

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

JOINT PARENTING PANEL QUARTERLY UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**

This report provides Members with an update on the work of the Joint Parenting Panel (JPP). As this is the first such (quarterly) report under the JPP's refreshed Terms of Reference, the review covers the period from April 2017 to date. Subsequent reports to Members will cover a quarterly update of the JPP, scheduled to fit in with the cycle of meetings for this scrutiny panel. See Appendix A for the draft JPP Terms of Reference – this is subject to confirmation by JPP at its meeting on 13 December 2017.

2. **Recommendations**

- a) That Members note and comment as appropriate on the report; and
- b) That Members consider any specific topics they wish to be included in the usual quarterly update on JPP work.

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

Priority 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**

The role of the JPP is to scrutinise the work of partners in the discharge of their corporate parenting role. This work is already contained within the service planning and risk management framework of the relevant Council Directorates

and other agencies and there are no direct risk management matters relating to this report.

(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**

Context for Corporate Parenting in Slough

5.1 As this is the first JPP update to committee, Members will wish to be informed of the context for corporate parenting. This includes the Terms of Reference for the JPP, the joint Corporate Parenting Strategy (and related Action Plan); Joint Care Leavers Strategy 2017; and the Joint Pledge to our Children Looked After. All these come under the remit of the JPP and are discussed in the following paragraphs.

5.2 The draft **Terms of Reference** (Appendix A refers) state that the JPP is a private meeting of Slough Borough Council (SBC), and is the primary vehicle for councillors and Non – Executive Directors of Slough Children’s Services Trust (SCST) to demonstrate their commitment to deliver better outcomes for children and young people in care and care leavers. The JPP is therefore a key mechanism for ensuring that services meet the needs of children looked after and care leavers, discharging this function through scrutiny of officers and their work, engaging with children and young people (“Voice of the Child”) as well as through a programme of annual visits to children’s homes / establishments. In short, corporate parenting and the JPP is about all officers and members / appointed officials across the council and partner agencies championing the cause of children looked after and care leavers in Slough *as if they are our own children*.

The Terms of Reference have been refreshed and are subject to confirmation by JPP at its meeting on 13 December 2017.

5.3 Slough’s joint **Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-18** outlines the values, principles and key priorities to support children and young people who are looked after by Slough Borough Council / Slough Children’s Services Trust. The strategy contains six priorities as below.

Our children looked after and care leavers will be:

1. supported by strong and effective corporate parenting
2. enabled to reach their educational attainment
3. encouraged to keep safe
4. encouraged to develop positive relationships
5. respected and engaged in planning for their future, and supported as they move into adulthood
6. supported to have good health and wellbeing

There is a related detailed Action Plan against the above six priorities. Officers are currently reviewing the Action Plan for progress and an update will be given to this committee as part of the quarterly update on JPP work.

5.4 The **Joint Care Leavers Strategy 2017** is about setting out what care leavers can expect whilst in our care and after, to ensure that they have the same life chances as their peers, whether living in Slough or outside the Borough. In relation to care leavers, the strategy therefore articulates Priorities (what Slough will do), How? (it will be done); and a detailed Delivery Plan so that there is an objective measure of progress.

5.5 The joint **Pledge to our Children in Care** sets out 19 promises to Slough’s children looked after.

2017/18 Cycle of JPP Meetings

5.6 The agenda for JPP meetings is constructed around “themes”. The following Table sets out the JPP meetings held to date in this financial year, summarising the key points and the impact on outcomes for children and young people.

It should be noted that meetings of the JPP are private and therefore agenda papers are not in the public domain.

JPP Meeting	Thematic Discussion	Impact on Outcomes
22 June 2017	Corporate Parenting Strategy, Priority 4: Our Looked After Children and Young People will be encouraged to develop positive relationships	<p>The report covered a number of examples with a positive impact on children and young people, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initiatives that resulted in increased stability of social workers allocated to children, thus promoting stability in relationships • development of a participation strategy so that the voice of the child is heard and can influence / shape service delivery • commissioning independent advocacy and visiting services so that all children who require this receive support • revised complaints procedure to make this more accessible and responsive to the needs of children and young people and so that learning from complaints is

JPP Meeting	Thematic Discussion	Impact on Outcomes
		<p>embedded as part of the quality assurance framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the Reach Out! Helpline so that children and young people can speak to a trusted person about anything that might be of concern, even at evenings and weekends
27 July 2017	Education, Employment and Training (EET) Strategy for Children Looked After / Care Leavers	<p>The EET Strategy aims to deliver the following outcomes to children and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure you have access to the best possible education, training and job opportunities • Support you to attend and achieve your potential whether at school / college, university in training or work • Support you to make a successful transition into adult life • Place your voice at the centre of what we do
11 September 2017	Corporate Parenting Strategy , Priorities 3: Children in care will be encouraged to keep safe	<p>JPP received a detailed report outlining initiatives which had the following impact on outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and families receive early help and provision of support services when needed –avoiding the need for children’s social care intervention • Children and young people are proactively supported to remain at home and only those that need to be looked after enter care • Children and young people are supported to remain in the family

JPP Meeting	Thematic Discussion	Impact on Outcomes
		home and prevented from coming into care, where care is required; this is for the shortest time based on individual needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The voice of the child is clear and transparent in all assessment work • Children In Need (CIN) and care planning is effective for children
5 October 2017 (workshop)	JPP Balanced Scorecard	The key output from the workshop was consensus amongst JPP on a balanced scorecard with quantitative and qualitative measures that reported on progress against the corporate parenting strategy priorities, children’s social care performance framework and the voice of the child
<p>Other: Ofsted conducted a Monitoring Visit (MV) of SCST on 20th and 21 September 2017. The MV focussed on children in care. As part of the formal feedback, Inspectors commented on the JPP as follows “The engagement of the joint parenting panel with children looked after has improved markedly since the inspection. Using a themed approach, the panel routinely considers progress against the promises to children looked after that are contained within their ‘Pledge’. Involvement of partners is good. Children in the ‘Reach out!’ group have not always enjoyed the format of the joint parenting panel. In response, members of the panel have worked with children to develop a children’s scrutiny committee. The committee, which will be chaired by children and participation workers, is due to be launched in October 2017. Children are excited about this new development”.</p>		

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

6.1 None.

7. **Conclusion**

7.1 Members are invited to note and comment on this update of the JPP. The report sets out the context for the work of the JPP and key points from the 2017 /18 cycle of meetings and other events to date, noting what this means for outcomes for Slough’s children and young people.

8. **Appendices Attached**

A – Draft Terms of Reference, Joint Parenting Panel

9. **Background Papers**

Note: meetings of the JPP are private and therefore agenda papers are not in the public domain.

Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-18

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/downloads/Corporate-Parenting-Strategy-16-18.pdf>

Joint Care Leavers Strategy 2017

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/downloads/Joint-care-leavers-strategy.pdf>

Pledge to our Children in Care

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/downloads/Pledge-to-children-in-care.pdf>

Ofsted Monitoring Visit

https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/slough/056_Monitoring%20visit%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20as%20pdf.pdf