

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Slough Wellbeing Board    **DATE:** 26 September 2018

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **EARLY HELP UPDATE**

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

This report provides an update on the work undertaken since the 25 January 2018 to improve Slough Borough Council’s early help offer.

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

2.1 The Slough Wellbeing Board is recommended to note and comment as appropriate on the work amongst partners in Slough to safeguard children and young people through the implementation of early help.

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

###### **3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

“Protecting Vulnerable Children” is one of four key priorities in the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy.

###### **3b. The Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA)**

The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy is based on an analysis of needs contained in the JSNA, specifically children in need and children and young people subject to a Child Protection Plan.

###### **3c. Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Slough Borough Council’s 2018 – 2013 Five Year Plan includes the following outcomes: Slough Children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful.

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.

e) Workforce – None directly related to this report.

## 5. **Summary**

*This report provides Slough Wellbeing Board members with an opportunity to note the breadth of work that has been undertaken amongst partners (since the 25 January 2018) to improve the council's early help offer, including launching Phase 1 of Early Help (focussing on schools) prior to subsequently mainstreaming Early Help to all partners after December 2018.*

## 6. **Supporting Information**

6.1 This is the second of a series of updates to the Slough Wellbeing Board. The focus of this report is to inform the Board of the progress made and next steps.

## 7. **Background**

7.1 Since the initial update to Slough Wellbeing Board on 25 January 2018, Members will wish to be informed that, by mutual agreement between SBC and SCST, a new joint model of Early Help – FIRST (Family Information and Resource Support Team) – was launched on 25 June 2018. This is explained in the following paragraphs.

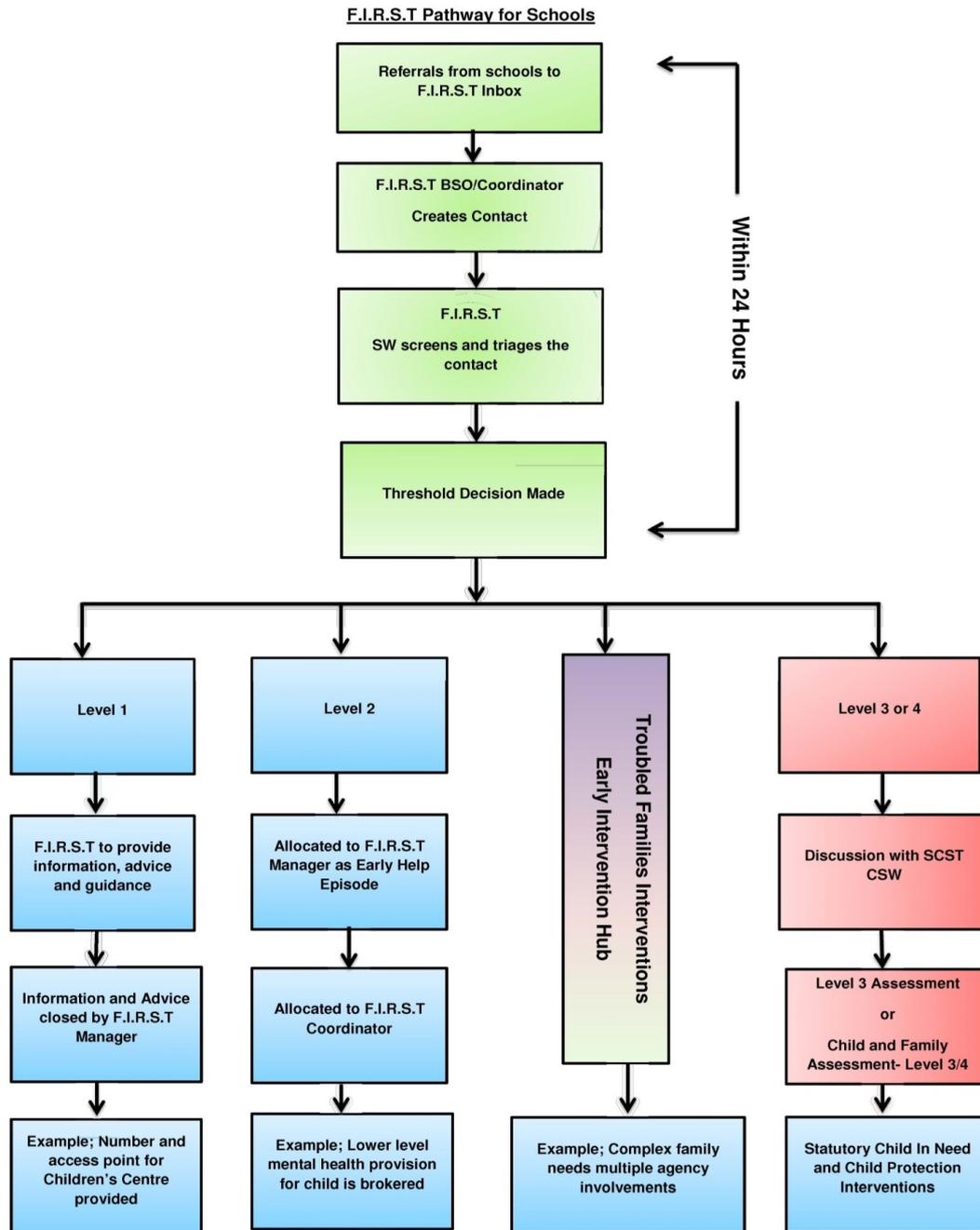
7.2 FIRST adopts an enhanced role in working with schools to support pupils identified at Level 2 – those in need of additional support but not at risk of significant harm. Schools will be able seek advice from FIRST about services available to support pupils in need of additional support and also to refer pupils and families deemed to be at Level 2 to FIRST. This is done through a simplified referral form, co-designed with schools and integrated with the existing client data base systems used by the Trust and partners i.e. Integrated Children's System (ICS) and linked Early Help Module (EHM). During this initial phase, there is no change for non-school partners (for example, Health and Police) making referrals and – importantly – there remains a single “front door”, which is the existing route via the Trust. FIRST personnel are co-located with the front door to ensure every threshold decision continues to be authorised by (SCST) Consultant Social Workers.

7.3 The FIRST team now comprises an Interim Transformation Manager to lead on the implementation and development of Early Help, 1 x Interim Team Manager overseeing the Coordinators and delivery, 2 x Senior Social Workers (clinical management provided by SCST), 1 x Performance and Data Manager, 4 x FIRST Coordinators, 1 x Web Administrator and 1 x Business Support Officer.

7.4 The launch of FIRST is supported by the publication of refreshed Threshold guidance [www.sloughsafeguardingboards.org.uk](http://www.sloughsafeguardingboards.org.uk)

7.5 A simplified referral process for these new arrangements is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – FIRST Process Map



Impact of FIRST

- 7.6 At the time of writing this report FIRST were coordinating 32 cases, comprising 64 children. With the start of the new academic year it is anticipated this number will increase at pace.
- 7.7 To date partners from the Youth Offending Team, Young People Services and Schools have provided positive feedback on FIRST, particularly around the value in the coordination of Early Help and with the implementation of weekly allocation meetings (WAM).
- 7.8 With the recent appointment of a Performance and Data Manager, impact analyses have begun and a set of performance reports will follow. These include; an infographic to outline the distance travelled from previous Ofsted inspections

up to now, a performance report against co-designed KPIs in order to provide strategic overview with analysis of data held in EHM and findings from children, families and partner feedback.

#### Next steps

- 7.9 SBC and SCST will work together to review business processes. Although confident that the current operational arrangements safeguard children to a high standard, the business processes in relation to systems management requires some minor adjustment. SBC, SCST and LSCB will complete the development of a self-assessment tool, to aid preparations for the forthcoming Ofsted inspection.
- 7.10 There will be a review of this initial phase at the end of December 2018 and this will include options for mainstreaming FIRST across all partners in Slough.

### **8.0 Comments of Other Committees**

- 8.1 Governance of FIRST is through the Early Help Board and the Joint Improvement Board. Both these forums receive regular updates on progress and play a key role in ensuring that all relevant partners continue to strive to embed an early help offer and way of working in Slough that meets the needs of children, young people and families in a timely and cost effective way.

### **9.0 Conclusion**

- 9.1 The Slough Wellbeing Board is recommended to note and comment as appropriate on the work amongst partners in Slough to safeguard children and young people through the implementation of early help.

### **10.0 Appendices attached**

- 10.1 None

### **11.0 Background Papers**

- 11.1 None