

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 11 April 2016

CONTACT OFFICER: Krutika Pau (Interim Director of Children's Services)
(For all enquiries) (01753) 875 751

WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Councillor Pavitar K Mann (Commissioner for Education and Children)

PART I **NON-KEY DECISION**

PLEDGE TO SLOUGH'S LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

1 **Purpose of Report**

To present a new Pledge to Slough's Looked After Children for agreement and endorsement to Council.

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

The Cabinet is requested to:

- a) agree the revised Pledge; and
- b) recommend endorsement of the revised Pledge to Council.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The Pledge covers all five of the Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities in relation to the impact on looked after children.

3b **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The Pledge supports Outcome 5 of the Five Year Plan: children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances.

- enabling looked after children to lead emotionally and physically healthy lives
- enabling looked after children to live safe, independent and responsible lives; and
- enabling looked after children to enjoy life and learning, to feel confident in their futures and aspire to achieve to their individual potential.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

Financial implications will be considered as part of a full report to Cabinet in June 2016.

(b) Risk Management

None.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act or other legal implications relating to the recommendation in this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Equalities Impact Assessments will be undertaken as required in implementing the Pledge.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 In order to improve the experiences of, and outcomes for, children looked after by Slough and care leavers, the Council and Slough Children's Services Trust (SCST) are making changes which will help us collectively to more effectively fulfil our corporate parenting responsibilities.
- 5.2 A key priority in this work has been the development of a new pledge for children looked after by Slough. This work has been led by the Reach Out! Group which represents looked after children in the borough. The children and young people themselves identified areas which were important to them, and where they wanted commitments made by the Council and SCST.
- 5.3 Representation from the Reach Out! Group presented their proposals to the Corporate Parenting Panel, and the attached Pledge (Appendix A) was agreed by the Panel on 22 March 2016. Following discussion at Cabinet, this will be presented to Council. Discussions are currently underway with the Reach Out! Group for a formal launch of the Pledge.
- 5.4 A further report will be presented to Cabinet in June 2016 presenting the new Corporate Parenting Strategy, Action Plan and Scorecard which will set out how the Pledge will be implemented. These are currently being developed in partnership by the council and SCST.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The Cabinet is requested to approve the new Pledge and endorse it to Council.

7 Appendices Attached

A - Pledge to Looked After Children: our promises to Slough's children in care

8 Background Papers

None.