

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council **DATE:** 19 April 2016
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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CABINET FROM ITS MEETINGS HELD ON 14TH **MARCH 2016 AND 11TH APRIL 2016**

B. PLEDGE TO SLOUGH'S LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

1 Purpose of Report

To consider the recommendation of the Cabinet and the Corporate Parenting Panel to endorse the revised Pledge to Slough's Looked After Children.

2 Recommendation

That the Council endorse the revised Pledge to our Looked After Children as attached at Appendix A.

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 and by the Cabinet on 11 April 2016. 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.

Comments of Other Committees

- 5.5 At its meeting on 22nd March 2016, Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel approved the final version of Slough's new Pledge to Looked After Children and agreed that it be recommended to Council for endorsement.
- 5.6 The revised Pledge was also considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 11th April 2016 and it was agreed to recommend endorsement to full Council.

6 **Conclusion**

- 6.1 The Council is requested to endorse the new Pledge.

7 **Appendices Attached**

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