

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 16th March 2021

CONTACT OFFICER: Tiran Khehra, Policy Insight Analyst
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875560

WARDS: All

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS AND COVID-19, TASK AND FINISH GROUP

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 For the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel (ECS Scrutiny Panel) to comment on the draft terms of reference for the new task and finish group; Employment, Skills and COVID-19.

2. **Recommendations/Proposed Action**

2.1 That the Panel review the current draft and propose any comments or suggestions to the terms of reference or the task and finish group. .

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

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

The Council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities. The ECS Scrutiny Panel, along with the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and other Scrutiny Panels combine to meet the local authority's statutory requirement to provide public transparency and accountability, ensuring the best outcomes for the residents of Slough.

The new task and finish group will support the following SJWS priorities:

1. Protecting vulnerable children
2. Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities
3. Improving mental health and wellbeing

The work of the new task and finish group will assist the ECS Scrutiny Panel in identifying the gaps in skills and employment as a result of COVID-19. The

findings and recommendations will help plan the forward work programme for the ECS and the council's strategic planning.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The long term impact reflects the priorities of the Five Year Plan, in particular the following:

- Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay
- Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of proposed action of approving the terms of reference.

(b) Risk Management

None

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

None

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The new joint working scrutiny group which looks at the issues brought to light by COVID-19 have identified the need to assess the impact the pandemic has had on resident's employment and skills.
- 5.2 The joint-working group agreed the a new task and finish group should be set to investigate the impact COVID-19 has had on Slough residents with furlough, redundancies, employment rates, the change in skillset required, increase in universal credit claimants etc. The group decided findings should be presented to the ECS and recommendations to be made to Cabinet.
- 5.3 The group will be holding evidence gathering workshops and proposed recommendation workshops.
- 5.4 The group will be led by Cllr Basra, Chair of the ECS.

6. **Conclusion**

- 6.1 This report is intended to provide the ECS Scrutiny Panel with the opportunity to comment on any known gaps, challenges and make any amendments it feels are required.

7. **Appendices Attached**

A – Terms of Reference (Draft)

8. **Background Papers**

None.

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2020/21

THEMES FOR 2020/21 DEVELOPMENT:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 1- Training & Skills Development Theme 2- COVID-19 Impact on Education 	
Potential Task and Finish Group / Site Visits:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windsor Forest Group/ Colleges on their offer Solutions for Health (0-19 Service) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osbourne Apprenticeships
Meeting Date:	
21st October 2020 Theme 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on SBC's offer with apprenticeships (Inclusive Skills Growth Strategy) Community Learning and Skills Training Provider- JGA Developing Futures 	
3rd December 2020 Theme 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative Academy Youth Offer Slough Academy 	

**4th February 2021
Theme 1 & 2**

- NEET- Comparison figures on pre-COVID19 and during/post COVID19

Impact of COVID-19 on Education:

- Learning Gaps in Primary and Secondary Schools
- Safeguarding Children
- Annual Education Standards report 2018/19 (due to 2020 exam cancellations there will be no performance tables)

**16th March 2021
Theme 2**

Impact of COVID-19 on Social Care

- Early Years- Children Centres, staffing, families etc.
- The Trust- Vulnerable children, CIP, CIN, staffing, resources
- Parenting in Slough, Multi-Agency Strategy- Michael Jarrett
- Youth Offending Report

**20th April 2021
Statutory Reports**

- Slough Children's Services Trust Annual Report.
- Progress made since Ofsted ILACS inspection*
- Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report

Outstanding/Pending Items

- Training- Employment skills and Learning Opportunities Post-16 (*focus on performance, outcomes for Slough students*):
 - Further Education Offers
 - Kick-Start
 - Local employer engagement