



Joint Parenting Panel

**Themed discussion: Priority 1 of the
Corporate Parenting Strategy – our children looked
after and young people will be supported by strong
and effective corporate parenting**

**Rodney D'Costa
Thursday 19 April 2018**



Outline

- Context for Corporate Parenting:-
 - 1) Previous Ofsted Inspection Report (17 Feb 2016)
 - 2) Principles
 - 3) Profile Children Looked After (CLA)
 - Strengthening corporate parenting – Slough Achievements
 - Discussion – comments invited from JPP on current **Pledges** to our Children in Care, previously circulated (to assist with planned September refresh of Slough's corporate parenting strategy)
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Context – 1: Extract from Ofsted Inspection Report

“Slough’s children looked after and care leavers do not regard the council as a good corporate parent. Inspectors agree with them. The corporate parenting strategy is a superficial document that uses old data and priorities, and includes no action plan. The corporate parenting panel has not received comprehensive performance information. This has limited its ability to provide scrutiny and challenge. IROs have not monitored the council’s performance as a corporate parent effectively. The council has not provided the CiCC with enough support to be as representative and influential as it should be. Since taking over, the trust has recognised these shortcomings and is taking action with the council to remedy them. (Recommendation)”

17 February 2016

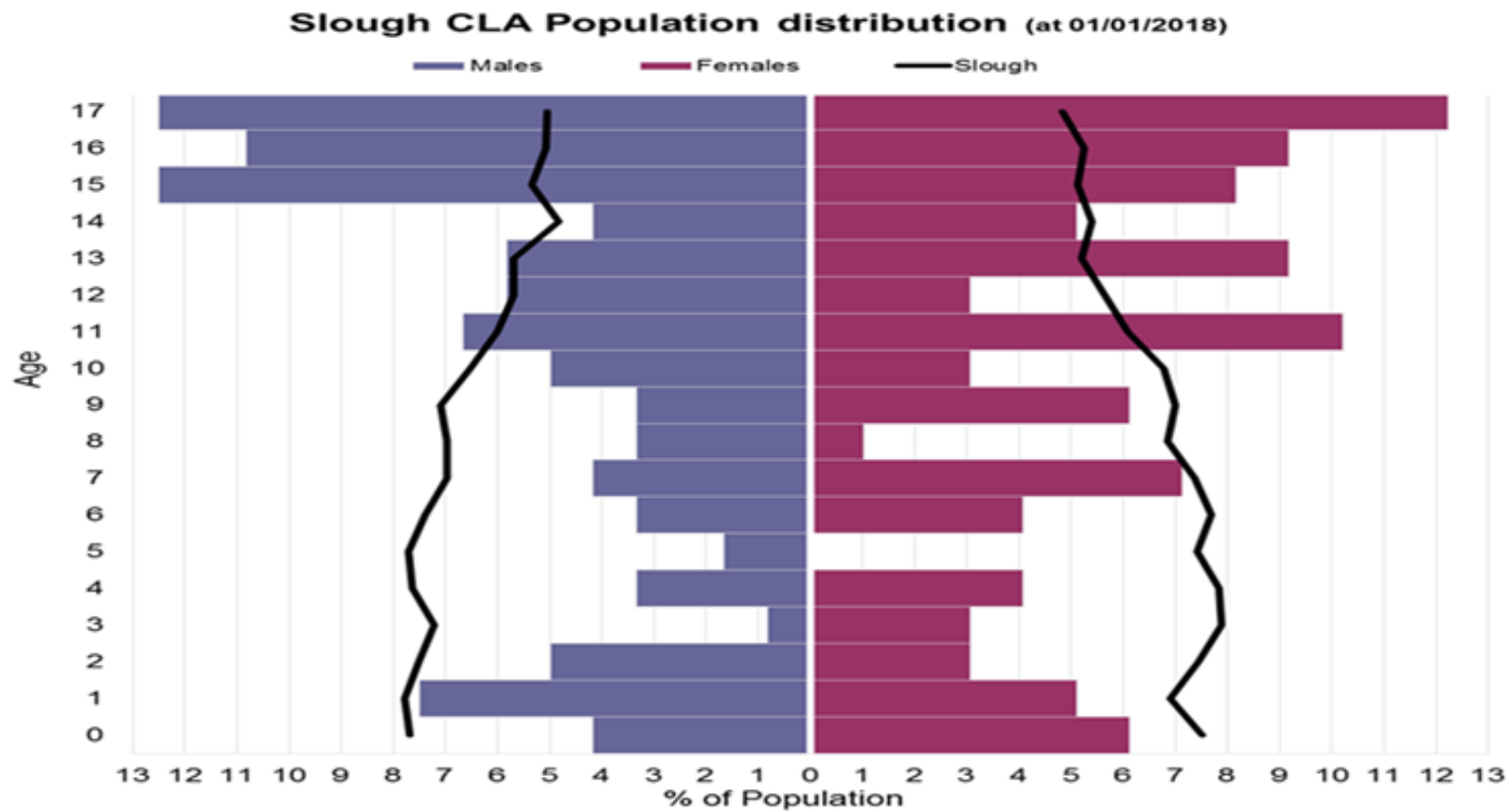
Context – 2: Seven Corporate Parenting Principles

The council must take into account 7 principles when making decision about children and young people in care or leaving care:-

1. To act in the child's best interests, and promote their physical and mental health and wellbeing
2. To encourage the child to express their views, wishes and feelings
3. To take into account the child's views, wishes and feelings
4. To help the child to gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and the organisations it works with
5. To have high aspirations for the child, and help them to achieve the best outcomes they can
6. For the child to be safe, and to have stability in their home lives, relationships, education and work
7. To prepare children for adulthood and independent living

(As set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 DfE)

Context – 3.1: Slough Population Distribution



Context – 3.2: Key Facts

- Since last year there has been an increase in the proportion of our CLA that are Placed inside Slough or within 20 miles, rising from 69% to 72%
 - A third of the CLA population comprises older teenagers (15 - 17 years old)
 - Generally speaking the older age group came in to care mainly due to parents struggling with implementing boundaries, family break down, homelessness and some wishing to be in care
 - For the younger age group the primary reason for being in care is as a result of parental neglect / abuse
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Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (1)

➤ Corporate Parenting Strategy revised June 2016

Outcome:

- Clearer vision
- Clarified role of corporate parent
- Linked to an Action Plan
- Linked to 19 Pledges to Slough's Children in Care (co-produced with children and young people)

Development Areas:

- Refresh of Corporate Parenting Strategy scheduled for September 2018
 - Refresh Pledges (fewer and "SMART")
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Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (2)

➤ Corporate Parenting Panel Reimagined

Outcome:

- Renamed Joint Parenting Panel with revised terms of reference, dual Trust / SBC chairing, inclusive of all Slough partners
- JPP meetings include a focussed thematic report / presentation on the 6 priorities of the corporate parenting strategy, with cases studies centred on the impact of this work on our children in care to help facilitate better understanding and scrutiny of the issues
- Scrutiny of JPP provided by Education & Children's Social Care Scrutiny Panel (1/4ly)
- Voice of the Child – innovative representation via *Reach Out! Young People's Scrutiny Forum*
- Elected Members involved in annual celebration events marking achievements of our CiC

Development Areas:

- Continue to support *all* elected Members' understanding of the corporate parenting agenda
 - Arrange planned visits of elected Member to Children's Homes
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Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (3)

- **JPP Score Card agreed October 2017, co-produced by Officers and elected Members, now implemented**

Outcome:

- Key Performance Indicators and Dashboard specific to corporate parenting helps focus discussion on performance

Development Areas:

- Fully embed the Score Card as a tool for scrutiny (linked to LGA's "10 Questions to ask if you are scrutinising services for looked-after-children") and thus drive service improvement and outcomes for children in care
 - Consider including early help indicators where appropriate (as a way of potentially identifying future [older] children looked after)
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Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (4)

- **Annual elected Members' training provided for corporate parenting (7th February 2018) with further dates (post municipal elections) as necessary**

Outcome:

- Opportunities for elected Members to get updates and refresher training as well as directly hear of the experiences of young people

Development Area:

- Continue to support *all* elected Members' understanding of the corporate parenting agenda
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Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (5)

- **SCST's Commissioning Strategy agreed and Children Looked After Sufficiency Strategy refreshed**

Outcome:

- Enhanced identification of need and opportunities to target priorities for CiC cohort within available resources

Development Area:

- Potential agenda item for a future JPP to assess impact and effectiveness of these two strategies
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Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (6)

➤ SBC Initiatives

Outcome:

- Housing Strategy 2016-21 – provision of an adequate supply of accommodation for care leavers and a clear housing pathway that meets the needs / experiences of young people **(13 properties have been accepted by CLs in 2017/18)**
 - Council Tax exemption provided for Care Leavers (CLs) up to the age of 25 **(this benefits approximately 42 CLs in Slough and 13 CLs who live out of Borough)**
 - Education, Employment & Training Strategy for CLA & CLs 2017/20 – as a result of which our CiC have: Access to the best possible education, training and job opportunities that meet their needs; Support to attend and achieve their potential whether at school / college, university, in training or work; Support to make a successful transition into adult life; Their voice placed at the centre of what we do
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Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (6.1)

➤ SBC Initiatives (cont'd)

Outcome:

- Life Skills (targeted support to help CiC transition into adulthood and independence) – Collaboration between SBC Youth Workers & SCST Personal Assistants / Social Workers
 - Support from Slough schools for CLA which complements the work of SCST's Virtual School and has helped high attainment amongst our CLA (improvements compared to previous Slough CLA cohorts, CLA in other local authorities, and 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)
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Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (6.2)

➤ SBC Initiatives (cont'd)

Outcome:

- 7 internships / apprentices from the CiC cohort placed within SBC / Arvato / SCST @ end December 2017
 - Transition support to adult services (dedicated worker, timely assessment, provision of information, and transition plan which is reviewed regularly)
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Strengthening Corporate Parenting – Slough Achievements (7)

➤ Recent Ofsted Monitoring Visit comments on JPP

“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”.

(Ofsted Monitoring Visit, 20th & 21 September 2017, focussing on children in care)

Discussion (plenary)

With reference to the refresh of our Corporate Parenting Strategy (due for September 2018), we currently have **19 Pledges** to our Children Looked After. *Would you like to see anything.....*

- *Added?*
 - *Amended?*
 - *Deleted?*
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