

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

**DATE:** 10 April 2014

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**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** Councillor P Mann (Commissioner for Education and Children)

### **PART I** **FOR SCRUTINY**

#### **OFSTED INSPECTION – REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Panel with information relating to the recent Ofsted inspection into the effectiveness of the Slough Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB).

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

That the Panel:

- a) review the findings of the Ofsted inspection in relation to the Slough Local Safeguarding Children Board; and
- b) scrutinise the plans being developed to put in place the required improvements.

3. **Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

**Health and Well-Being**

- By identifying and prioritising services for vulnerable groups in the Slough population and by targeting support to meet the needs of children and young people.
- Through focussing on the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people and their parents and carers in Slough, and providing targeted services through partnership working primarily with the NHS to secure measurable health improvements

## **Safer Communities**

- By offering effective support to families to help them do their best for their children so that children and young people are safe in their families and communities.
- By recognising that parents are the main carers for their children, and by offering services that enable them to continue to care for their children successfully so that children can grow up within their own families and communities wherever possible.
- By carrying out respective roles across the local authority and partner agencies to ensure that the most vulnerable children in our community are protected from harm and they are enabled to live with their families.
- By carrying out our statutory role as a local authority to provide services for children in need, to safeguard them and look after children whose parents are unable to do so.
- By working effectively with partner agencies so that they also contribute to safeguarding children and young people and demonstrate improved outcomes for those children and young people and their families.
- By ensuring that children and young people who are looked after have the standards of care and life opportunities that we would want for our own children with contributions from all partner agencies.

## **Economy and Skills**

- By offering early education and family support to parents of young children so that they can focus on meeting their children's needs and overcoming personal and family difficulties that affect their ability to care for their children.
- By promoting educational achievement which gives children and young people in care and leaving care enjoyment in learning and increased opportunities for success in adult life.
- By maintaining high levels of Education, Employment and Training (EET) for young people who are looked after beyond 16 years of age.
- By promoting vulnerable young people's social and emotional development alongside advances in educational achievement.

## **4. Other Implications**

### **a) Financial**

The SLSCB pooled budget comprises contributions from partner agencies, and is used to carry out the SLSCB Business Plan and associated work.

Slough Borough Council's budgets for Early Intervention, Safeguarding and Children Looked After also include the provision of services for children and young people who have been trafficked and exploited.

## b) Risk Management

<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>	<b><u>Risk/Threat/Opportunity</u></b>	<b><u>Mitigation</u></b>
Further multi-agency work needs to be carried out through the SLSCB to ensure all partners in Slough are aware of the risk to children who might be trafficked and/or exploited; are able to identify signs of that, and report it appropriately.	Children and young people who are not recognised as trafficked or exploited continue to be at risk of serious significant harm.	All partners working to SLSCB Business Plan requirements to recognise children and young people in this group; draw up and implement the Action Plan on Child Sexual Exploitation required by DfE.
Ensure that the SLSCB Business Plan and the operational work of partners fulfil Ofsted grade criteria for 'good'/'outstanding'.	Ofsted will be including child trafficking and exploitation in future unannounced inspections of safeguarding and looked after children and assessing the impact of multi-agency services in prevention and protection.	Use the clear, written multi-agency approach in the Berkshire Child Protection Procedures to ensure consistency of practice.

## c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no human rights or legal implications arising from this report.

## d) Equalities Impact Assessment

An equalities impact assessment is not required in relation to this report.

## 5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 Ofsted undertook an inspection of the SLSCB from the 19 November to the 11 December 2013, alongside its inspection of Slough Borough Council's services for children in need of help and protection, children look after and Care Leavers. The latter inspection was the subject of scrutiny at the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on the 19 February 2014.
- 5.2 The portion of the final Ofsted report relating to the inspection of the SLSCB is attached as Appendix A.
- 5.3 The Independent Chair of the SLSCB will provide a response to the findings by Ofsted at the meeting, along with outlining the SLSCB's proposed plan of action for putting in place the required improvements.

## 6 **Conclusion**

The Ofsted inspection found that the SLSCB was unable to demonstrate that it had effective arrangements in place, and the required skills, to discharge its statutory duties.

## 7 **Background Papers**

- 1 - Ofsted report on the announced inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services June 2011
- 2 - Ofsted report on the inspection of Adoption Services April 2012
- 3 - Ofsted report on the inspection of Fostering Services June 2012