

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

**DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **FIVE YEAR PLAN – OUTCOME 1 GROUP PROGRESS REPORT**

1. **Purpose of Report**

This report provides an update to Members on Outcome 1 ("Our children & young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives") of the Council's Five Year Plan 2017/2021, specifically the Key Outcome "Ensure children and young people are supported to be "safe, secure and successful".

2. **Recommendation**

The Panel is requested to note and comment as appropriate on the report.

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities applicable to this report**

1. Protecting vulnerable children

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes applicable to this report**

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 relating to this report.

(b) Risk Management

Each of the actions that comprise the Outcome 1 Group plan are already contained within the service planning framework of the relevant Council Directorates and overseen by the corporate Five Year Plan Board, Cabinet and Scrutiny committee. Monitoring reports including identification of risks and mitigating action will be reported through this governance process.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications relating to this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

None required.

(e) Workforce

There are no workforce implications relating to this report.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 The current Five Year Plan has five priority outcomes. Outcome 1 (“Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives”) is led by the Director of Children, Learning & Skills (DCLS). The bulk of the Strategic Actions associated with this Outcome 1, however, are delivered elsewhere in the Council and by Slough Children’s Services Trust (SCST).

5.2 At the 18 July 2017 meeting of Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel (ECSSP), Members received a report that outlined the work of the Outcome 1 Group. Members agreed for updates to be provided to ECSSP on a thematic basis to enable proper scrutiny of progress. This report therefore covers the Key Outcome “*Ensure children and young people are supported to be safe, secure and successful*” and the related Strategic Actions:

- Children are made subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) where significant risk of harm is identified; and
- Early identification of and response to problems for children and families.

Tables 1 and 1.1 below provide details of the latest position on the Strategic Action relating to CPP.

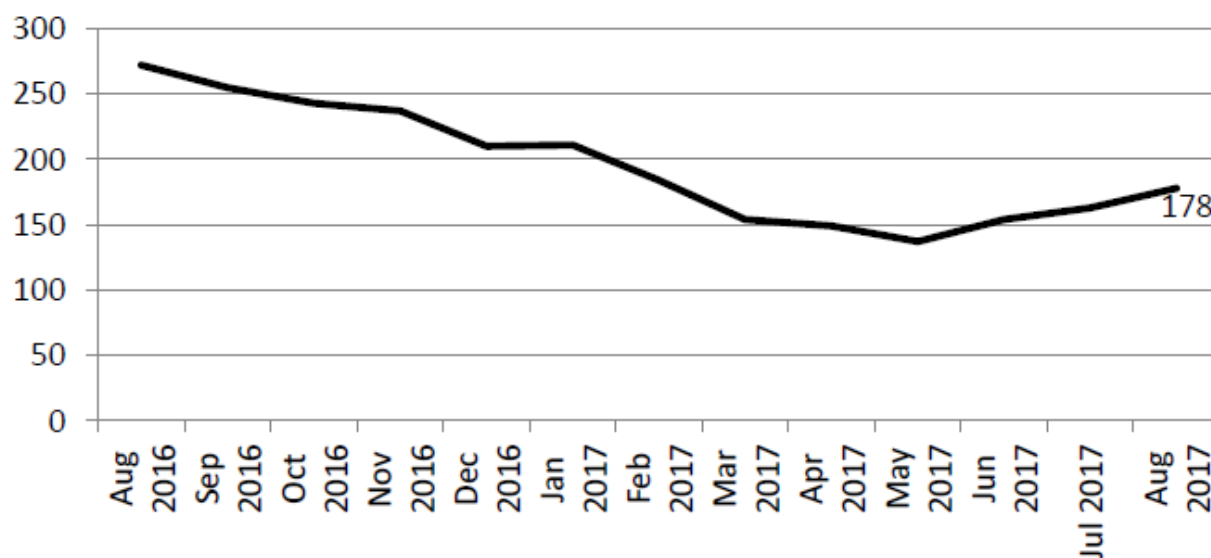
Table 1

Extract Key Outcome (“Ensure children and young people are supported to be safe, secure and successful”) and related Strategic Actions (b) and (c)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Key Outcome	Strategic Actions	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline	Actual with Benchmark as appropriate	Target	Direction of Travel	RAG Rating	Lead Service / Officer	Linked Services	Key Partners	Linked Strategies / Plans	Linked Strategic Boards / Outcome Groups
2. Ensure children and young people are supported to be safe, secure and successful	b) Children are made subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) where significant risk of harm is identified	Rate of children (per 10,000) subject to a CPP	(31/03/2017) 38.0 (154 children)	Slough at end August 2017 is 43 (178 children)  England rate at end March 2016 is 43.1 and Statistical Neighbour rate is 47.1	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Head of Quality & Safeguarding (SCST)	Not Applicable	TVP, Health, Schools, ASC	Ofsted Delivery Plan, LSCB Business Plan	Joint Improvement Board
	c) Early identification of and response to problems for children and families*	a) Produce Early Help Strategy (related metrics TBC)	TBC (potential KPIs include reduction in referrals to high cost placements and increase in needs being met via Universal services)	Early Help Strategy launched 18.09.2017	TBC	↗	A	Service Lead Children's Commissioning, Partnerships & Performance	SCST	SCST, Schools, YPS, Health, TVP, Housing, Voluntary Sector	Ofsted Delivery Plan	Joint Improvement Board
	b) Launch x4 Local Area Collaborative (related metrics TBC)	x4 launched	Sept. 2017	↗	A							

Table 1.1

Number of Slough children subject to a Child Protection Plan at month end



5.3 Elsewhere on this Agenda there is a report covering progress on the other Strategic Action “Ensure Children’s Services are rated ‘Good’, validated through Ofsted Inspection”. That report deals with the third quarterly Ofsted Monitoring Visit, which examined the areas of Children in Need and Child Protection. Members will wish to note that the most recent (fourth) Ofsted Monitoring Visit on Children in Care, which took place 20 – 21 June 2017, will be reported to a future meeting of ECSSP once the findings have been published by Ofsted.

#### Rate of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP)

- 5.4 Tables 1 and 1.1 show that at the end of August there were 178 children subject to a Child Protection Plan, equivalent to a rate of 43.0 per 10,000 children aged 0 – 17 years. At the end of March 2016 (the latest available data), the England and Slough statistical neighbour\* rates for CPP were respectively 43.1 and 47.1 per 10,000.

\* **Note:** Statistical neighbours comprise: Birmingham, Coventry, Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Leicester, Luton, Reading, Redbridge, and Sandwell.

- 5.5 It should be noted that the data shows the number of children on a CPP at the end of each month at a fixed point in time. This does not reflect the movement of children into and out of child protection. For example, in the first five months of this reporting year (1 April to 31 August) 101 children have been made subject to a CPP and 77 children have ended a CPP.
- 5.6 The decision to end a plan is made through a multi-agency Child Protection Conference and those agencies who are working with the child and their family are satisfied that the risk of significant harm has been reduced and the child is no longer in need of a CPP.
- 5.7 The reasons that a child is made subject to a CPP are recorded under four main categories: Neglect, Emotional Abuse, Physical Abuse, and Sexual Abuse.

In Slough, the highest category where children are subject to a CPP is Neglect, followed by Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Physical Abuse.

- 5.8 There has been some work to understand better the category Neglect and a multi-agency audit of children's cases has helped to identify some key areas for further development. This includes having more information available for professionals and tools to help them to recognise neglect and the impact this has on children over time.

#### Early Help Strategy (EHS)

- 5.9 Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life – from pre-birth, the foundation years through to the teenage years. Early help can also prevent further problems arising, for example, if provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care. Providing early help is therefore more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.
- 5.10 Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together:
- To identify children and families who would benefit from early help
  - Undertake an assessment of the need for early help; and
  - Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family, which focuses on activity to improve significantly the outcomes for the child

Local authorities, under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, have a responsibility to promote inter-agency cooperation to improve the welfare of children.

- 5.11 The Ofsted Delivery Plan for Slough Children's Services included a recommendation (No 9) for an EHS and related governance to be developed with key partners, including the Slough Children's Services Trust (SCST). Following agreement of a scoping report by the JIB on 20 March 2017, work progressed on

developing a strategy and establishing an Early Help Board (EHB). This Board, which is accountable to the Slough Wellbeing Board, held its inaugural meeting on 18 September 2017, at which meeting the draft EHS was agreed subject to minor amendments from partners. An implementation group will now drive forward and embed the strategy at an operational level amongst partners as well as formulate metrics to measure the impact of the strategy.

5.12 Subject to agreement by the EHB, the following outcomes measures will be used to measure the impact of the strategy:

- Increase in the number of children who are school ready as measured by the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)
- A reduction in referrals to specialist services and an increase on those that are accepted and supported by an Early Help Assessment appropriate to need and risk
- A decrease in persistent absence figures in primary and secondary schools
- A decrease in the number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)
- Reduction in recorded levels of obesity at ages 4/5 and 10/11

#### **Local Area Collaboratives**

5.13 Two Collaboratives were launched in July 2017, followed by a further two in September and October. The collaboratives are based on four ward-based geographic areas in Slough (Central, North West, South West and East). Collaboratives complement the early help approach in the following ways:

- Enable local settings and services to work effectively together improving outcomes for children, young people and their families, and reducing levels of inequality
- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of early help support, in defined local areas, through effective collaboration between school, nursery, children centre, family support services, health and other key partner services
- Provide broader inter-agency direction and governance of provisions and services for children and families at a local level where services can be most responsive and flexible to need, best designed and delivered.

5.14 The remit of collaboratives is to:

- Analyse specific need in the local area, accessing local authority and partner data, tracking the progress of children in current provisions, and sourcing local knowledge
- Identify children, families, and groups presenting particular needs that impact upon children's outcomes, and identify priorities for action
- Work together to identify the most vulnerable and troubled families, and to ensure the delivery of best-informed and coordinated interventions that will change outcomes
- Review the current menu of service delivery and build capacity: exploring opportunities for greater flexibility and responsiveness; developing closer integration; gaining efficiencies in use of existing resources; and working to best utilise future resource
- Learn from evidence based best practice both nationally and locally
- Provide a "collaborative identity" between statutory, private and independent partners that will be well placed to make best use of any future targeted funding opportunities

- 5.15 Previous experience in other parts of the country shows that it takes approximately 12 to 18 months to embed collaborative working. Monitoring the impact of this new initiative will therefore take time but is expected to be closely aligned to that of the Early Help Strategy e.g. increased promotion of universal provision leading to a reduction in referrals to specialist services.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

None.

7. **Conclusion**

Members are invited to note and comment on this update of the Outcome 1 Group relating to the Strategic Actions: Children are made subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) where significant risk of harm is identified; and Early identification of and response to problems for children and families.

8. **Appendices Attached**

Slough Multi Agency Early Help Strategy 2017 – 2021 (agreed by Early Help Board 18 September 2017).

9. **Background Papers**

None.