impact and effectiveness of these two strategies

Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (6)

➤ SBC Initiatives

Outcome:

- Housing Strategy 2016-21 – provision of an adequate supply of accommodation for care leavers and a clear housing pathway that meets the needs / experiences of young people **(13 properties have been accepted by CLs in 2017/18)**
- Council Tax exemption provided for Care Leavers (CLs) up to the age of 25 **(this benefits approximately 42 CLs in Slough and 13 CLs who live out of Borough)**
- Education, Employment & Training Strategy for CLA & CLs 2017/20 – as a result of which our CiC have: Access to the best possible education, training and job opportunities that meet their needs; Support to attend and achieve their potential whether at school / college, university, in training or work; Support to make a successful transition into adult life; Their voice placed at the centre of what we do

Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (6.1)

➤ SBC Initiatives (cont'd)

Outcome:

- Life Skills (targeted support to help CiC transition into adulthood and independence) – Collaboration between SBC Youth Workers & SCST Personal Assistants / Social Workers
- Support from Slough schools for CLA which complements the work of SCST's Virtual School and has helped high attainment amongst our CLA (improvements compared to previous Slough CLA cohorts, CLA in other local authorities, and Slough and national figures for all children – in particular the test taken at age 11. Slough CLA did better than non CLA peers locally and nationally. Results for children out of Borough at least match those in Slough)

Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (6.2)

➤ SBC Initiatives (cont'd)

Outcome:

- 7 internships / apprentices from the CiC cohort placed within SBC / Arvato / SCST @ end December 2017
- Transition support to adult services (dedicated worker, timely assessment, provision of information, and transition plan which is reviewed regularly)

Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (7)

➤ Recent Ofsted Monitoring Visit comments on JPP

“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”.

(Ofsted Monitoring Visit, 20th & 21 September 2017, focussing on children in care)

Discussion (plenary)

With reference to the refresh of our Corporate Parenting Strategy (due for September 2018), we currently have **19 Pledges** to our Children Looked After. *Would you like to see anything.....*

- *Added?*
 - *Amended?*
 - *Deleted?*
-

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 17th July 2018

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

WARDS: All

PART I
FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
2018 – 19 WORK PROGRAMME

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 For the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel (ECS Scrutiny Panel) to form its work programme for 2018 – 19.

2. **Recommendations/Proposed Action**

2.1 That the Panel approve the proposed work programme for the 2018 – 19 Municipal Year and the items for inclusion in future meetings.

2.2 That the Panel provide clear guidance as to the key questions which should be addressed in these future agenda items.

2.3 That the Panel consider areas suited to the commissioning of Task & Finish Groups to provide in-depth reviews of specific areas.

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:

- Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful

4. **Supporting Information**

4.1 The work programme is currently relatively undecided. As a result, the ECS Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider the approach it wishes to take to the 2018 – 19 Municipal Year. The approach outlined in the following sections is the proposal being put to the Panel by officers, and would offer members a significant opportunity to add value to Slough Borough Council's (SBC) work across a diverse range of areas.

4.2 The proposal is that meetings have specific themes; these would then take a range of related agenda items, each with specific questions of interest to the Panel and the local community. The themes which have been identified as most important to SBC's work for children and its responsibilities as a corporate parent are as follows:

- Young People's Services (to be taken on 24th October 2018)
- Children's Social Care (to be taken on 6th December 2018)
- Early Years (to be taken on 7th February 2019)
- School Standards (to be taken on 13th March 2019)
- School Places and SEND (to be taken on 17th April 2019)

4.3 Specific agenda items related to the key questions for each of these areas should then be allocated as appropriate. The areas identified by SBC as of most importance here are:

Young People's Services

- What has the impact of the Curve been on the uptake of library services by young people?
- What is the impact of the Slough Youth Parliament?

Children's Social Care

- What has been the impact of Slough Children's Services Trust?
- How effective is corporate parenting in Slough?

Early Years

- What is the work and impact of Slough Children's Centres? This could also be the best suited item to Task & Finish Group work.
- How is Slough progressing with the implementation of 30 hours free childcare ?
- What is the strategy to develop the Early Years Workforce in Slough?

School Standards

- How have Slough children, including vulnerable groups achieved in 2017-18?
- What can Slough do to improve teacher recruitment and retention? This may include key worker housing.

School Places and SEND

- What is the present situation and future demand for school places?
- How is Slough progressing with implementation of the SEND Reforms? (e.g. transfer from statements to EHC plans) What are the key issues with SEND funding and provision in Slough?

4.4 This proposal is the one included at Appendix A. The Panel are asked to approve this proposal, and in addition recommend areas for inclusion in the Work Programme as suitable. Officers at the meeting will advise the Panel on the suitability of these, either in terms of scrutiny's ability to have a positive impact on the process of forming policy or in terms of the logistics of including them on an agenda without overburdening the Panel.

4.5 The Panel is also asked to consider the formation of one or more Task & Finish Groups. As can be seen above, the proposal is for this to focus on Children's Centres. Should this be commissioned, the Panel may wish to seek guidance as to when this should commence, which areas should be included in its scope and when it should report to ensure that its work and recommendations can be considered in a timely and appropriate manner.

4.6 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 formulate its work programme for the year.

6. Appendices Attached

A - Proposed Work Programme for 2018 – 19 Municipal Year

7. Background Papers

None.

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EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

Meeting Date
24th October 2018
<p>Young People's Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of the Curve on Library Services • Slough Youth Parliament
6th December 2018
<p>Children's Social Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Slough Children's Services Trust • Corporate parenting
7th February 2019
<p>Early Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slough Children's Centres – potential Task & Finish Group • Implementation of 30 hours free childcare • Early Years Workforce
13th March 2019
<p>School Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attainment for Slough children (including vulnerable groups) • Teacher recruitment and retention

Meeting Date
17 th April 2019
School Places and SEND
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Places – present situation and future demand• Implementation of SEND Reforms

To be programmed:

- Quarterly updates from Joint Parenting Panel