

## Slough Borough Council

**Report To:** Slough Wellbeing Board

**Date:** Thursday 24 November 2022

**Subject:** Update – Priority One, Starting Well. Children and Young People Partnership Board

**Chief Officer:** Andrew Fraser, Chief Executive, Slough Children First, and Executive Director People: Children, Slough Borough Council

**Contact Officer:**

**Ward(s):** All

### Summary and Recommendations:

- 1.1. This report provides the Slough Wellbeing Board with an update on the work of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board (CYPP Board).
- 1.2. The previous report to the Wellbeing Board identified the need to develop an Early Help Strategy with partners to meet the needs of children, young people, and families at an earlier stage prior to the need for statutory involvement.

### Recommendations:

The Slough Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- a) Note and review the work of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board to deliver the first priority of the Slough Wellbeing Strategy – Starting Well.
- b) Note that the most effective way to deliver the best outcomes for children, young people and families is through the development of a partnership approach to Early Help and the development of an Early Help Strategy.
- c) Note the progress that we have made through the CYPP Board and the Early Help Task and Finish Group.

### Report:

#### **2. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA, and Doing Right by Slough 22-25 (SBC Corporate Plan)**

- 2.1. The work of the Slough Wellbeing Board aims to address the four priority areas outlined in the Slough Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026:
  - Starting Well
  - Integration
  - Strong, Healthy, and Attractive Neighbourhoods
  - Workplace Health

- 2.2. The work of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board addresses Priority One – Starting Well; it will also help facilitate and contribute to priority two and three.
- 2.3. The priorities in the Wellbeing Strategy are informed by evidence of need contained in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), therefore, Priority One, Starting Well in the Wellbeing Strategy, is built upon the evidence outlined in the JSNA.
- 2.4. The work of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board also contributes to the Council's 'Doing Right by Slough' 2022-2025 Corporate Plan, in particular priority two and three:
  1. A council that lives within our means, balances the budget, and delivers best value for taxpayers and service users.
  2. An environment that helps residents live more independent, healthier, and safer lives.
  3. A borough for children and young people to thrive.
  4. Infrastructure that reflects the uniqueness of Slough's places and a new vision for the town centre.
- 2.5. It is anticipated, like with each of the council's recovery priorities, that delivery of changes will take place over the next few years, through partnerships, with clear progress milestones along the way.

#### **CYPP Board progress update:**

3. At the July CYPP Board, an introduction was provided to partners in relation to the new 'Supporting Families' Programme (Strengthening Families in Slough) and Early Help System Guide which sets out a 3-year plan to develop a whole system approach in delivering specific outcomes for children and young people through a whole family approach.
  - 3.1.1. The system guide was reviewed with the group, which aims to develop a vision across the partnership for an Early Help System, as a network of services, processes and interactions that aim to help children, young people, and families at the earliest opportunity. Utilised as a Self-Assessment tool, our dialogue focussed on our key achievements, along with our collectively identified areas for development, a specific focus on the aspect of Leadership.
  - 3.1.2. It was agreed that the Governance of the Strengthening Families Programme would sit with the CYPP Board. The outcomes of this were the Early Help System Guide finalised and signed off by Board and the submission of the Early Help System Guide to the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities.
- 3.2. In September, a face-to-face workshop was held with all CYPP Board members to consider the needs of Slough children, young people and families, the current Early Help system (developments and challenges) and how the Strengthening Families outcomes meet the vision and aims of all partners.
  - 3.2.1. The 10 outcomes criteria for the programme was shared. These reflect the work and aims of multi-agency partners including Education, Police and Health, which was recognised by all and agreed as a clear framework for measuring outcomes

throughout the journey of a child and their family across services. The 10 outcomes criteria are listed below:

1. **Getting a good education** – poor attendance, special needs not being met
2. **Good early years development** – immunisations, development needs being met
3. **Improved mental and physical health** – learning disabilities child and/ or adult
4. **Promoting recovery & reducing harm from substance use** – drug/ alcohol misuse
5. **Improved family relationships** – parenting issues, parental conflict
6. **Children safe from abuse and exploitation** – criminal, sexual, peer to peer, harm
7. **Crime prevention and tackling crime** – adult criminality, gangs, anti-social behaviour
8. **Safe from domestic abuse** – adult perpetrator, historic/ current domestic abuse, coercion, and control
9. **Secure housing** – temp accommodation, unsustainable housing, youth homelessness
10. **Financial stability** – unemployed adult on benefits, financial issues, not in education, employment, or training (NEET)

3.2.2. Opportunities and barriers to collaboration were identified, with data sharing and resources to develop the reporting within key services seen as a particular barrier. The Board requested to have further information on current data sets around the Strengthening Families Programme which were agreed to be shared at the next Board meeting.

3.2.3. Feedback from groups identified the need to incorporate a renewed Early Help Strategy and review of current Thresholds into the workstream. The outcome of this was contact to be made with individual agencies in relation to key areas of outcomes criteria.

3.3. A further workshop was held in October. A review of the previous workshop provided the foundation to conversations to identify key tasks required to move the development of the Early Help System and new Strengthening Families framework forward.

3.3.1. Current Strengthening Families data was shared showing the number of families identified in two or more of the Strengthening Families categories, along with the number that we can then evidence outcomes for. This demonstrated where we have gaps in outcomes data from partner agencies, which was recognised by all and agreed that we needed to find a way forward.

3.3.2. The concept of developing the Early Help Champions (a group of approx. 150 multi-agency professionals) as 'Lead Professionals' within their own organisations was agreed as a way forward to build on the wider Early Help offer, prior to requirements for targeted or statutory support. This encompasses a wide range of partners, including the police.

3.3.3. The outcomes of this were to set up the Early Help Strategy Task and Finish group to develop a draft strategy and the first iteration will be shared at the CYPP Board on 5 December.

3.3.4. The creation of the Strengthening Families Data Task and Finish Group was agreed to develop data maturity model in relation to the outcomes plan. There has been an

initial meeting with health and public health colleagues to understand how the outcomes framework works to then identify suitable partners to attend this group.

### Early Help Strategy Task and Finish Group progress:

4. Since October, a series of weekly task and finish groups have taken place in order to produce the Early Help Strategy. CYPP Board members volunteered to be part of the group which includes –
  - Children’s social Care
  - Targeted Early Help
  - Public Health
  - Safeguarding Partnership
  - ICB
  - Schools
  - Community and Voluntary sector
- 4.1. The Early Help Strategy builds on the Strengthening Families programme to broaden the approach to Early Help across the whole partnership and this is the ambition of DLUHC who will evaluate our whole system approach to Early Help as a Local Authority. The Strengthening Families programme was previously known as Troubled Families. Following a review by DLUHC around our Strengthening Families programme in August, they were very positive and complementary about the journey Slough is on with partners around the programme, hence it was sensible to build our Early Help on this strong foundation.
  - 4.1.1. In the first – focussed at developing a common language for Early Help, determined the approach to have as a partnership round delivering Early Help and intervention for children and young people – strategy to be a strength-based way of working across all partnerships with children, young people, and families.
  - 4.1.2. The second task and finish group developed the model (shown below), reflecting safeguarding children’s social care model, including health, to make sense to all partners with different thresholds. We now intend to add criminal justice terminology.



- 4.1.3. The third task and finish developed the vision for the strategy which will feed into the rest of the framework.
- 4.1.4. The final task and finish group will collectively review the data to add into the strategy. Members will have their individual tasks to review progress against before the December CYPP Board.
- 4.1.5. At the December CYPP Board, the draft Early Help Strategy will be reviewed. There will then be a consultation period around January/February including partners, the community and obtaining the views of children, young people, and families. The Slough Wellbeing Board will be part of the consultation. We envisage that the Early Help Strategy will be finalised in March.

### **Other Implications:**

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of proposed action.

(b) Risk Management

There are no risk management implications of proposed action.

(c) Human Rights Act and other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report. Any specific activity undertaken by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board which may have legal implications will be brought to the attention of the monitoring officer and Cabinet separately.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessments will be completed for any specific activity undertaken by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board which may have equalities implications.

### **Background papers:**

None.