

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Childrens Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 23rd October 2019

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WARD(S): ALL

PART I

FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

1 **Purpose of Report**

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a partnership board responsible to ensure that there is effective communication, co-ordination and challenge in relation to partners' safeguarding responsibilities. The annual report is an account of the board's activities in the last financial year, April 2018-March 2019.

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

The Panel is requested to note and comment on the annual report.

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

Safeguarding children and promoting their well being.

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

Protecting vulnerable children

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

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

There are no specific risks in regard to the annual report but members must be aware that all child protection work, by its very nature, includes elements of risk associated with the particular circumstances of each child and the context in which they are living.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The Local Safeguarding Children Board promotes the rights of children to live free of abuse, neglect and exploitation in accordance with the Human Rights act and the UN convention on the rights of the child.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

None required specifically in regard to the annual report.

(e) Workforce

Members of the LSCB have a responsibility to ensure that the workforce has received the appropriate and relevant safeguarding training and this is referred to in the annual report.

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The annual report contains all supporting information.
- 5.2 The annual report, and the links within it, contains a significant volume of detailed information about the focus and activities of safeguarding work in Slough during the last reporting period, April 18 to March 19 that is not repeated in this report.
- 5.3 Specific issues that members may wish to raise within the report can be responded to at the panel but what I want to emphasise here is that improving safeguarding partnership and practice is a continuous process within a statutory framework of responsibilities. There has been specific focus on developing a shared Neglect strategy, describing and promoting a clearer understanding of safeguarding thresholds and the criminal exploitation of children with associated training. As is evident in the annual report these are not the only areas of development but specific elements of safeguarding I want to emphasise.
- 5.4 During the course of 2018/19 and in anticipation of the new Working Together guidance from the Department for Education, the statutory partners in Slough established the Slough Safeguarding Leaders Group (SLG) Membership of this group is made up of the Slough TVP LPA Commander, SBC Chief Executive, Director of Children Services, Director of Adult Services, SCST Chief Executive, CCG Director of Nursing and Quality, and the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Partnership.
- 5.5 This group has overseen the establishment of the Slough Safeguarding Partnership which has combined the responsibilities of the LSCB and of the Slough Adult Safeguarding Board into a broader based partnership. As required by the Department for Education this new arrangement was reported to them in July 2019.
- 5.6 The new arrangement recognises that safeguarding concerns span both these service areas, and while there are specific and distinct statutory responsibilities in practice for both children and for adults these are best carried out, strategically and operationally, by promoting shared understanding and strategies for

managing such complex issues. This does not diminish the need for focused practice in these service areas but promotes stronger contextual understanding across the partners.

- 5.7 The seeds of the Slough Safeguarding Partnership were planted in the period covered in this annual report but the real spadework to make more effective and efficient this new safeguarding arrangement in Slough is underway now.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

The Slough Safeguarding Partnership, which subsumed the LSCB and its responsibilities in June 2019 in line with the Department for Education guidance in Working Together 2018, has considered and endorsed this Annual Report. . Partner agencies of the will also present the annual report within their respective governance systems.

7. **Conclusion**

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider and note this Annual Report.

8. **Appendices Attached**

'A' - Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

9. **Background Papers**

All relevant papers are in the annual report attached.