

## SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

**DATE:** 21 April 2016

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**WARD(S):** All

### PART I FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

#### CAMBRIDGE EDUCATION – ANNUAL REPORT

##### 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This is the annual report from Cambridge Education providing an account of the second year (30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – 29 September 2015) of the contract of working together with Slough Borough Council to deliver education services across the community.

##### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Panel is requested to consider this report and make any comments and recommendations as appropriate.

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

##### 3.1 Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

###### **Priorities:**

- ***Economy and Skills*** - *Slough will be an accessible location, competitive on the world stage with a sustainable and varied business sector and strong knowledge economy, supported by a local workforce who have the skills to meet local businesses' changing needs.*

The achievements of children and young people have a direct bearing on their adult lives and prospects in the workplace. The success of these children and young people has a significant impact on the success and prosperity of the community in which they live.

- **Health** - *Slough will be healthier with reduced inequalities, improved wellbeing and opportunities for our residents to live positive, active and independent lives*

Educational success has a direct relationship with child poverty. Raising educational standards has the potential to break or reduce this cycle of poverty from one generation to the next. Educational success also has the power to improve life chances and promote positive well-being. Research indicates a strong inter-relationship between educational achievement and children's well-being.

#### **Cross Cutting themes:**

- **Civic responsibility** – successful young people will be in a stronger position to contribute to and gain from the community in which they live. Promoting success and leadership in young people can lead to residents who can play a dynamic role in implementing the Strategy and being champions in improving Slough for themselves and for the benefit of everyone.
- **Improving the image of the town** – the educational success of young people in Slough is now recognised locally and nationally with Slough having the 8<sup>th</sup> highest results out of 152 local authorities for pupils gaining 5 or more GCSEs with grades A\*-C, including maths and English. Slough's outstanding schools (all Slough secondary schools apart from one out of eleven are good or outstanding, with seven of them outstanding) are an inducement to come to Slough for its education and for families to stay in Slough to educate their children.

### **3.2 Five Year Plan Outcomes**

#### **Outcome 5: Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances**

A good education can help to break a cycle of disadvantage and poverty. It can also support children and young people to achieve their ambitions and lead economically successful and fulfilled lives.

### **4.0 Other Implications**

#### **(a) Financial and risk management**

The financial implications and risk management are associated with the ending of the Cambridge Education contract on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The details of this are yet to be finalised. However, this will result in various changes in service responsibility and delivery which will impact on human resources and finance, with arrangements to be formalised for 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

Alongside this there are substantial challenges for the Council based on the financial reductions over the next few years. This is at a time when schools' funding arrangements are being reviewed with the likelihood of significant changes in funding allocations for the services referred to in this review. Given that some services are purchased by schools, and given their increasing financial pressures associated with increased national insurance payments, pension costs and inflation, it is likely this may result in reduced spend.

Also, any financial changes introduced over the remaining months are likely to have implications for the scope of the contract. In the meantime, the contract continues in its current form with the same financial commitments.

(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no significant Human Rights or other legal implications in relation to this report.

(c) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for the completion of an EIA in relation to this report.

## 5 **Background**

- 5.1 The Cambridge Education Annual Report is attached as **Appendix 1**. This provides an overview and a narrative about what has been achieved over the last year (leading up to 30th September 2016), areas for further improvement, the challenges ahead with proposals for development and mitigating risks. Performance data against key performance indicators is attached as **Appendix 2** Details are also included about the levels of customer satisfaction with the services being delivered and are attached as **Appendix 3**.
- 5.2 The key successes are:
- Better Children's Centre provision leading to improved outcomes for the most vulnerable families with very young children
  - More Slough children being educated in schools which are judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' or better
  - Improvements in attainment and progress for more pupils at most stages of their learning
  - Timely access to help and support for more vulnerable children in school
  - Modified arrangements for in-year admissions to school which are responsive in setting up prompt placements
- 5.3 The main areas for improvement are:
- Ensuring safeguarding is robust across all services
  - Ensuring further improvements in Children's Centre provision for vulnerable children and their families
  - Ensuring that a higher percentage of Slough children are educated in schools which are 'Good' or better
  - Accelerating the improvements in Key Stage 2 performance across Slough schools, particularly with maths and reading
  - Timely and appropriate engagement with vulnerable groups with the focus on closing the achievement gap for these groups with their peers
  - Supporting the Local Authority in ensuring sufficient and appropriate high quality and effective early years and school provision, available in the right places at the right time
  - Early identification of children with additional needs, meeting these needs and confirming positive outcomes, particularly preparing for Ofsted scrutiny from May 2016 when the new inspection regime commences
  - Improving primary school attendance which will contribute positively towards improving educational achievement.

5.4 The contract between Cambridge Education and Slough Borough Council is now in its final year (October 2015 to September 2016) and comes to an end, in its current form, on 30th September 2016. Responsibility for the delivery of the services which are currently managed by Cambridge Education will transfer to the Council and the Slough Children's Services Trust and are subject to the second Direction issued by the Secretary of State in September 2015.

## 6 **Appendices**

- '1' - Cambridge Education Annual Report 2016
- '2' - Key performance indicators with outcomes
- '3' - Feedback and Customer Satisfaction