

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 20th April 2021

CONTACT OFFICER: Eleni Ioannides, Interim Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services

WARD(S): All

PART I

FOR INFORMATION

SLOUGH CHILDREN'S SERVICES TRUST ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2020 TO MARCH 2021

1. **Purpose of Report**

To inform the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel of the activity of Slough Children's Services Trust over the last financial year, and provide some highlights of successes and areas of focus for further improvements. The report also informs the panel of the transition to a Local Authority Owned Company and change of name to Slough Children First.

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

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel is requested to note the Annual report of Slough Children First (formerly Slough Children's Services Trust).

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

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

The provision of statutory children's services in Slough by Slough Children First directly contributes to the Joint Wellbeing Strategy, specifically priority one (Starting Well). The focus on the health and well-being of children and young people aligns with the priority to protect vulnerable children and young people.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Slough Children First is aligning its strategic activity to the Council's developing Children's Plan to ensure coherence and closer working relationships to improve outcomes for children. This will enable the Council to deliver 'Outcome 1 – Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful'.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications of this report

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
The Panel is requested to note the Annual Report of Slough Children First	Risks: None Opportunities: Help deliver Slough's Five Year plan	Slough Children's First (SCF) Board oversees the organisation in delivering its business plan. The Transition Steering Group (TSG) chaired by a DfE Commissioner has overseen the transition to a local authority wholly owned company and current improvements	5 (Negligible severity high probability)	6 weekly monitoring meeting of an agreed set of KPIs between SCF and SBC Governance meeting chaired by SBC Chief Executive Slough Children's First Board

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Under Article 8 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, as given effect to in the domestic law by the Human Rights Act 1998, every person has the right to respect for his family life.

The Children Act 1989

The Children Act 2004

Children and Social Work Act 2017

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Slough Children First undertook a comprehensive equalities impact assessment for its staff as part of its Trust wide restructure in 2020 and no adverse impacts were identified.

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1. As part of its contract with Slough Borough Council, Slough Children First produce an annual report which reviews the last 12 months, highlighting successes, challenges and looks ahead to the next twelve months.
- 5.2. This annual report is written from the viewpoint of Slough Children's Trust as it is a retrospective look at the last 12 months although the organisation is now called Slough Children First.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

No other committees have been involved in this proposal

7. **Conclusion**

- 7.1. The report shows many areas of strength and highlights the focus for the organisation is on the quality of services children, young people, their families and carers receive. The organisation's biggest challenge is recruiting and retaining staff, an issue not just reserved to Slough Children First.
- 7.2. The new arrangements with the Council bringing together Council and Trust strategic leadership roles and integrating services, provides Slough Children First with a solid foundation to realise its ambitions for consistently good services vulnerable children and families in Slough.

8. **Background Papers**

None