

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

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PART I **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

OFSTED ANNUAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES ASSESSMENT 2010

1 Purpose of Report

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

2 Recommendation

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

3 Community Strategy Priorities

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling Inclusion**

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

- **Being Safe, Feeling Safe**

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

- **Adding years to Life and Life to years**

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

- **Prosperity for All**

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

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications.

(b) Risk Management

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

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

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

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

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

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Not relevant to the Children's Services Assessment.

(d) Workforce

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

5 Supporting Information

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

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

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

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

Ofsted identify major strengths as including:

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

Ofsted identify the following as areas for further improvement:

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

6 Comments of Other Committees

None

7 Conclusion

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

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

8 **Appendices**

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

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

9 **Background Papers**

None