

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board **DATE:** 27th September 2017

CONTACT OFFICER: Nick Georgiou, Independent Chair of Slough LSCB
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 690924

WARD(S): All

PART I

FOR INFORMATION

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD (LSCB) (PROGRESS REPORT)

1. Purpose of Report

To update the SWB on the progress being made in implementing the LSCB delivery plan discussed at the November 2016 meeting.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Committee is requested to note the report.

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

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) identifies children's services as a priority: Protecting vulnerable children is now clearly articulated as a major priority.

Actions carried out by the LSCB and the continuing focus on assurance of good safeguarding practice and procedures by agencies working in partnership across Slough are of critical importance in delivering the SJWS priority to protect vulnerable children.

3b. Five Year Plan Outcomes

The work of the LSCB directly contributes to the following outcomes in the Council's Five Year plan:

- 4 - Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley.
- 5 - Children and young people will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances.

4. Other Implications

- (a) **Financial** - There are no financial implications of the proposed action. There is a financial contribution to the LSCB's budget from the core statutory partners of the local authority, the police and the NHS.
- (b) **Risk Management** - The LSCB is a partnership body; there is a reputational risk for all statutory members of the partnership in having an ineffective LSCB.

This is most significant for Slough Borough Council (SBC) as it is the lead organisation charged with establishing the LSCB. The CEO is identified as the officer to whom the independent chair is accountable for their performance.

An effective LSCB provides oversight, support and challenge for services of the Council and partner agencies. It is at the forefront in ensuring a strategic assessment of the risks posed to children and young people in Slough by the statutory partners working in Slough.

- (c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications** - There are no Human Rights Act Implications of proposed action although the work of the LSCB contributes to a number of Human Rights such as the right to family life.
- (d) **Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)** - There is no requirement for an EIA attached to the proposed actions. LSCB is aware of the need to ensure lay membership on the board and is progressing a recruitment approach with the assistance of input of Community services in Slough.

5. **Summary**

This report summarises actions since the negative Ofsted report in November 2015 which informed the 2016/17 Business Plan. Greater detail will be contained in the LSCB's Annual Report for this period which is currently in draft.

Several developments are in train intended to promote closer partnership between agencies, a clear governance line to the responsible key partner for both adult and children's safeguarding: SBC, and improved coherence across the span of partnership forums.

6. **Supporting Information**

- 6.1 The Wellbeing Board is asked to accept this progress update with information on achievements against the 2016/17 Business Plan summarised from a draft of the Annual Report prior to consideration by the LSCB in November 2017. Production of the Annual Report is a statutory requirement but at the time of presenting this update to the SWB the LSCB has not yet received the Annual Report.
- 6.2 Additionally this update describes progress in governance and management arrangements since the 2016/17 Business Plan was developed.

6.3 **Achievements against our priorities in the 2016/17 Business Plan**

6.3.1 **Theme 1: Revise and implement multi-agency threshold guidance**

The multi-agency threshold guidance was finalised in May 2016, published on the website and disseminated across partner organisations. The LSCB disseminated the document so that all professionals could use it in their daily practice. The threshold guidance is incorporated within all LSCB training and training delivered within Slough Children's Services Trust (SCST). It has also been subject to multi-agency audit.

In September 2016 the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was launched, with Police, Children's Social Care and health professionals co-located at Slough Police Station. Regular evaluation reports into the effectiveness of MASH arrangements enabled the LSCB to monitor progress and performance and identify actions for improvement.

What difference did this make?

Understanding the threshold document and applying it consistently has enabled effective responses to referrals. The November 2016 Ofsted monitoring visit identified: *"Since the inspection, a comprehensive multi-agency threshold document has been published and we saw evidence that it is being effectively applied at the front door."*

The MASH has been positively commented on by Ofsted as improving the ability to identify risk and make informed safeguarding decisions for children. Ofsted said: *"The recently established MASH provides a timely, considered and proportionate response to children. Consent is well considered."*

What we need to do better:

These developments are being further progressed during the current year including an education presence in the MASH and the intention to relocate the MASH at St Martin's Place.

6.3.2 Theme 2: Establish a programme of effective monitoring and quality assurance of multi-agency safeguarding practice.

The LSCB Quality Assurance subgroup completed three successful multi-agency audits: Domestic Violence; Safeguarding Children - Adult Mental Ill Health; and Safeguarding Children - Serious Violent Assault and Aggravated use of Weapon. The learning, themes and recommendations from the audits were accepted by the LSCB.

The LSCB specifies that all auditing and evaluation reports include an analysis of the contribution that the child's voice is making to service delivery and outcomes for children. The Quality Assurance subgroup has an audit schedule that reflects the LSCB Business Plan, although it is flexible to accommodate emerging issues within Slough. Slough Borough Council completed its statutory Section 11 audit and a summary of its findings was submitted to the LSCB Executive Board and presented to the Education and Scrutiny Panel in May 2016.

What difference did this make?

The LSCB receives regular performance information from all partners. Risks are identified and consistent learning and debriefing takes place to effect quality safeguarding practice. Organisations are informed about the quality of their arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Audit reports are used to decide future actions by the LSCB and agencies.

The November 2016 Ofsted Monitoring visit identified: *"Quality Assurance, including case auditing by managers, has improved. Themed case audits, such as the recent child sexual exploitation audit, routinely identify good and inadequate practice. Overall, inspectors agreed with the findings of the case audits undertaken by the Trust during the monitoring visit."*

"Single assessments are increasingly analytical, with the perspective of children considered well in most cases.... We saw examples of sensitive conversations with

children who have been sexually abused, and creative direct work with young children. The views of children are evident in most records, supported by observation.”

What we need to do better:

Ofsted found examples of good practice in the involvement of children and evidence of the child’s voice leading to improved outcomes, but further focus is still needed to ensure that this is consistent across all cases.

6.3.3 Theme 3: Take action to strengthen the LSCB’s oversight and scrutiny of the effectiveness of the local multi-agency response to children at risk of exploitation including CSE and Missing.

A revised Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing Children Strategy and Action Plan were agreed by the LSCB in March 2016 with a revised CSE and Missing Pathway agreed in November 2016. Slough Safer Partnership initiated and commissioned an independent overview of the scale of CSE in Slough (LIME report). The findings of a CSE audit was submitted and considered by the LSCB in November 2016. CSE awareness leaflets have been published. The CSE risk indicator tool has been revised by the Pan Berkshire CSE Subgroup and has been uploaded to the Berkshire Policy & Procedure website. The CSE Pan Berkshire Subgroup is now well established and has committed membership from Slough.

A joint project with the Safeguarding Adults Board initiated training for every taxi driver licensed in Slough on recognising and responding to concerns about adults at risk and child sexual exploitation. Joint working with the Licensing Team, Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Co-ordinator, this was the first program of its kind in Berkshire. This program was given an achievement award for outstanding work by the Berkshire Environmental Health Managers Group in February 2017 and the long term outcomes will be evaluated by University College London in September 2017.

The LSCB FGM subgroup developed and launched a FGM strategy; organised and delivered a successful community awareness event.

What difference did this make?

The November Ofsted Monitoring visit identified:

“In the cases we considered, risk assessments for children at risk of sexual exploitation were thorough and analytical.”

“The contributions of professionals who attend SEMRAC are reflective and child focused. Attendees share ideas and solutions as well as information.”

“Overall, concerns about children who are at risk of sexual exploitation are steadily reducing.

“In-house and commissioned services to undertake interviews with children who go missing from home or care are now in place. The records we reviewed of these interviews included detailed and helpful conversations.”

What we need to do better:

Ensure the Sexual Exploitation and Missing Risk Assessment Conference (SEMRAC) process are strengthened and focus on people and places of interest as well as victims. SEMRAC guidance issued in March 2017 sets out a required agenda but the minutes of conferences need to be improved to ensure that they include relevant information, multi-agency risk analysis and agreed actions.

There is a lack of knowledge around the activity of missing children; this is being addressed but more robust care planning needed for repeat missing children. All children who go missing need to receive a return home interview within 72 hours of their return.

Multi-agency response and coordinated working with the Safeguarding Adults Board to agree processes to support young people who have been sexually exploited but do not meet criteria for Adult Social Care services when they reach 18. Without effective, coordinated support, these young people will continue to be vulnerable, exploited, moving into more chaotic lifestyles with multiple and complex needs.

Further training and awareness raising for frontline workers so there is consistent knowledge about CSE, appropriate identification of risk, better awareness of links between CSE and other modern slavery categories, and increase use of National Referral Mechanism (NRM) system for exploited and trafficked children.

6.3.4 Theme 4: Develop and implement a funding agreement to ensure the LSCB has sufficient resources to undertake its core business.

Partners agreed to maintain their financial contributions to the LSCB for 2016 – 17 and have provided venues, removing the costing for the LSCB. Slough Borough Council now funds the cost of the LSCB Independent Chair as an addition to the main LSCB budget. Partners have agreed to share costs if a Serious Case Review is initiated. A system to receive payment from partners attending LSCB training is now in place. THE Council has assured support is available to enable the LSCB website to be updated. The Trust has assured the LSCB training officer and the officer's business support is funded to enable the delivery of the LSCB training schedule. Partners are providing staff with specific expertise, to take part in critical case reviews and community events.

The LSCB Independent Chair and Business Manager work closely with other Boards within Slough to ensure overlapping safeguarding themes are not duplicated.

The "Slough Safeguarding People Protocol" was agreed and outlines the relationship between Slough Wellbeing Board, Slough Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Slough Adult Safeguarding Board, Safer Slough Partnership, Preventing Violent Extremism Group and Slough Joint Corporate Parenting Panel.

What difference did this make?

The LSCB has reassurance of its required funding and will remain within budget at the end of the financial year. The work of the LSCB benefits from the expertise of a wide range of partners. Joint working with other multi-agency boards within Slough and across Berkshire encourages efficient and cost effective working and reduces duplication of efforts.

What we need to do better:

As the Slough Safeguarding Business Unit is developed in this current year (217/18) it is essential that we firm up all our financial, administrative, and communication processes to ensure maximum effectiveness and clarity in our strategic cohesion and service delivery.

6.3.5 Theme 5: Undertake a training needs analysis and regularly evaluate the quality and impact of training (including e-learning).

The LSCB Training Officer devised and published a training calendar for 2016-17. The event evaluation feedback form and follow up feedback form have been redesigned, to assess the impact of training; the first meeting of the Learning and Development sub-group was held in February 2017.

What difference did this make?

The LSCB Training Directory setting out learning and development requirements and opportunities with clear access arrangements is in place and is well used across the agencies. Learning is taken from the work of the LSCB sub-groups for incorporation into the learning and development opportunities described in the Training Directory and in the evaluation of the effectiveness of the LSCB's training.

What we need to do better:

Outstanding actions have been incorporated into the Business Plan for 2017-18 under Objective 4: The LSCB will share learning and improve front line practice through an evidence informed learning and development programme. Specific actions will focus on an annual multi-agency training needs analysis, a multi-agency training programme, and evaluation of the quality and impact of training. There will be a facility to book training through the new LSCB website, which will include links to other relevant training and safeguarding ELearning.

6.3.6 Theme 6: Engage the wider community in the work of the LSCB by ensuring that the Board has lay member representation and through engagement with local faith groups.

The LSCB has not made sufficient progress in this aspect of its work. We are in discussion with two possible lay members and will be attending a Slough Youth Parliament in the autumn but we still have a lot to do to make a significant improvement in achieving wider understanding and engagement with the work of the LSCB.

What we need to do better:

Progressing this is a priority for the incoming Safeguarding Boards Manager. A new, safeguarding website is under development, due to be launched in the autumn 2017, which will be easy to use and compatible with mobile devices. A social media platform will be instrumental in supporting the Board's priority to engage with a wider audience and will be integrated within the website. The website will have links to access the Safeguarding Board's Twitter account and Facebook Page. Opportunities to engage with community groups is a priority. An LSCB leaflet and newsletter is planned, as well as community awareness events to increase awareness of child protection issues.

6.4 Governance arrangements for the LSCB are now clearly with the Council rather than with the Trust. This is an important change as the statutory responsibility rests with the local authority and it is right that the governance line is within the local authority's services.

6.5 The newly recruited Joint Safeguarding Business Unit manager will take up her post in November when she will be responsible for developing safeguarding across the span of the Adult and Children's Boards and will also have an important connection to the safeguarding work undertaken within the Safer Slough Partnership. The Joint Safeguarding Business Unit manager will report managerially to the Director of Adult Services.

6.6 A proposal is being considered during September 2017 for a Slough Safeguarding Executive to be formed to ensure that there is consistent consideration of safeguarding issues that span the range of formal partnerships. This will promote the development of coherence in strategic planning between key local agencies to identify and tackle emerging issues.

7. **Comments of Other Committees**

To date this report has not been presented to any other committee.

8. **Conclusion**

This report summarises actions since the negative Ofsted report in November 2015 which informed the 2016/17 Business Plan. Greater detail will be contained in the LSCB's Annual Report for this period which is currently in draft.

Several developments are in train intended to promote closer partnership between agencies, a clear governance line to the responsible key partner for both Adult and Children's safeguarding: Slough Borough Council, and improved coherence across the span of partnership forums.

9. **Appendices attached**

None.

10. **Background Papers**

None.