

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) from the period 7 December 2017 to date. An update was provided for the meeting on 7 December 2017 looking back over the period to 1 April 2017.

2. **Recommendations**

That Members note and comment as appropriate on the report.

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 – Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful.

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 The context for corporate parenting 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. The scope of these documents can be summarised as follows:

- The **Terms of Reference** 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. 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*.
- Slough’s joint **Corporate Parenting Strategy 2016-18** outlines the values, principles with 6 key priorities (and a related Action Plan) to support children and young people who are looked after by Slough Borough Council / Slough Children’s Services Trust.
- 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.
- The joint **Pledge to our Children in Care** sets out 19 pledges to Slough’s children looked after.

2017/18 Cycle of JPP Meetings

5.2 The agenda for JPP meetings is constructed around “themes”. The following Table sets out the JPP and other meetings held since December 2017, 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 / Other Meeting	Thematic Discussion	Impact on Outcomes
13 December 2017	<p>Corporate Parenting Strategy Priority 2 – Our looked after children and young people will be enabled to reach their educational attainment</p>	<p>The SCST Virtual School Annual Report 2016/17 was presented and discussed. This publication eloquently sets out how education attainment results have improved compared to: previous Slough CLA cohorts, CLA in other local authorities, Slough and national figures for all children (in particular the test taken at age 11). Slough CLA did better than non-CLA peers locally and nationally. Results for children out of Borough at least match those in Slough.</p> <p>Note: the Virtual School has moved from an overall judgement of inadequate to good. The Virtual School has the ambition to be outstanding before 2020. Anecdotally Slough has the best results in the South East this academic year.</p>
07 February 2018 - Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Members' Evening	<p>The aim of this session was to provide all members with a better understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their corporate parenting responsibility • how SCST and SBC work together to enhance and promote this offer through the Local Government Association's "10 Questions to ask if you're scrutinizing services for looked-after children" • how the care system functions from a foster carer's and care leaver's perspective 	<p>The session was well attended by Members and their feedback was very positive</p>

JPP / Other Meeting	Thematic Discussion	Impact on Outcomes
12 February 2018	Corporate Parenting Strategy Priority 5 – Our looked after children and young people will be respected and engaged in planning for their future, and supported as they move into adulthood	A presentation was made to the JPP summarising the broad range of services (including education, employment, housing, financial and support) that are being provided in support of our care leavers. Two case studies, involving the Council’s Young People’s Service and Housing Services, were presented to the JPP illustrating the positive impact of these interventions on our Care Leavers – Appendices A, B and D refer.
Other: Ofsted conducted a Monitoring Visit (MV) of SCST on 10 th and 11 th January 2018. This fifth MV focussed on Children in Need and Edge of Care. The Chief Executive of SCST presented Ofsted’s findings of this MV (published in a letter dated 2 February 2018) to the JPP meeting on 12.02.2018.		

5.3 At the request of this Panel, attendance statistics for Members of JPP are provided in Appendix C, based on the signing-in sheets for each meeting. It should be noted that there has been some “churn” of JPP membership, so not all Members will have necessarily had the opportunity to attend all potential JPP meetings in this cycle. Prior to compiling the statistics for this report the respective Members were given an opportunity to correct any factual errors.

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 from the period 7 December 2017 to date, noting what this means for outcomes for Slough’s children and young people.

8. Appendices / Hyperlink Attached

- 'A' – Case Study, Young People’s Service
- 'B' – Case Study, Housing Services
- 'C' – Members’ attendance record, JPP 2017/18
- 'D' – Animation: What do care Leavers say about our support? (“Me and Who”) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTLQgLrypx8>

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>

Virtual School Annual Report 2016-17

<http://www.scstrust.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/SCST-Virtual-School-Annual-Report-2016-17.pdf>

5th Ofsted Monitoring Visit

https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/slough/057_Monitoring%20visit%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20as%20pdf.pdf