

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 17th April 2019

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

JOINT PARENTING PANEL QUARTERLY UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**

This report provides Members with an update on the work of the Joint Parenting Panel (JPP) since the last report taken by the Panel on 6th December 2018.

2. **Recommendations**

That Members note and comment as appropriate on the report.

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

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy**

The JPP supports the following priority:

- Protecting vulnerable children

3b. **Five Year Plan**

The work of the JPP also supports the following Outcome:

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

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications relating to this report.

(b) **Risk Management**

The role of the JPP is to scrutinise the work of partners in the discharge of their corporate parenting role. This work is already contained within the service planning and risk management framework of the relevant Council Directorates and other agencies and there are no direct risk management matters relating to this report.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications relating to this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

None required.

5. **Supporting Information**

Meetings since 6 December 2018: JPP meeting 12 December 2018 and an extraordinary JPP meeting 18 February 2019.

JPP meeting 12 December 2018

5.1 A revised JPP Balanced Score Card, that will better illustrate the impact on outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA), was tabled. This included two versions of the scorecard for the Panel to consider. Format 1 allows members to compare Slough's performance with its statistical neighbours using that month's performance data against the same point in time in the previous year (for instance, October 2018 to October 2017); while format 2 presents data covering the previous 12 months. The Panel welcomed the two approaches and agreed that both formats should be presented at future meetings. Members also asked for the following changes to be reflected in the scorecards:

- The 'Guide to Measure' continued to be included with the report and that the number rather than the percentage of CLA who were placed more than 20 miles outside the borough was included.
- That what was considered to be 'suitable accommodation' was explained and included in the guide, and that exception reporting on those indicators that were not included in the data set, but were relevant, should be included in the report.

5.2 The Slough Children's Services Trust (SCST) director of operations presented the latest draft of Slough's Local Offer for Care Leavers (CL), which is currently being refreshed to take on board a number of comments made by Mark Riddell, DfE National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, who was visiting the Trust on 12 and 13 December 2018. It was acknowledged that further work was still to be completed in a number of areas. Success of the Local Offer would be revealed through the voice of young people and feedback would be used to determine the success of the Local Offer. This will help Officers monitor its effectiveness.

5.3 The final draft of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2019-20 was presented to the JPP. This document, shown in Appendix A, has been professionally formatted and published on the SBC website. This strategy demonstrates our commitment to CLA and CLs, and provides a comprehensive review of our achievements to date and what requirements going forward.

5.4 The Virtual School Head provided a summary of the 2017/18 Virtual School Annual Report, which gives an update on the education of Slough CLA for the Academic year 2017-18. Key matters arising from the report are:

- The Panel discussed the good progress that had been made by CLA with Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP)
- It was noted that the primary needs of a significant proportion (60%) of those in Years R – 11 with an EHCP were identified as social, emotional and mental health, much higher than the national average (12%).
- Members commended the significant work being undertaken to reduce NEET numbers.
- It was suggested that it would be helpful to create a better understanding of issues and challenges by including a number of case studies of students who were performing well outlining the factors that were instrumental in supporting their progress and two students who were performing less well setting out the issues that inhibited their progress.
- The 2017-18 Virtual School Annual report was approved by the panel, the Executive Summary of this report can be found in Appendix B.

Extraordinary meeting of the JPP 18 February 2019

5.5 The Director of Children, Learning and Skills gave an update on the recent Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children Services (ILACS) in January 2019. Significant progress had been made by Slough Children's Services Trust and Slough Borough Council resulting in an overall judgement rating of Requires Improvement to be Good, a great achievement from an Inadequate rating at the last inspection and recognition of the hard work that has been undertaken. The final report will be published by Ofsted officially on 4 March 2019.

The SCST Director of Finance and Resources introduced the draft Sufficiency Strategy aimed at meeting the projected ongoing needs for CLA in Slough. All local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that CLA have access to a sufficient range of accommodation, services and support. The draft Sufficiency Strategy replaces the current strategy, which expired in December 2018, and outlines how the Trust and the Council will meet these provisions. In conclusion, the strategy focuses on prevention, maintaining stability in the home, making the best use of economies of scale, collaboration within the council and supporting a wrap around service to provide stability for children.

5.7 The SCST Director of operations presented a report on the diagnostic visit by the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, Mark Riddell, in December 2019. An Action plan has been developed from the findings and recommendations of this visit which would be further supplemented by recommendations from the Ofsted report. Members noted the action about securing a Tenancy Ready programme for care leavers which is currently being progressed by a designated officer.

5.8 An inspection by Ofsted of SCST as a Voluntary Adoption Agency at the end of October 2018 has rated the service as 'Good' citing that children flourish, staff are enthusiastic about their work and children are the priority. The inspectors reported that prospective and current adopters said they chose SCST as they felt welcomed and highly valued from their first contact. Good quality information about all aspects of adoption, and informative preparation courses helped make the decision to continue their journey towards adopting a child.

5.9 Appendix C provides details of member attendance at the JPP during 2018/19

Future Meetings of the JPP

- 5.10 Future meetings of the JPP in the 2019/20 cycle will be held on 25 April 2019, 25 July 2019, 3 October 2019 and 11 December 2019. The next report from the JPP to Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel is scheduled to be taken on 16 July 2019.
- 5.11 Members should note that meetings of the JPP are private, and therefore its agenda papers are not in the public domain.

6. Comments of Other Committees

This report has not been taken by any other committees at Slough Borough Council.

7. Conclusion

Members are invited to note and comment on this update of the JPP, covering the meetings held on 12 December 2018 and the extraordinary meeting held on 18 February 2019.

8. Appendices

- 'A' - Corporate Parenting Strategy 2019/20
- 'B' - Executive Summary of the Virtual School Annual Report 2017/18
- 'C' - Attendance by Councillors at JPP Meetings

9. Background Papers

None.