

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 19th April 2017

CONTACT OFFICER: Nicola Clemo, CEO Slough Children's Services Trust
(For all enquiries) (01753) 477 218

WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

OFSTED MONITORING VISIT

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update the Education and Children's Services (ECS) Scrutiny Panel on the findings of the recent Ofsted monitoring visit.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the ECS Scrutiny Panel note the progress being made by Slough Children's Services Trust (SCST) and Slough Borough Council (SBC).

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

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

Priority 1 – Protecting vulnerable children

3b. Five Year Plan Outcomes

Outcome 1: Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives

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

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

d) Equalities Impact Assessment

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

5 Background Information

- 5.1 After the Ofsted inspection of November 2015, the organisation are returning to appraise the progress being made across the range of functions undertaken by SCST. The second and most recent monitoring visit focused on how SCST were working to improve the outcomes of care leavers in Slough.
- 5.2 The monitoring visit has found both SCST and SBC are making significant progress in this area. SCST was recognised as having started from a 'very low base' but noted a marked and positive shift in leaders' shared commitment in improving the outcomes for care leavers. The report (published on 30th March 2017 and attached as Appendix A) states that:

'the council and the trust have taken determined steps to raise the ambition for care leavers'

- 5.3 In particular, SBC was praised for its creative work, particularly in meeting care leavers accommodation and housing needs. Inspectors found 'pockets of strong support to care leavers that is making a demonstrable difference to their lives' including determined steps by both SCST and SBC to embrace their role as joint corporate parents.
- 5.4 The report recognises the work undertaken by SCST to address the findings in the last full Ofsted inspection in relation to care leavers. In addition, the report offers clear indication of the benefits gained from improving the working relationship between SCST and SBC. As a result of this, the responsibilities that SCST and SBC have as corporate parents are being undertaken more thoroughly. The voice of care leavers is also being incorporated in the provision of an improved service.
- 5.5 Ofsted inspectors make particular reference to the review panel. This was established by senior managers after the last full inspection to look at past support provided to individual care leavers. The panel works to ensure young people were safe and being appropriately cared for while the new service was being developed. The report makes the following statement on the matter:

'The panel continues to be used well to agree packages of support. Some care leavers were found to have experienced very poor care and, for these young people, the service continues to support them beyond statutory requirements.'

- 5.6 In addition, care leavers told inspectors they are now well engaged with their assessments and plans, their forum has a 'strong voice' and they 'consistently' said they felt listened to.
- 5.7 However, SCST and SBC are aware of the need for continued improvement. The report identified a number of areas which required work:
- Improving the reliability of performance information
 - The lack of formal contractual arrangements with providers
 - The need to strengthen partnership relationships for individual care leavers in health and adult services
 - The embedding of some of the new protocols and practice developments

6 **Conclusion**

- 6.1 This report sets out some of the key findings of the Ofsted Monitoring Visit. Members are requested to comment on these and the hopes for future activity from SCST and SBC.

7 **Appendices**

'A' - Letter from Ofsted regarding Monitoring Visit of SCST, 30th March 2017

8 **Background Papers**

None