

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children Service's Scrutiny
DATE: 4th February 2021
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PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP THRESHOLD DOCUMENT.

1. **Purpose of Report**

To inform members about what a threshold document is, why it is necessary, how it is used in practice and why it is important.

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

The Panel is requested to note the report.

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

Children's Well Being

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

This work supports the well being strategy priority:

"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 in this report.

(b) **Risk Management**

There are no risk management issues.

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

There are no Human Rights Act implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no equalities impact issues as the document applies to all children, equally.

5. Supporting Information

5.1 The safeguarding children threshold document is a technical tool which acts as a reference document for practitioners. It helps them to make professional judgements about whether they should make a safeguarding referral about children or whether there might be other options. The detail is helpful when a child's presentation does not clearly indicate that there may be a child protection concern. In all such events and in training and communications, practitioners are always encouraged to consult with social workers to seek advice. The document provides a range of examples of cases that will proceed to child protection enquiries, children in need, or those requiring early help. It helps busy practitioners to work this out, either by themselves or with their supervisors and managers. It is a multi-agency document with its root in the Children Act 1989 which requires Children's Social care services to publish eligibility criteria.

5.2 This document is currently being developed by the safeguarding partnership with many managers and practitioners from all agencies, including schools, working together to develop a concise reference tool. A new and helpful addition to this new version is that it is rooted in the UN convention on the rights of the child and makes it explicit that when making professional judgements about referral, practitioners are adhering to the legal rights of children and so not making subjective evaluations about the parents or carers. The final document will be agreed in March and will be widely published in early April. Training and communications will be developed to ensure practitioners are aware of the new document.

5.3 The work is led by Slough Safeguarding Partnership.

6. Comments of Other Committees

There are no comments from other committees.

7. Conclusion

The scrutiny committee is informed about the purpose and importance of the safeguarding partnership threshold document.

8. Appendices Attached

'A' - DRAFT Threshold document.

9. **Background Papers**

1. - Children act 1989,
2. - Children act 2004,
3. - Children and social work act 2017
- 4 - DfE: Working together to safeguarding children 2018