

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 27 June 2016

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Education and Children – Cllr Sabia Hussain

PART I **NON-KEY DECISION**

REVISED CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2016-18

1 **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present a revised Corporate Parenting Strategy for cabinet approval.

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

The Cabinet is requested to agree the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy which includes revised terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel

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

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

Priorities:

- Health
- Economy and Skills
- Regeneration and Environment
- Housing
- Safer Communities

Corporate parenting responsibilities cut across all services delivering the priorities within the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy in relation to support provided to our vulnerable children.

3b **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Corporate parenting responsibilities cut across all services which support all the outcomes within the Five Year Plan as they relate to our vulnerable children, with a specific focus on:

- Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley
- More people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs
- Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances

4 **Other Implications**

a) Financial

There are no financial implications of proposed action

b) Risk Management

Risk	Mitigating action	Opportunities
Legal	None	
Property	None	
Human Rights	None	
Health and Safety	None	
Employment Issues	None	
Equalities Issues		To support the most vulnerable children in Slough
Community Support		To listen to the views of children and young people
Communications		To demonstrate the good work being undertaken by the council and the Trust
Community Safety	None	
Financial	None	
Timetable for delivery	Clear Action Plan setting out timescales and lead officer are attached to the strategy	
Project Capacity	All services within the Council to understand their corporate parenting responsibilities and acknowledge this in their business planning and delivery	
Other	None	

c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

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

d) Equalities Impact Assessment

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

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The four week Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers took place in November and December 2015. Services delivered by Slough Borough Council and the Slough Children's Services Trust were within the scope of the inspection. The report found the experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence to be inadequate. The Ofsted report, published in February 2016, made some specific comments regarding the council's role as corporate parent:

'The council has not been a good corporate parent. The Corporate Parenting Strategy lacks ambition and rigour, and the Corporate Parenting Panel has not received and scrutinised comprehensive performance information. Some key aspects of support for children looked after, including the virtual school, have been weak. The views of children looked after and care leavers have not been sought and analysed actively enough, and so they have not influenced the shape and quality of services.'

'Slough's children looked after and care leavers do not regard the council as a good corporate parent. Inspectors agree with them. The corporate parenting strategy is a superficial document that used old data and priorities, and includes no action plan. The corporate parenting panel has not received comprehensive performance information. This has limited its ability to provide scrutiny and challenge.'

- 5.2 The Ofsted report also made two specific recommendations:
- a) Revise the corporate parenting strategy to ensure that it sets out a clear vision and process for improving outcomes for children looked after and care leavers
 - b) Review the terms of reference of the corporate parenting panel to ensure that it includes wider partner representation and provides rigorous scrutiny and challenge
- 5.3 Following the publication of this report, a new Corporate Parenting Strategy (**Appendix A**) has been developed by the council in close consultation with the Trust. Draft action plans to deliver this strategy are due to be considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel on 23 June 2016.
- 5.4 The priorities in the new Corporate Parenting Strategy are based on the six themes of **Our Pledge: our promises to our looked after children**, agreed at full Council in April 2016.

Our looked after children and young people will be/have:

- 1) supported by strong and effective corporate parenting
- 2) enabled to achieve their educational potential
- 3) supported as they move into adulthood
- 4) encouraged to develop positive relationships
- 5) respected and engaged in planning for their work
- 6) good health and wellbeing

6 Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Panel

- 6.1 The terms of reference (TOR) for the Corporate Parenting Panel have been revised and strengthened and are included as Appendix 6 of the strategy attached as **Appendix A**.
- 6.2 Particular changes to the TOR have focused on clarifying the role of the Panel and expanding the membership to incorporate a wider selection of partners who contribute to services provided to looked after children and care leavers. The TOR now also enable care leavers and foster carers to join the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- 6.3 The Corporate Parenting Panel have agreed that future meetings of the Panel should be based around themes that reflect the different priorities in the strategy so that they are able to effectively focus on specific aspects of support provided to looked after children and care leavers and where the young people themselves are actively able to engage in the discussions.

7 Accountability

- 7.1 In the revised terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel, it is proposed that the Panel will provide:
 - a) a mid-year report to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel setting out the progress made in delivering the Corporate Parenting Strategy. This report will be presented by the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
 - b) an annual report on its work to deliver the Corporate Parenting Strategy to Cabinet and Council. This report will be presented by the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

8 Comments of Other Committees

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel have been actively involved in the development of the strategy, action plan and revised terms of reference for the Panel. These three documents are being presented to the Panel for final comments on 23 June, and due to the lead in time for cabinet papers any views from the Panel will be reported verbally to Cabinet on the 27 June 2016. On 23 June, the Panel will also be considering a draft scorecard for monitoring progress being made on delivering the Pledge.

9 Conclusion

The revised Corporate Parenting Strategy and terms of reference of the Corporate Parenting Panel are key deliverables for the council from the Delivery Plan submitted to Ofsted in response to the inspection report published in February 2016.

10 **Appendices Attached**

A Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-18

11 **Background Papers**

- 1 Slough Ofsted report on inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers (February 2016)
- 2 Securing improvements in the experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence – service update (Scrutiny report: April 2016)