

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board **DATE:** 15th November 2017

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WARD(S): All

PART I

FOR DISCUSSION

SLOUGH LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD (SLSCB) ANNUAL REPORT 20/17

1. Purpose of Report

To present the Slough Local Safeguarding Children's Board (SLSCB) Annual Report for 2016/17.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Slough Wellbeing Board is requested to note and comment on the report.

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

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.

4. Other Implications

(a) **Financial** - There are no financial implications of the proposed action. There is a financial contribution to the SLSCB's budget from the core statutory partners of the local authority, the police and the NHS.

(b) **Risk Management** - The SLSCB is a partnership body; there is a reputational risk for all statutory members of the partnership in having an ineffective SLSCB. This is most significant for Slough Borough Council (SBC) as it is the lead organisation charged with establishing the SLSCB. The CEO is identified as the officer to whom the independent chair is accountable for their performance.

An effective SLSCB provides oversight, support and challenge for services of the 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 SLSCB contributes to a number of Human Rights such as the right to family life.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment – An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken as and when required for specific programmes of work as directed by the SLSCB.

5. **Summary**

This report introduces the annual report of the SLSCB and outlines priority areas for the current year to promote good service development and delivery by the partners working together for children and young people in Slough.

6. **Supporting Information**

6.1 Production of the Annual Report is a statutory requirement. Earlier drafts of the report have been discussed with members of the SLSCB and this final version will be presented to the SLSCB at their meeting on 16 November 2016. There have been discussions and contributions from SLSCB partners and it is expected that the report will be endorsed, but because of the scheduling of the Slough Wellbeing Board and the SLSCB, this is presented to you, at the same meeting as the Annual Report of the Slough Adult Safeguarding Board, prior to its formal endorsement by the Board.

6.2 This Annual Report reflects work carried out in line with the Business Plan developed to ensure that recommendations made in the Ofsted inspection in 2016 were addressed. The themes set out in both the SLSCB 2016/17 Business Plan and reported in this Annual Report reflect Ofsted's findings following on from their inspection in November 2015. The 6 themes are:

Theme 1: Revise and implement multi-agency threshold guidance

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

Theme 3: Take action to strengthen the SLSCB's oversight and scrutiny of the effectiveness of the local multi-agency response to children at risk of exploitation including CSE and (of going) missing

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

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

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

6.3 The Annual Report shows progress against these themes. But while there has been progress it is the case that a lot more needs to be done in order to reach the goal of a good Ofsted rating, this is reflected in the work being done by the partners now and for the future. Priorities for 2017/18 are listed at section 5 in the Annual Report under the priority areas for the current year:

Objective 1: The SLSCB will have a programme of effective monitoring and quality assurance of multi-agency safeguarding practice

- Objective 2: The SLSCB will be informed by a robust approach to analysis of data and information that is qualitative and quantitative which leads to ongoing improvement activity
- Objective 3: The SLSCB will have oversight of the effectiveness of safeguarding across agencies and will hold partners to account where necessary
- Objective 4: The SLSCB will share learning and improve front line practice through an evidence informed learning and development programme
- Objective 5: The SLSCB will have clear mechanisms in place to communicate effectively with partners and stakeholders
- Objective 6: The SLSCB will work closely with other partnerships to ensure an individual (accountable) and shared responsibility for safeguarding and promote joint working around mutually agreed safeguarding priorities.

It is the ambition of the SLSCB that the Annual Report for 2017/18 will demonstrate significant progress against these objectives.

7. **Comments of Other Committees**

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

8. **Conclusion**

The Annual Report summarises actions since the negative Ofsted report in November 2015 which informed the 2016/17 Business Plan. 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 and improved safeguarding of children in Slough.

9. **Appendices attached**

None

10. **Background Papers**

SLSCB Annual Report 2016-17