

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 24th October 2018

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WARDS: All

PART I **FOR INFORMATION**

CHILDREN'S CENTRES TASK AND FINISH GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. **Purpose of Report**

For the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel to review and approve the final version of the terms of reference for the Children's Centres Task and Finish Group.

2. **Recommendations/Proposed Action**

That the Panel note the agreed terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group.

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

3.1 **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities**

The proposed areas of activity for the Task & Finish Group will support the following priority:

- Protecting vulnerable children

3.2 **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

By improving the provision of services for children in Slough, the review will support the following outcome:

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

4. **Other Implications**

a) **Financial**

The work to be undertaken by the Task & Finish Group will be covered within existing staff budgets. Any financial implications of the review's recommendations will be reported back in the final report to be taken by the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel in 2019.

b) **Risk Management**

There are no corporate risks associated with the adoption of the Terms of Reference included as Appendix A. As above, any risks associated with the final recommendations will be reported to the Panel at the review's conclusion.

c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

The work of the Task & Finish Group will be fully conversant with the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006 and similar legislation affecting the policy area.

d) **Equalities Impact Assessment**

The adoption of the recommendations does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment. Should the final recommendations necessitate such an exercise, it will be carried out as required.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 The Task and Finish Group was first raised at the meeting of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 17th July 2018. At this meeting, the Panel established its work programme for 2018 – 19, and decided that children's centres should feature as an item. Furthermore, given the importance of the matter and the potential benefits of visiting the sites to see the service in action, it was decided to commission a Task & Finish Group on the matter.

5.2 The terms of reference for this review were adopted by the Task & Finish Group at its meeting on 25th September 2018. They have then been agreed by members of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel via e-mail. As a result, it is not necessary to take a decision to adopt this framework for the review at the meeting.

5.3 The Task & Finish Group has already commenced its series of visits to children's centres, and will continue its work throughout the rest of 2018 and early 2019. This will lead to the final report (including recommendations) being presented to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 7th February 2019.

Membership

5.4 The Task & Finish Group will be chaired by Cllr Sharif and will also include the following Councillors:

- Cllr Brooker
- Cllr A Sandhu
- Cllr Strutton

Timeframes and Work Programme

- 5.5 When the final report with recommendations is presented to the Panel, members will be asked to approve and adopt the recommendations. Following this, the Panel will then assume responsibility for monitoring the progress of these recommendations. Officers will update the Panel on this as appropriate.
- 5.6 In order to compile its final report, the Task & Finish Group will conduct a series of site visits to children's centres throughout October and November 2018. Once these have been completed, it will then hold a plenary session with officers to talk through their findings from the site visits and proposals for the future. This will then lead to the compilation of the final report and its recommendations for the future of the service.

6. **Comment of Other Committees**

This report has not been taken by any other committees at Slough Borough Council.

7. **Conclusion**

This report is intended to provide the Panel with information and guidance on the work to be undertaken by the Task and Finish Group. There will be flexibility for the Task and Finish Group to arrange meetings to suit its work; however, its focus on the work it has been commissioned to complete will remain resolute.

8. **Appendices Attached**

'A' - Terms of reference for the Children's Centres Task & Finish Group

9. **Background Papers**

Agenda papers and minutes of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel, 17th July 2018.