

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education & Children's Services **DATE:** 19 July 2016
Scrutiny Panel

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

SLOUGH OFSTED DELIVERY PLAN

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To outline the key actions that Slough Borough Council and the Slough Children's Services Trust will be taking to deliver the Vision for Children's Services , and the improvements required following the Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers in December 2015.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Panel note the plan for service improvement which has now been submitted to Ofsted.

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

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

Priorities:

- Safer Communities
 - Carrying out the statutory role of the local authority to provide services for children in need, to safeguard them and look after children whose parents are unable to do so.

3b. Five Year Plan Outcomes

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

The establishment of the Slough Children's Services Trust aims to make Slough children's services one of the best providers of children's social care in the country, providing timely, purposeful support that brings safe, lasting and positive change.

4 Other Implications

a) Financial

There are no financial implications specific to the recommendation in this report.

b) Risk Management

There are no risks identified in relation to the recommendation in this report.

c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

In September 2015, the Secretary of State issued a Direction transferring various children's services to Slough Children's Services Trust ('the Trust'). Although the Trust performs services on behalf of Slough Borough Council, the Council retains all its legal obligations for the statutory duties.

On 30 September 2015, the Council entered into a contract with the Trust governing the provision of services by the Trust. The contract with the Trust contains various monitoring powers so that the Council can assure itself that vulnerable children in the borough are receiving the best support possible.

d) Equalities Impact Assessment

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

5 Background

5.1 The four week 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.

5.2 The full Ofsted report was published on the 17 February 2016. The report found children's services in Slough to be 'inadequate'.

- Services for children in need of help and protection – **inadequate**
- Children looked after and achieving permanence – **inadequate**
- Adoption performance – **requires improvement**
- Experiences and progress of care leavers – **inadequate**
- Leadership, management and governance – **inadequate**

6 Joint Delivery Plan and Governance

6.1 Following the inspection report, the Council and the Trust collaborated to develop a joint delivery plan, focused on the Vision for Children's Services and the priorities for improvement demanded by the findings of the inspection. This Joint Delivery Plan is attached as Appendix A.

6.2 In order to ensure that these improvements are taken forward and having a positive impact on the lives of our vulnerable children, the council and Trust have also agreed robust governance arrangements around the joint delivery plan.

- 6.3 It has been agreed that following the monthly Strategic Monitoring Board (part of the contract arrangements), the DfE-appointed Commissioner will chair a meeting, where the Council and the Trust and less frequently the LSCB, will present the progress being made in line with each organisations improvement Delivery Plan. The DfE will also be represented at this meeting.
- 6.4 The Director of Children’s Services will also provide regular reports to the Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel on the progress being made to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable children in Slough. In addition, an annual report will be presented to Cabinet.
- 6.5 The Trust Board is responsible for over-seeing the development of services that the Trust is delivering. The Board meets monthly and has established a Quality and Innovation Committee which will also meet monthly between Board meetings and will focus on detailed service development and performance monitoring.
- 6.6 The Council has already started work on making improvements in the following areas of delivery:
- A revised Pledge for children looked after – approved by full Council in April 2016
 - A revised Corporate Parenting Strategy (Ofsted recommendation) – approved by Cabinet on 27 June 2016
 - Revised terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel (Ofsted recommendation), including a non-executive director from the Trust to be on the Panel – approved by Council in June 2016
 - Agreement from the Corporate Parenting Panel (23 June 2016) to develop a single integrated (Trust and Council) Corporate Parenting Action Plan (Ofsted comment for improvement)
 - Agreement from the Corporate Parenting Panel (23 June 2016) on template for a scorecard to monitor the revised Pledge and performance measures for children looked after (Ofsted comment for improvement)
 - A review of the LSCB arrangements and work with the chair to ensure improvements are made to the functioning of the Board.

7 **Conclusion**

- 7.1 The report sets out the key activity planned by the Council and Trust to deliver the improvement required for services for children and young people in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.

8 **Appendix**

- A - Slough Ofsted Delivery Plan

9 **Background Papers**

- 1 - Ofsted Report: Slough Borough Council. Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (24 November – 17 December 2015)