

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Slough Wellbeing Board    **DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I**

#### **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **THEMED DISCUSSION: PROTECTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview and update of the work since the 29 March 2017 report to Slough Wellbeing Board (SWB). In particular this update focuses on Early Help; Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing; keeping Young People Safe; the Joint Parenting Panel (Corporate Parenting); and the Education, Employment and Training Strategy for Children Looked After (CLA) and Care Leavers (CL).

##### **2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

- 2.1 The Slough Wellbeing Board (SWB) is recommended to note and comment as appropriate on the work amongst partners in Slough to safeguard children and young people.

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

- 3.1 "Protecting Vulnerable Children" is one of four key priorities in the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS).
- 3.2 In turn, the SJWS is based on an analysis of needs contained in the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA), specifically children in need and children young people subject to a Child Protection Plan.
- 3.3 The Council's Five Year Plan priorities "Putting People First" specifically seeks an Outcome that "Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives". Slough Children's Service Trust's (SCST) social work model is reflected in its vision statement "Safe, Secure and Successful".

##### **4. Other Implications**

- a) Financial – None directly related to this report.

- b) Risk Management – None directly related to this report.
- c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications – None directly related to this report.
- d) Equalities Impact Assessment – None directly related to this report.  
(Compulsory section to be included in all reports which relate to a new or substantially revised policy, procedure or function).
- e) Workforce – None directly related to this report.

## 5. **Summary**

This report\* provides members with an opportunity to:

- a) Note the breadth of work that has been undertaken amongst partners (since the 29 March 2017) to safeguard children and young people in Slough; and
- b) Discuss and influence (where appropriate) the strategic direction and activities undertaken to address this issue locally.

\*It will be complemented by a slide presentation from officers at the meeting).

## 6. **Supporting Information**

- 6.1 The **Slough Local Safeguarding Children's Board\*** (SLCSB) plays a key role in coordinating the work of statutory partners in helping, protecting and caring for children in Slough. For example, its remit includes: monitoring the effectiveness of local arrangements; that multi-agency training in the protection and care of children is effective; that policies and procedures in respect of thresholds for intervention are understood and operate.
- 6.2 The SLSCB also has a challenge role in terms of practice between and amongst partners, including casework auditing, and that serious case reviews, management reviews and reviews of child deaths are used by the Council / SCST and other partners as opportunities for learning and feedback that drive improvement.
- 6.3 The relationship between the SLSCB and other Boards, including the Wellbeing Board, has been set out and agreed by all partners in the protocol Slough's Safeguarding People Protocol.

*\* Note: The SLSCB is now part of a Joint Adults and Children's Safeguarding arrangement chaired by an independent chair and with a joint safeguarding business manager common to both. Work is underway to refresh to the content of it's website to reflect this change. In addition, SBC has appointed an Education Safeguarding Officer to support all schools in Slough with their safeguarding training and compliance needs.*

- 6.4 There is a wealth of work which merits mention, including:
  - SLSCB Exploitation Conference – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017
  - CSE awareness Project

- Cyberbullying Project
- LIME (Healthy Choices) Project: where 4 Slough schools are co-developing a range of educational tools with the Lime organisation to help encourage healthier relationships, positive influences and behaviours amongst young people

**6.5 Joint Improvement Board (JIB)** – This is a joint Board between the Council and the Trust with Department for Education (DfE) and partner agencies as key members on the Board. The JIB has responsibility for the oversight and management of the Ofsted Delivery Plan. Its principal task is to ensure that Slough is on track to deliver all the improvements required post the Ofsted inspection in 2015. Whilst the lead agency for safeguarding children rests with the Trust this cannot be achieved without the support and action of partner agencies and therefore the Board also has a responsibility to identify blocks and barriers to success across the whole system. The LSCB Chair sits on this Board to ensure that there is no duplication of effort and to ensure that the work of the two Boards is integrated.

**6.6** Within SCST, combining the traditional Early Help and Children in Need services to create a new **Early Intervention Service (EIS)** means that problems can be caught earlier with increased opportunities to build positive relationships with all children and families as soon as the issues are identified. The outcome is a more dynamic 7-day service for vulnerable families. Similarly, SCST successfully bid for Innovation Funding (DfE 2016) to create an Enhanced (Innovation) Hub, which provides a bigger multi-agency wrap around team, including representatives from the Police, Adult mental Health and Substance Misuse. This allows the EIS to better focus on “pure” early help issues, leaving the Enhanced Hub to deal with the more complex cases on the continuum of need.

**6.7 Early Help Strategy** – The Council is the lead partner for this strategy. Developed and agreed by the new Early Help Board at its meeting on 18 September 2017, this strategy is now being implemented to ensure there is clarity on the early help “offer” in Slough, and to identify gaps and opportunities so that the Board can prioritise what services need to be commissioned, reshaped and / or decommissioned. Officers will be working in synergy with the LSCB to align threshold criteria with the early help offer and implement key recommendations from Ofsted’s thematic inspection, “Early help: whose responsibility?” (March 2015).

**6.8 Education, Employment and Training (EET) Strategy** – This is a joint Council / SCST strategy which focuses on four key outcomes for young people, consistent with our commitment to Children in Care (including Care leavers), as follows:

- Ensuring there is access to the best possible education, training and job opportunities;
- Supporting young people to attend and achieve their potential whether at school/ college, university in training or work;
- Support to make a successful transition into adult life;
- Placing the voice of the young person at the centre of what we do).

**6.9** There is good cross agency work relating to the **emotional health and wellbeing of our Children in Care** (including Care leavers). In addition to collaborative commissioning amongst East Berkshire authorities, the CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service) transformation group have produced the ‘Little blue book of Sunshine,’ which has been distributed to children via schools across Berkshire and details the services that are available. CLA and CLs from across Berkshire were consulted on the development of a health passport (a record of their health history based on their previous health assessment). This resulted in a new Health passport being designed and distributed for our Children in Care.

6.10 **Joint Parenting Panel (JPP)** – Significant recent progress has been made in the corporate parenting agenda at Slough (overseen by a multi-agency JPP). This is perhaps best captured by feedback from Ofsted who conducted a Monitoring Visit (MV) of SCST on 20<sup>th</sup> 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”.*

## 7. **Comments of Other Committees**

7.1 Not applicable.

## 8. **Appendices attached**

None.

## 9. **Background Papers**

‘1.’ Protocol Agreement between Health & Wellbeing Board and the SLSCB  
<http://www.slough.gov.uk/downloads/SLSCB-protocol-for-HWBB-and-safeguarding-boards.pdf>

‘2.’ Slough Multi-Agency Early Help Strategy for Children, Young People and their Families 2017 – 2021  
<http://www.slough.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/slough-multi-agency-early-help-strategy-for-children-young-people-and-their-families-2017-2021.aspx>