

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I**

#### **FOR INFORMATION & COMMENT**

##### **CHILD HEALTH IN SLOUGH**

1. **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of the report is to respond to Members' questions around health outcomes for children and young people and will highlight key health metrics, relevant concerns and the work that is ongoing to address these concerns.

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

The committee is requested to note and discuss the information contained in this report and its implications for the boroughs children and young people.

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

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

The content provided within this report on our work to support the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Slough support the following priorities:

- Protecting vulnerable children
- Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities
- Improving mental health and wellbeing

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

This report and the content and work listed within the report detail how we are contributing towards the following five year plan outcomes. Primarily:

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

The secondary outcome of this work also contributes towards:

- *Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs*

#### 4. **Other Implications**

##### (a) Financial

There are no financial implications relating to the proposed actions within this report.

##### (b) Risk Management

There are no identifiable risks associated with this report.

##### (c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no legal or Human Rights Act implications relating to this report.

##### (d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need to complete an EIA for this report.

#### 5. **Supporting Information**

##### **Overview of children and young people health outcomes**

- 5.1 The estimated resident population of Slough was 148,768 in mid-2017. Children and young people aged 0 to 17 made up 28% of this population, compared to 21% in England. Slough's population profile indicates that the borough has a much young population than England as a whole, with significantly higher proportions of children aged 0 to 14.
- 5.2 The data on health outcomes of children and young people are primarily drawn from the Public Health England national database tool, 'PHE Fingertips'<sup>1</sup> – a summary of which for Slough is at Appendix 1. Overall, comparing local indicators with England averages, the health and wellbeing of children in Slough is mixed. The infant mortality rate is similar to England with an average of 14 infants dying before age 1 each year. However Slough experiences a higher prevalence of under 18's deaths per year when compared to the rest of Berkshire. (These deaths are reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP).)
- 5.3 Reflecting on the positive intervention work that has happened over the past years shows us that targeted public health work and partnership working across

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<sup>1</sup> Public Health England (PHE) Fingertips Tool – Maternal and Child Health. Available at: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/child-health-profiles>

the system can lead to positive outcomes;

- The teenage pregnancy rate is better than England, with 32 girls becoming pregnant in a year. Slough's U18 conception rate continues to drop year on year – reducing from 56.5 in 1998 (the baseline year) to 14.1 per 1000 in 2017 which is a 75% reduction (Compared to 61% reduction nationally).
- 7.0% of women smoke while pregnant, which is better than England (10.8%).
- The smoking prevalence at age 15 is 4.0%, which is better than England (8.2%)
- 76.2% of mothers initiate breastfeeding (better than England) (74.5%)
- Educational attainment is particularly high in Slough with 48.9% of students achieving GCSE average attainment 8 score, which is better than England (46.7%)

5.4 There are however a range of health outcomes in Slough which are in the lower percentiles (or showing a worsening trend) and present themselves as a priority for public health action;

- Immunisations: MMR immunisation level does not meet recommended coverage (95%). By age two, 87.1% of children have had one dose
- Flu vaccination rates are low with just 32% coverage at age 2-3 (43.5% in England) and 45% coverage in primary school (65% in Berkshire)
- Oral health is worse than England. 41.5% of 5 year olds have one or more decayed, filled or missing teeth (England 23.3%)
- Obesity: Levels of child obesity are worse than England. 11.1% of children in Reception and 26.8% of children in Year 6 are obese (England 9.5% and 20.1%)
- Asthma: There were 147 emergency admissions of children because of asthma in 2017/18. This gives a rate which is worse than England. (335/100,000 compared to England 186.4/100,000)
- Mental ill health: Estimated prevalence of mental health disorders for children aged 5 to 16 (2015) 9.6% (9.2% England). Estimated number of children aged 5-16 with a mental health disorder in Slough is forecast to be 2,762 in 2019.
- The rate of child inpatient admissions for mental health conditions at 111.4 per 100,000 is similar to England. The rate for self-harm at 433.5 per 100,000 is similar to England.
- Violence: 15 knife related injuries in 10-19year olds last year in Slough – The highest in Berkshire.

**How we are addressing the health challenges**

## **Through a public health approach to prevention, early intervention and partnership**

- 5.5 Nationally and locally, there has been an increasing shift to use a ‘public health approach’ to children and young people’s (CYP) health – using the data to understand and describe the health issues, drawing on the evidence base of best practice to inform interventions and influencing and working closely across partners across the council and externally.
- 5.6 There is an increasing shift towards a more social model of health which focuses on the ‘upstream’ wider social and economic determinants of a child’s health (rather than predominantly an individually-focused health service model) – for example, recognising the impact of poor housing, low family income and air pollution on health. In addition, there is a growing recognition of the negative health impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and the need to safeguard children and young people from a wide range of harms.
- 5.7 As a borough, we value CYP’s voices and increasingly work with them to understand their needs and design services accordingly. Especially in times of more scarce resource, it’s important to use the principle of ‘proportionate universalism’ - providing a universal offer for all children but with focused approaches where need is highest. There are groups of children who have particular extra health needs and these include children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), children who are looked after (CLA), care leavers and migrant children.
- 5.8 Slough children’s health is being addressed at three main levels – across the council including the various services it commissions, across Slough partners and across Frimley Health and Care System.

### **1) Slough Borough Council**

- 5.9 There are many teams within the Council whose work contributes to the health and wellbeing of children and young people – from Housing, Education, Youth Services and Leisure. Teams who have a more ‘traditional’ health and wellbeing focus include:

#### **a) Public Health**

- 5.10 The Public Health Team work with a range of stakeholders to improve the provision of health information, commissioning of services and influencing to improve health and reduce health inequalities. SBC Public Health help collate and analyse CYP health data to contribute to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
- 5.11 Using approximately 40% of the Public Health ring-fenced grant from PHE, we work with Berkshire Shared Team for Public Health and SBC’s Commissioning (Prevention and Wellbeing Team) to commission the 0-19 (25) Service of health

visitors and school nurses (provided by Solutions 4 Health) and various prevention services including the Sexual Health Service at the Slough Garden Clinic (provided by Berkshire Health Foundation Trust), the Drugs and Alcohol Service (provided by Turning Point) and the stop smoking services (provided by Solutions 4 Health) for children and young people as they approach adulthood. These services provide a range of health and wellbeing interventions for CYP and their families to support healthy lifestyle behaviours and promote good physical and mental health.

### **b) Slough Early Years**

- 5.12 Slough Family Information Service (FIS) offers free and impartial information and guidance on a wide range of services for children, young people 0-19 and their families. The service offers support and advice for families with children and young people. There is information on different types of Childcare including childminders, afterschool/holiday clubs and nurseries. Parents can find out about activities that are available including school and school based services. They can be helped with information on Adult learning, financial support and help with childcare costs.
- 5.13 The service provides outreach to Parent and Toddler Groups, schools and other services and has volunteer parent champions working with them to help provide links and other information to parents.
- 5.14 FIS also host Slough's Local Offer. Sloughs Local Offer contains a wide range of information about all the support, services and facilities which families can find in their area for children and young people who have special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities. The information covers education, health and social care support and services for children and young people aged between 0 and 25. Other information on services which are not in the immediate area is also available for children and young people who have special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.
- 5.15 The Local Offer also holds the Slough's Children's Disability Register, this is a secure database which aims to capture information about all children and young people aged 0-25 years with disabilities or special educational needs in Slough. Children and Young People registering on the Children's Disability Register are entitled to apply for a Max Discount card. This card gives the holder discounts at various settings throughout England.

*Further information on FIS can be found at [www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk](http://www.sloughfamilyservices.org.uk)*

### **2) Working with partners in Slough**

- 5.16 There is extensive work on CYP health with a range of partners including Slough Children's Services Trust (SCST), Slough Council for Voluntary Services and the East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Examples of work include:

### **The Slough Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS)**

- 5.17 Slough CVS exists to improve the quality of life of people in Slough and make a positive difference in the community. Its core service is to the voluntary sector providing a capacity building service.
- 5.18 The key service delivered through the CVS for Slough children is the “YES Consortium”. Youth Engagement Slough (YES) provide free activities for young people aged 11-19 (Up to 25 for those with special educational needs). Youth Engagement Slough is a consortium of Slough based providers of services to young people led by Aik Saath (Together As One), Resource Productions and SWIPE.
- 5.19 The CVS also lead the work of HOME Slough who’s mission it is to increase opportunities and awareness of all the arts in Slough, offering ways for everyone to fulfil their artistic potential. HOME Slough is a consortium of arts and community organisations, set up to help empower residents, get more people to experience the arts.

*For more information on this can be found at <https://sloughcvs.org/> and <https://homeslough.org.uk/>*

### **3) Beyond Slough – Pan-Berkshire collaboration and Frimley Systems**

#### **a) Frimley Local Maternity System (LMS)**

- 5.20 The ‘Local Maternity System (LMS)’ is co-terminus with the Frimley Health and Care ICS footprint and brings together key stakeholders to steer the national transformational change programme, ‘Better Births’ (published by NHS England in 2016). This outlined the national vision for maternity services moving towards 2020-21 focuses primarily on improving safety, choice and personalisation for women and their families. The SBC Public Health Service Lead chairs the Preconception & Maternal Health subgroup.

#### **b) Frimley Integrated Health and Care System (ICS)**

- 5.21 Frimley Health and Care places a strong focus on supporting the overarching good mental and physical health and well being of children and young people. During 2019-20, the priorities of Frimley ICS’ CYP Board have been to embed a programme of improvement across the system, recognising the importance of a cohesive and collaborative focus on improving outcomes for the children and young people living in our area. The CYP Board’s key priority areas have been neurodiversity support, crisis and urgent care, and the promotion of well being and supported self-care. Frimley’s new 5 year strategy includes ‘Starting Well’ as one of its 6 key priorities.

### **c) Berkshire Child Death Overview Panel**

- 5.22 The Berkshire CDOP, as well as reviewing all under 18 child deaths across the county, is also involved in supporting preventative action to help reduce the number of child deaths.
- 5.23 Over the past 12 months this work has included multiagency partner work at Reading Festival, working alongside other council teams to help prevent further deaths by drowning on the Jubilee River. This piece of work included advising on additional fencing near the river, new signs and helping TVP liaise with young people. CDOP has provided training to professionals, an annual conference and a national award-winning campaign called “Lift the baby” which promoted baby safety to new fathers.

### **Addressing the top 6 health priorities for Slough children and young people**

#### **1) Immunisations**

- 5.24 During the past year we have been able to galvanise the boroughs work and approach to immunisation uptake. This led to the formation of the Slough Immunisation Partnership, which was a partnership formed between Slough Borough Council, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT), the Berkshire shared public health team, the East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the NHS. This work has included the first ever Slough Immunisation Partnership Conference, the launch and growth of the #IamVaccinated campaign, new local insight research and other key projects led by BHFT and the CCG.

*For full details of this work please refer to the Health and Wellbeing Board report in [Immunisation & Screening report](#).*

#### **2) Oral Health**

- 5.25 Specific activities and programme have been running in Slough to address the challenges of poor oral health. These are primarily funded from the SBC Public Health grant and with a pilot initiative being funded by NHS England who are responsible for NHS dental care. SBC Public Health also work closely with our South East Region oral health experts in PHE.
- 5.26 The key programmes that are being delivered are the “Slough Healthy Smiles” programme which is a scheme that looks to train professions to have a better understanding of oral health and to accredit venues with a ‘kite mark’ for good oral health. And the “Starting Well” programme which is the NHS funded service which links local dental practices with primary schools. They then provide supervised tooth brushing, up-skilling teachers and increasing attendances of under 5’s at dental practices.

*For full details of this work please refer to the Health Scrutiny Oral Health report in the [Oral Health update report](#).*

### **3) Obesity**

- 5.27 Childhood obesity has remained a local priority for a number of years and is an integral part of the 5 year Forward Plan. The underlying causes of obesity, especially in childhood are complex. They as much reflect wider social factors, such as household income, local deprivation levels, community traditions and perception of access to safe and attractive outdoor space as individual factors such as knowledge of healthy lifestyles and individual personal choices. This highlights the key role the wider council plays in addressing obesity.
- 5.28 Over the past few years we have commissioned and worked to support a range of services to support a reduction in childhood obesity. Our flagship project, operating in a proportional universalism approach, is that of “Active Movement”. This behaviour change programme looks to reduce the levels of sedentary behaviour of children through a whole school approach, and is currently being delivered at 1 secondary school, 24 primary schools, 10 children centres and 6 early year settings. The initial results of this programme have been outstanding, and have shown that the programme has helped to increase levels of physical activity, increase grip strength, reduce waist circumference as well as helping with pupil concentration and behaviour. We also commission a targeted weight management service called “Let’s Get Going” which is delivered in 3-4 settings per year to help a targeted number of the most at risk students.
- 5.29 Taking a whole systems approach to reducing childhood obesity, the public health team have also been involved in a range of other key interventions including launching The Daily Mile, establishing new Healthy Early Years and Healthy Schools posts to support settings with their overall health and wellbeing, supporting modal shift with the Council’s Transport team and starting work on the Borough’s Obesity plan.

*For full details of this work please refer to the Overview and Scrutiny Childhood Obesity report in the [Childhood Obesity report](#).*

### **4) Asthma**

- 5.30 Public Health has also been working closely with the Transport team and Environmental Air quality team on a variety of projects to support air quality. These projects include rolling out of “AirText” the free notification service which can be used by residents to be aware of air pollution levels. Work has also been done to inform the borough’s Low Emission Strategy, create a bespoke resource on the new Public Health website, and consulting on the Heathrow Third runway work.
- For full details of this work please refer to the Health Scrutiny Air Quality report in [Air Quality report](#).*
- 5.31 Public Health in collaboration with East Berkshire CCG has supported children with asthma by pat-funding the Berkshire Health NHS Foundation Trust “Asthma



Bus”. This service visits all secondary schools in Slough throughout September with an aim to improve awareness of asthma among students so that they have a better understanding its impact and management. The service won the Respiratory Nursing Category in the 2017 Nursing Time Awards for this innovative service. In addition, staff training to support signposting parents to stop smoking services and work to ensure warm damp-free homes all reduce children’s risk of asthma.

## **5) Mental Health**

5.32 The East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) lead on the delivery and commissioning of key mental health services in collaboration in Slough with the SBC’s Service Lead – Early Years.

5.33 The specialist child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) has recently seen a considerable increase in both referral rates and in the complexity of the cases they are dealing with. They are also seeing more and more children and young people with mental health problems using urgent and emergency care services. The Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Local Transformation Plan (LTP) sets out the actions that will be taken together as a local system.

5.34 Informed by a comprehensive assessment of the needs of children, young people and their families/carers, the LTP has been designed in line with the national ambition and principles set out in the government document “Future in Mind– promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing” (2015).

5.35 The full LTP can be found here <https://www.eastberkshireccg.nhs.uk/our-work/mental-health-services-18s/>

5.36 To further develop their participation work with children and young people, the CCG has allocated funding to develop a Young Health Champions (YHC) programme, accredited by the Royal Society of Public Health. The programme is a partnership approach between health, education, the Local Authority and the voluntary sector. Phase 1 of the programme has just finished its first year in Slough and Phase 2 will see it extended to more secondary schools.

## **6) Youth Violence**

5.37 A collaborative and multi-agency group called the “Violence Taskforce”, chaired by the SBC Chief Executive, is actively supported by public health. A sub group of this taskforce is the new prevention and intervention group, where we are providing information, advice and guidance for the associated partners to be able to take a proactive and preventative “Public Health” approach to reducing youth violence.

## **6. Comments of Other Committees**

6.1 Child health outcomes are discussed at a range of committees and are often tabled as a rolling agenda item to provide key updates and progress. The most up to date versions are attached in the appendices.

## 7. **Conclusion**

7.1 This paper summarises the health of children in Slough and the range of health concerns and health inequalities faced by them – recognising the pattern of this ill health is closely associated with deprivation. Some of these health concerns have improved over time, for example, teenage pregnancy, but a concerning number, including poor oral health, obesity and violence have become worse. There have been considerable efforts to improve services available to CYP to help support the healthy development of children and in the last few years in particular, a growing recognition of the need for the many stakeholders involved to work more collaboratively together, including with CYP and their families.

7.2 A wide range of partners within the Council, across Slough and across a wider geographical footprint, are investing substantial resources to embed both targeted and universal services aimed at reducing the health inequalities that exist. Several of these inequalities exist due to the wider determinants of health, specifically socio-economic deprivation related to issues such as low income, unemployment, housing, air quality and the obesogenic environment.

7.3 This highlights the importance of taking a wider view to partnership – recognising the role of both ‘health’ and ‘non-health’ partners at a local and regional level to develop and implement policy to support the long term health of our children, and thereby ensuring that Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful.

## 8. **Appendices attached**

Appendix 1 – Child and Maternal Health Profile for Slough – 2019  
Available at: [PHE Child Health Profile Slough 2019](#)

## 9. **Background Papers**

2019.03.25 Oral Health update report – Health Scrutiny  
Available at: [Health Scrutiny 25.03.2019](#)

2019.01.17 Immunisation & Screening report – Health Scrutiny Panel  
Available at: [Immunisations and Screening Report - Health Scrutiny 17.01.2019](#)

2018.12.01 Childhood Obesity update – Overview and Scrutiny  
Available at: [Childhood Obesity update Overview & Scrutiny 10.01.2019](#)

2018.11.21 Air Quality report – Health Scrutiny

Available at: [Air quality and health\\_Health Scrutiny Panel\\_21.11.2018](#)