

Slough Children & Young People's Plan 2011 - 2014



Version	Date	Changes	Author
1	June 2011	Prepared 1 st draft	Sarah Miles
2	August 2011	Action recorded at Children's Partnership Board on 19 July 2011 and Clair Pyper's comments	Amanda Renn
3	November 2011	Editing and formatting	Clair Pyper
4	December 2011	Editing and formatting	Clair Pyper

Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14

Our vision

We want all our children and young people growing up in Slough to enjoy life, achieve through learning, be proud of where they live and be valuable members of the community.

Introduction

Slough's Children and Young People's Plan is a single plan for all the services and provision for children and young people and their families in the Borough. The priorities in the plan are based on the Children and Young People's Plan Needs Analysis 2008-11 and the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis 2011 which can be found [here](#). Children, young people and their families have contributed to service planning.

A summary of the work that was carried out through the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11 is at the end of the 2011-14 Plan.

The Plan is drawn up by the Children's Partnership Board (previously the Children's Trust), consisting of partners from a wide range of organisations representing the public, private and voluntary sectors, including Slough Borough Council, health sector representatives, Thames Valley Police, Slough Council for Voluntary Service and schools. <http://www.sloughchildrenstrust.org.uk/>

The Children and Young People's Plan is part of Slough's Sustainable Community Strategy, a collective vision of what Slough will be like in 2020. It describes how all organisations in Slough will work to help parents and carers to improve outcomes for children and young people from birth to 18; and especially vulnerable children and young people, for example, children in need of protection, children in care, children with learning difficulties and disabilities and young people who need guidance as they move towards adult life.

Slough Children's Partnership Board promotes and monitors equality and diversity for all children and young people in the Borough.

We will plan and deliver services within the financial resources available to partner agencies in the Borough and base commissioning decisions on the effectiveness of services in delivering outcomes for children and young people and value for money.

Slough Children's Partnership Board oversees planning and commissioning services for children, young people and their families. The Slough Local Safeguarding Children Board is responsible for scrutinising and challenging partner organisations in Slough in their work to keep children and young people safe. The protocol for the CPB and LSCB working arrangements is on the Children's Trust website.

Priorities for the 2011-14 Plan

Our priorities for 2011-14 are based on the review of the 2008-11 Plan, listening to children and young people and their families through consultation activities, and take into account performance information and other local data. The priorities have also taken into account inspection findings, in particular the Ofsted announced inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children which took place in April 2011. The Needs Analysis can be found at <http://www.sloughchildrenstrust.org.uk/about/c-yp-plan.aspx>. The priorities form the basis of our new Children and Young People's Plan; they focus on what we really need to do, and reflect changes in national policy and reductions in public spending.

Priority 1

Helping families to care for their children by ensuring that children and young people are effectively safeguarded from harm, and are safe in their families and communities. Where children are more vulnerable, including children and young people with a disability, those in need of protection, and those who cannot live with their families, their health, education and social outcomes are at least as good as other children in their age group.

Implementing the Improvement Plan drawn up following the Ofsted announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children in April 2011, to ensure that children in need and children with child protection plans are safe and feel safe.

Priority 2

Helping families to care for their children by offering simple, quick, easy and effective routes for children, young people and their families to identify problems and intervene early; offer support to families to help them find solutions; and prevent the need for more intensive services.

Priority 3

Helping families to ensure that children and young people enjoy good physical and emotional health across their life course.

Priority 4

Helping families by ensuring that children and young people have access to high quality and effective education, leading to rapid and sustainable progress with high levels of achievement.

Priority 5

Targeting young people to offer them opportunities to access high quality education, future employment and training, lead healthy lifestyles and become responsible citizens as they move into adult life.

Other strategies which are part of the CYPP include:

- Safeguarding Improvement Plan (November 2011) following the Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children in April 2011.
- Workforce strategy
- Engagement and Participation Strategy
- Equalities Strategy
- Early Intervention Strategy
- Parenting Strategy
- Aiming High Strategy
- Corporate Parenting Strategy
- Looked After Children Sufficiency Strategy
- School Improvement Plan

The outcomes which the Children's Partnership Board have agreed for children and young people in Slough, and the activities to deliver these are listed below. Detailed plans are drawn up by each group, regularly monitored through the Children's Partnership Board, and can be found on the Children's Trust website.

PRIORITY 1: STAY SAFE

What we mean by Stay Safe

Helping families to care for their children by ensuring that children and young people are effectively safeguarded from harm, and are safe in their families and in their communities. Where children are more vulnerable, including children and young people with a disability, those in need of protection, and those who cannot live with their own families, their health, education and social outcomes are at least as good as other children in their age group.

Implementing the Safeguarding Improvement Plan drawn up following the Ofsted announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children in April 2011 which judged safeguarding as 'inadequate'. The Improvement Board, Children's Partnership Board and Local Safeguarding Children Board will be working to implement the Improvement Plan published in November 2011, to ensure that children in need and children with child protection plans are safe and feel safe.

What will we achieve?

Children live in households where they are safeguarded from harm from their parents/carers and can thrive and achieve their full potential. Parents who need additional help are more effective in parenting and nurturing their children.

- Effective assessment and management of risk to protect children and young people.
- Improved partnership working arrangements to reduce the impact of domestic abuse, substance abuse and parental mental health on outcomes for children.
- Develop commissioning and de-commissioning strategies to ensure that services meet identified need and that they are able to meet the outcomes determined by identified need; with a particular focus on safeguarding and looked after children.
- Ensure that looked after children have somewhere safe, secure and caring to live that meets all their needs and helps them to become independent, healthy, skilled adults.

Where children are at risk of harm, the plans to protect them have clear outcomes understood by their parent/s/carers and all organisations working with them. Children are engaged in these plans and can have their say about them. Parents understand their responsibilities and the consequences of their actions.

- Develop a clear, measurable, outcome focussed plan for all children and young people in need, with child protection plans and those who are looked after, implemented with full co-operation by all partner agencies and children's parents and carers.
- Put contingency plans in place for all children and young people in need or with child protection plans.

- Ensure plans for all looked after children and young people enable them to have a settled, secure family life, and increase the supply and range of placements for looked after children.
- Involve the most vulnerable children and young people in planning their own future, and service delivery. Support them to achieve their personal goals, wishes and desires through participation and engagement activities.
- Quality assure the effectiveness of multi-agency interventions through rigorous single-agency and multi-agency audits and feedback from children and young people and their parents and carers, and ensure that they are used to improve practice.
- Ensure that management oversight drives good planning and practice for vulnerable children and young people and offers them a secure future.
- Ensure delivery of training that has measurable impact on outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.
- Ensure that the children's workforce is safe and competent to work with children and young people.
- Design performance measures that test the effectiveness of services against the delivery of outcomes for children and young people.
- Report on outcomes for children in need, children with child protection plans and children who are looked after to the Safeguarding Improvement Board and the Children's Partnership Board; scrutinise these through the Local Safeguarding Children Board to ensure high quality safeguarding across all agencies and improve practice in identified areas.

Looked after children do as well as their peer group in education, health and moving towards independent living.

- Provide additional support for looked after children and young people to ensure that historical gaps in achievement against all outcome areas are reduced

How will we know?

- Parents of children in need and children on child protection plans take actions which safeguard their children, and understand the consequences of not doing so. Performance measures in the Improvement Plan and the outcomes plan for Priority 1 'Stay Safe' demonstrate improved outcomes.
- Early intervention results in a reduced dependence on statutory services.
- Children say that they feel safe.
- Corporate parenting activity by all agencies offers children and young people in care the best possible opportunities to do well in life. There is shared problem solving where individual or collective problems arise for looked after children.

PRIORITY 2: EARLY INTERVENTION

What we mean by Early Intervention

Supporting families to care for their children by offering early help; offering holistic and practical support to families to find solutions for themselves preventing the need for more intensive services.

What will we achieve?

Vulnerable children's needs are identified and assessed, and the right help is provided at the right time to support families in bringing up their children and helping them to achieve their potential.

- Identify vulnerable children, young people and their families in need of targeted services and ensure services available to meet their needs
- All partners in the borough to work together to develop effective multi-agency responses to the needs of children, young people and their families
- Encourage the use of the Common Assessment Framework by all organisations working with children, young people and their families to enable early identification of need and swift resolution; for example, families where there is domestic abuse or substance abuse; parents with mental health needs.
- To establish and embed the Early Response Hub for information, advice and guidance about vulnerable children and young people, and the point for creating a 'Team around the Child'.
- Continue to develop a range of services for disabled children and young people, building on the work already in place through 'Aiming High' Strategy
- Support and provide targeted services for children and vulnerable people, for example, young carers, teenage parents and newly arrived families
- Promote initiatives which reduce families living in poverty

Parents and carers are clear about what is expected of them, who will be working with them and what services they will be offered. Children are engaged in plans and can have their say about them.

- Publicise and encourage the use of the Family Information Service <http://parents.info/Slough> (01753 476589) describing the services and opportunities available across the borough; through parents, carers and organisations working with children, young people and their families
- Review the use of Sure Start services and Children's Centres to focus on early intervention and support for vulnerable children and their families
- Improve support to parents, building on work already started through the Parenting Strategy and the Family Intervention Project, and review these in response to local need.
- Engage young people in targeted activities

How will we know?

- Families will tell us that they know about services available; that they help them to overcome problems; they have their say in planning them; and where they need to use them, this has been successful in enabling them to continue to care for their children.
- Children and young people who have received these services do not need to be safeguarded through child protection plans or coming into care.

PRIORITY 3: GOOD PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

What do we mean by Good Physical and Emotional Health?

Helping families to ensure that children and young people enjoy good physical and emotional health across their life course.

What will we achieve?

Children and young people lead healthy lifestyles, and become healthy adults. They have healthy diets and exercise regularly, making them less susceptible to illnesses related to obesity, including dental caries and diabetes.

- Schools, children's centres, and all organisations working with children and young people encourage parents, children and young people to make healthy choices in food and exercise.
- Ensure better quality assurance in children's dental care in practices where children are registered for treatment, and better engage with parents, children and young people so that their dental health needs are better met.
- Encourage parents of children and young people eligible for free school meals to take up their entitlement. Encourage parents to offer their children healthy packed lunches.
- Encourage parents to increase their children's participation in physical activity to the recommended hour each day through schools, children's centres and sports and leisure activities.
- Support young people to choose to participate in exercise.

Children have good emotional health and rapid support where emotional health problems are identified.

- CAMHS services at all tiers provide services which reflect evidence based research to improve children and young people's emotional health.
- All agencies working with children, young people and their parents carry out mental health promotion to raise awareness and enable families to seek earlier intervention.

Young people have information which helps them make informed choices, and reduces unplanned teenage pregnancy, and drug and alcohol abuse.

- Ensure that young people taking part in sexual activity are encouraged to use long acting reversible contraception, and to augment the percentage of dual testing for Chlamydia and gonorrhoea from 22% to 35%.

Looked After Children's health is better addressed

- Carry out health checks as required by statutory guidance for children on child protection plans and for looked after children.

- Increase the take up of annual health and dental checks for looked after children as part of improving their health outcomes to the level of other children and young people in their age group.
- Ensure that young people leaving care have copies of their health records.

How will we know?

- The Carnegie Weight measurement programme is being used to assess children's weight at specific stages to ensure that children reach and maintain an appropriate weight and progress will be reported to the Children's Partnership Board and the Health and Well-being Board.
- Teenage pregnancy, sexual health and substance abuse measures are in place. CAMHS services, and other services to support children and young people's emotional well-being are offering timely responses and high quality effective interventions which reduce the need for acute services.
- Parents, children and young people report healthier lifestyles and are seen to be making healthier choices.
- Children and young people who are looked after will have relevant information and improved physical, emotional and dental health.

PRIORITY 4: HIGH QUALITY AND EFFECTIVE EDUCATION

What do we mean by High Quality and Effective Education?

Helping families by ensuring that children and young people have access to high quality and effective education leading to rapid and sustainable progress with high levels of achievement. The aspirations of schools, colleges and training providers can be enhanced by the community of education providers working together closely through a mutually supportive approach, while at the same time young people have a responsibility to contribute to their own success.

What will we achieve?

Children and young people attend school or college, enjoy learning and attain to their potential. Young children in early years settings learn through play and develop good communication and skills which enable them to learn throughout their life.

- Increase the number of local schools rated as good or outstanding.
- Schools support one another in drawing in relevant support in proportion to need to improve educational outcomes for children and ensure that gaps in attainment are reduced.
- The local authority monitors, challenges and intervenes where schools are failing.
- The local authority works collaboratively with schools in special measures to identify and implement improvement activities.
- Early years providers and schools work to narrow the gap between pupils that traditionally do less well than the national average and their peers, including:
 - pupils at Foundation Stage
 - pupils at KS2 where one in five Slough pupils currently do not make the expected progress of two levels for the four years between 3 and 6.
 - pupils with special needs and their peer group, especially at KS4
 - pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers at KS4
 - children and young people who are looked after
- The local authority directly creates and/or enables the creation by others of additional school places to meet growing demand.
- Schools develop a wide range of strategies to improve attendance working with the local authority

Parents are confident in supporting their children's education in and outside school, and help to improve children's attainment.

- The local authority and partners help parents and carers take part in enhancing their children's education in settings other than school through providing safe, welcoming places for study in libraries and community centres, and enable them to use sports, arts and play opportunities across the borough.

Additional support for children from vulnerable or under-achieving groups results in improved outcomes.

- Schools, with support, carry out their role to increase the ability of vulnerable children and young people to learn, through specialist input and targeted early intervention.

How will we know?

- Children's results will improve at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 2, enabling them to demonstrate that they are successful learners now and in future life.
- The gaps in attainment between children and young people receiving free school meals and those who don't decreases.
- Schools show that they are successful through inspection outcomes and in their results, and through good governance and finance.

Priority 5: Effective support for young people

What do we mean by effective support?

Offering opportunities for young people and their families including access to high quality education for all young people; information, advice and guidance for vulnerable young people to help them into education, employment and training; to lead healthy lifestyles; and so that they become responsible citizens, now and in their adult lives. Base the development of services on 'Positive for Youth' published in December 2011.

What will we achieve?

Young people become successful, independent adults and are equipped and supported in learning and finding jobs.

- Include young people in planning, delivering and reviewing services to ensure that their voice is heard across all services which they use now and in future.
- Review the 14-19 strategy, implement improvements and prepare local responses to the raising of the participation age: all young people will continue in education or training to 17 from 2013 and to 18 from 2015.
- Engage with schools and colleges in supporting young people into adult life.
- Give all young people access to information, advice and guidance through schools, colleges, training providers and integrated youth support services.
- Continue work to engage young people in education, employment and training, especially for young people from low income backgrounds, teenage parents, young offenders and those with SEN, through the targeted IYSS work.
- Address the housing needs of care leavers and young offenders and vulnerable young people.
- Prepare young people through schools and colleges for the raising of the participation age to 18 by 2015.

Young people are safe at home and in their communities. Targeted activities help young people in living with their families, making the most of their potential, and contributing to their communities. They have opportunities in and out of school to take part in social, sports, leisure and educational activities.

- Set up and deliver Integrated Youth Support Services.
- Commission and deliver targeted services for young people through public and voluntary sector provision.
- Offer information to young people through web-based media
- Engage with businesses to ensure young people broaden their understanding of the working environment, relate their education to business need and know about future career prospects in local business.

Young people are helped to lead healthy lifestyles

- Support young people's health needs through advice, information and services which reduce teenage pregnancies, substance misuse and sexual health.

Young people who have offended or are at risk of offending are able to find alternative interests.

- Implement the recommendations of the Youth Offending Team Inspection which took place in February 2011.
- Ensure effective prevention strategies and early identification of young people at risk of offending to reduce first time offending rates and repeat offending of young people.
- Provide targeted short term interventions to young people who are subject to statutory community interventions, so that they can take part in diversionary activities.
- Keep custodial sentences low.

How will we know?

- Young people, their parents/carers, schools, colleges, employers and community organisations will be positive about the opportunities open to them through the help provided and have used those to improve their educational attainment, and access to further and higher education and future employment.
- Young people will contribute to the community, be enthusiastic and successful learners, and have support to help them lead healthy lifestyles.
- First time entrant's figures to the Youth Offending Service will remain low.

Engaging children and young people in planning

Children and young people have been involved in aspects of planning the CYPP 2011-14; including members of the Young People's Cabinet and the Children in Care Council. More broadly, children and young people are engaged in planning, shaping and commenting on aspects of their lives through School Councils, Student Committees; and consultations on specific initiatives, for example, the creation of new playgrounds in Slough; and the changes from a universal to targeted youth service. Participation and engagement of groups of children and young people will continue through CYPP 2011-14.

Monitoring outcomes for children and young people in Slough

The Children's Partnership Board will monitor outcomes for children and young people against national and local indicators. The Local Safeguarding Children Board will scrutinise and monitor safeguarding outcomes for children and young people.

Commissioning outcomes for children and young people in Slough

The Commissioning Group of the Children's Partnership Board are responsible for commissioning work against the agreed priorities, based on the identified needs detailed in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2010. The Commissioning Group consists of members from the range of partner agencies.

Our Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11 said that we would improve the five Every Child Matters outcomes for children and young people in Slough:

Be Healthy

Stay Safe

Enjoy and Achieve

Make a Positive Contribution

Achieve Economic Well-Being

In the three years of the Children and Young People's Plan from 2008-11 there were some significant changes in Slough which are summarised in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the 'Slough Story' which can be found on the Slough Community Strategy website

They included:

- An unprecedented growth in population, due to the combination of an increased birth-rate and inward migration from other parts of Britain, as well as Europe, Africa and Asia**
- An increased demand for school places, health services and local authority services as a result**
- Rising levels of domestic abuse and substance abuse in families with young children**
- Significant rises in children with child protection plans and children looked after**
- Changes in government policy and reductions in government funding affecting health, police and local authority services**

Ensure that children and young people in Slough are healthy and that parents and carers are supported to promote healthy choices

Our outcomes in 2008 – 11 were:

- Information on health matters to parents and carers
- Information on health matters to young people
- Reduce obesity, increase exercise
- Improve children and young people's emotional well-being
- Improve young people's sexual health

And to make sure that they happened we:

- Introduced a dedicated information portal for parents, professionals, carers and young people to access information on health matters.
- Commissioned a major research study on childhood obesity
- Adopted the study's recommendations and introduced appropriate and co-ordinated interventions to tackle childhood obesity under the Staying Healthy Programme
- Provided training for primary care workers, including GP's, on the Common Assessments Framework (CAF)
- Started work on the Health Implementation Plan 2011-2015 to increase the number of Health Visitors in Slough (growth of 36 to 2015) to work with the more vulnerable children and families; and improved liaison with midwives to increase the number of targeted families referred to antenatal Health Visitors.
- Delivered the Family Nurse Partnership programme to improve pregnancy outcomes, child health and development and parents economic self -sufficiency. Agreed the continued funding of the Family Nurse Partnership programme until the completion of the Random Controlled Trial June 2012.

As a result:

- More children and young people are participating in high quality PE and sport than in previous years
- Services for disabled children have improved and are good compared to the England average
- More children and young people are reporting satisfaction with our parks and play areas

And more work needs to be done on:

- The take up of school lunches which has decreased in the primary sector, and increased at secondary level
- Obesity, which has increased in primary age children
- Children and young people's emotional well-being, where fewer¹ children were reporting improvements in their emotional health, friendships and confidence in talking to their friends, parents and other adults about their concerns

¹ The last Tellus Survey was conducted in 2009 (so stands for the 2009-10 reporting year). At that point, the questions on aspects referred to below (emotional health / friends / sharing concerns with adults) were aggregated to form the result for NI 50. NI 50 was 60.9% in Tellus 3 (later re-weighted by

- Agreeing Looked after Children commissioning intentions with all partners from October 2012 to effectively plan for the future.
- Continuing the expansion of the Health Visiting Programme under the Health QIPP Investment - mandates for 2012/13 have been put forward for this
- Continuing the FNP Programme beyond June 2012 under the Health QIPP Investment- mandates for 2012/13 have been put forward for this
- Developing partnership commissioning intentions around a multi-agency team around the child and children on the edge of care.
- Implementing key messages of the Marmot Review; an independent review to propose the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England from 2010 which highlighted the need to reduce health inequalities including giving every child the best start in life, and enabling all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.

statistical sleight of hand to 61.4%); in Tellus 4 it was 55.2%. On this basis, *fewer* children were reporting improvements in their emotional health etc...

Ensure that children and young people in Slough are safe, and support parents, carers and families to provide safe homes and stability for their children

Our outcomes in 2008 – 11 were:

- Children growing up in a caring and secure environment, free from abuse, neglect and crime
- Parents and carers better equipped to bring up and safeguard their children
- Children are safe and feel safe from bullying, harassment and discrimination
- Reduce the number of children and young people involved in accidental injury
- Ensure children and young people are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school
- Ensure that children and young people have security, stability and are cared for
- Services are effective in establishing the identity and whereabouts of all children and young people aged 0-16

And to make sure they happened we:

- Made plans in conjunction with the Local Safeguarding Children Board to protect of children and young people through partnership work to deliver high quality child protection services including:
 - Safe environments for children in their homes, schools, child care provision and public places
 - Advice for parents on e-safety
 - Children and young people could travel to and from school or college safely without fear by establishing safe areas around schools, and improving road safety arrangements
 - A safe workforce
 - Multi-agency work to ensure that children and young people are kept safe in families where domestic abuse affects their lives
- Developed early intervention and prevention services including:
 - Targeted support for vulnerable children including those excluded from school, those in transient or newly arrived communities and children living in private fostering arrangements
 - Effective support to help parents promote positive behaviour and choices for children and young people
 - The Children's Trust Parenting Strategy, including provision of parenting programmes with an emphasis on parental responsibility
 - Improved community cohesion and relations between cultural and ethnic groups,
 - Work with children and young people to change attitudes towards bullying and discrimination
 - A multi-agency problem-solving response to crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Provided high quality, well supervised parks and play opportunities

- Worked with children and young people to change attitudes towards crime and anti-social behaviour and to develop a range of effective interventions to tackle these issues in schools, colleges and community settings

As a result:

- Practitioners worked with parents whose children were on child protection plans to make sure the children could live safely at home, or alternative plans made to secure their future
- The number of children and young people admitted to hospital following unintentional or deliberate injuries decreased in the last year
- There was a slight decrease in the number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents in Slough in 2009 8 children were killed or seriously injured, compared to 11 in 2007
- Children who experienced domestic abuse received support from professionals
- In 2009 we ensured that all partner agencies were compliant with S11 requirements
- Children and young people were involved in planning and decision making about safeguarding policy and practice
- There were more supervised free play sessions in well designed play spaces to reduce the risk of bullying and increase children's self confidence
- Parents were given information training and about E-safety
- Parents, children, and young people were given information about how to deal with anti social behaviour and bullying
- Children and young people were helped to be safe from crime and anti social behaviour
- All front line practitioners were given information and advice about , private fostering arrangements
- Fewer children and young people reported incidents of bullying
- Fewer young people ran away from home in the last year, and a system was put in place to support parents and carers when children do go missing.
- Despite a rise in the demand for children's social care, a high level of assessments were and continue to be carried out within the required time scales
- Most of the boroughs looked after children are in stable placements which meet their needs.

And more work needs to be done on:

- Developing services in response to the increasing number of children due to the population increase and the media publicity following the death of Peter Connelly in late 2008, resulting in a rise in the number of children with child protection plans in Slough, from 59 in March 2008, to 142 in March 2011. The number of children looked after in the borough also increased from 120 in March 2008 to 176 in March 2011
- Improving all safeguarding services to ensure that children are safe and feel safe

Ensure that children and young people in Slough enjoy childhood, achieve stretching educational standards, and personal, social and emotional development; and that parents, carers and families support and are supported in their own and their children's learning

Our outcomes in 2008 – 11 were:

- Children and young people enjoy childhood
- Children and young people are ready for school
- Children and young people are supported to achieve high educational standards
- Support inclusion
- Provide high quality learning environments
- Encourage and support community and lifelong learning
- Opportunities to enjoy high quality cultural and recreational activities
- Make educational provision for those that do not attend school or are at risk of exclusion

And to make sure they happened we:

- Offered all children access to high quality early education provision
- Worked with schools to improve results for children at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 2
- Worked with schools to reduce the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2 and 4
- Maintained a focus on the particular needs of learners from vulnerable learners
- Secured sufficient places for Slough children and young people in Slough schools
- Promoted and encourage innovative methods of teaching
- Worked with targeted communities to develop basic skills for young people and adults
- Provided access to high quality cultural and creative activities
- Improve the 'Youth Offer' of positive activities available to 13-19 year olds in Slough
- Engaged children and young people at risk of exclusion
- Put plans in place with schools to improve school attendance

What we did:

- Created 24 new play areas in the borough and refurbished 11.
- Improved the standards of achievement in, and leadership of, our primary schools
- 10 of Slough's schools (across all categories) were judged by Ofsted to be 'outstanding providers' in 2009/10. A further 19 were judged to be 'good providers' in the same period. 10 were judged to be 'satisfactory', whilst 6 were found to be 'inadequate'.
- Worked with schools to develop effective leadership and management, teaching and learning, assessment and data analysis - to inform teaching, strengthen governance and drive up achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2

- Attainment for children at Key Stage 1 in 2010 was broadly in line with the national average with the number of pupils achieving level 2 or above in reading, exceeding the national average.
- Attainment for children at Key Stage 2 has begun to show signs of improvement in English and Maths.
- Attainment for young people at Key stage 4 was among the best in the country.
- The number of pupils gaining 5 or more GCSEs at A* to C, including maths and English also improved, as did the results achieved for other GCSE subjects.
- Despite children with special educational needs gaining significant improvements in achievement, there was still a gap between their results and those for other children without special educational needs of the same age.
- All Slough pupils were offered a school place in 2010/11 and the Local Authority is working to increase the secondary year 7 places available in 2013 for which applications will increase when primary school children transfer to secondary schools.
- Opened Willow Primary school
- Created new schools places through Castlevue, Lynch Hill, Ryvers and Godolphin Infant schools
- Initiated construction projects at Western House (£3m), Parlaunt Park (£4m) and Wexham Court (£4m) to provide additional primary school places
- Worked with primary schools to develop a plan for managing a projected demand for school reception places in 2011 and 2012
- Identified those schools with persistent high absence rates and worked with their leadership to bring about an improvement in attendance figures
- Primary attendance is improving with absences decreasing year on year.
- At secondary level attendance is being sustained at relatively good levels, with improvements in some schools and challenges at others.
- The number of young people from low income families progressing on to higher education increased last year
- All Slough schools now provide the full core offer of extended services for their communities
- All of Slough secondary schools were judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour.
- Slough now has 10 Sure Start children's centres located across the borough.

And more work needs to be done on:

- Improving Foundation Stage results, as despite an improvement in 2010, children at Foundation Stage are still achieving well below the national average
- Improving results at Key Stage 2 and ensuring children make 2 levels of progress
- Decreasing the gap in attainment between children with special educational needs and other children of the same age
- Implementing plans to accommodate an expansion in demand for primary places in September 2011 and 2012.
- Continuing to develop plans to accommodate an expansion in demand for secondary places from 2013 onwards.
- Undertaking targeted work with a small number of schools to continue to improve and sustain primary attendance figures.
- Working with schools to provide targeted support to pupils identified with Free Schools Meals (FSM).

Ensure that children and young people in Slough are involved in making decisions about the services they use; support their communities; engage in law-abiding activities; develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate; and develop self-confidence

Our outcomes in 2008 – 11 were:

- Support and promote opportunities for children and young people to make their voices heard
- Support children and young people to engage in law abiding behaviour
- Encourage children and young people to develop self-confidence and successfully deal with life changes and challenges
- Expanding opportunities for children and young people to volunteer
- Review and improve children and young people's access to positive activities
- Encourage children and young people to develop enterprising behaviour
- Promote educational awareness of environmental issues
- Help parents and carers to promote positive outcomes
- Review and improve children and young people's access to positive activities

And to make sure they happened we:

- Engaged and consulted children and young people and parents, carers and families and used their views in developing and monitoring services Acted to reduce offending and reoffending by young people and young offenders with mental health needs using preventative strategies in conjunction with ensuring they have access to opportunities for education, employment and training
- Ensured children and young people developed positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate
- Encouraged all children and young people to achieve to the best of their ability through identified programmes in and out of school and college
- Promoted social enterprise in schools and colleges
- Engaged children, young people and their families in 'green initiatives' through school, college and community activities
- Delivered an expanded youth offer in Slough to ensure that all young people have access to information, advice, guidance and targeted support together with opportunities to design and participate in a wide range of positive activities
- Reconfigured youth services so that there is a range of services to address under-achievement

As a result

- Children and young people were involved in a range of services and initiatives in schools, children's centres, and youth services. that helped build their confidence, self esteem and encouraged enterprising behaviour
- Parents and carers were offered support in parenting their children through the Parenting Support Strategy
- Children and young people have been engaged in planning services
- Young people tell us that many of them are involved in positive activities out of school hours

- Schools are achieving considerable progress in promoting positive behaviour as demonstrated by the consistently low levels of fixed term exclusions and the sustained low levels of permanent exclusions.
- Schools are taking a leading role in the engagement of young people being successfully involved in enterprising behaviour.
- The Youth Offending Team, in conjunction with partner agencies, have has achieved considerable success in reducing youth offending across the Borough
- Teenage pregnancies are in decline
- Young people's substance misuse is decreasing compared to national figures

And more work needs to be done on:

- Work with partners, services and schools to develop opportunities that help build young people's confidence, self esteem and encourage enterprising behaviour
- Identifying and developing opportunities for children and young people to become more involved in activities that enhance the environment
- Continuing work with through the Integrated Youth Support Service and the voluntary sector to identify and develop volunteering opportunities for young people

Ensure that children and young people in Slough engage in education, employment or training on leaving school; are ready for employment and have access to accommodation to meet their needs

Our outcomes in 2008 – 11 were:

- Increase the proportion of young people entering education, training or employment post-16
- Ensure that children and young people are ready for employment
- Ensure that children and young people live in decent homes and sustainable communities
- Promote and develop the accessibility of childcare provision
- Tackle social deprivation across the borough
- Ensure that children and young people have access to transport and material goods

And to make sure they happened we:

- Planned to reduce the achievement gap of pupils who are on free school meals at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4
- Planned and delivered high quality education and training for young people 14-19, and supported them to make informed choices about their future education and careers
- Developed a curriculum to reflect the needs of young people and the skills gap across Slough
- Made plans to increase retention and achievement of young people in post 16 education, employment and training in Slough
- Supported young disabled people into their adult lives through person centred planning, individual budgets, choice and control
- Worked through the Education Business Partnership to increase employer engagement in work related learning
- Target resources to prevent homelessness among 16/17 year olds
- Continue to develop the number of children's centres across the borough
- Increase the take up of formal childcare by low income working families
- Empowered young people to influence the provision they receive and ensure that their differing learning needs are met regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or social background

As a result:

- We increased the number of places and the range of courses for young people from 16-19 across the borough
- The number of young people remaining in education after 16 is among the highest rate in the country
- Despite the economic downturn the number of young people not in Education Employment and Training (EET) is relatively low in comparison with the national average and has remained between 5% and 6%.
- Connexions, in conjunction with schools, colleges, training providers, the youth service and YOT range offered a range of Information, Guidance and Advice (IAG) services for young people, including looked after children

- Slough Business Community Partnership (SBCP) developed a range of training opportunities and successfully encouraged business involvement in our schools and youth centres
- The Education Business Partnership (EBP) broadened the range of work experience opportunities available to increase young people's options for learning about the world of work
- There is a Transition Protocol for young people with learning difficulties into adulthood from year 9 or before to help young people and their families and carers plan their future lives
- Provided subsidised transport for youth including a discounted youth bus pass to enable them to get to school, college and leisure activities
- We have successfully implemented the "Getting a Life" programme to help young people access public resources
- More teenage mothers took up educational opportunities
- Children's Centres and other childcare provisions across the Borough continue to provide high quality care for working parents

And more work needs to be done on:

- Developing provision for vulnerable learners
- Developing apprenticeship opportunities through the National Apprenticeship Scheme
- Making plans for the Raising of the Participation age through schools, colleges and training providers
- Reviewing the 14-19 Strategy and qualifications available following the Wolf Review
- Supporting young people into adult life through providing information, advice and guidance, in particular teenage parents, vulnerable young people, looked after children and care leavers and asylum seekers