

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

**DATE:** Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **FOOD POVERTY TASK & FINISH GROUP UPDATE**

1. **Purpose of Report**

For the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel to review and approve the final version of the Terms of Reference for the Food Poverty Task & Finish Group.

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

2.1 That the Panel

1. Review the proposed Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group; and
2. Agree the final version of the Terms of Reference under which the Task and Finish Group will operate.

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

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

The proposed areas of activity for the Task & Finish Group will support the following priorities:

- Protecting vulnerable children
- Increasing life expectancy by focussing on inequalities
- Improving mental health and wellbeing

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The review will support the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful;

- Outcome 2: Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs;
- Outcome 3: Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay.

#### 4. **Other Implications**

##### (a) Financial

The work to be undertaken by the Task & Finish Group will be covered within existing staff budgets. Any financial implications of the review's recommendations will be reported back in the final report to be taken by the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel in 2020.

##### (b) Risk Management

There are no corporate risks associated with the adoption of the Terms of Reference included as Appendix A. Any risks associated with the final recommendations will be reported to the Panel at the review's conclusion.

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

There are no Human Rights or other Legal implications arising from this report.

##### (d) Equalities Impact Assessment

The adoption of the Terms of Reference does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment. Should the final recommendations necessitate such an exercise, it will be carried out as required.

#### 5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The issue of food poverty in Slough was first raised in members' written questions for the meeting of the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. At the meeting, members of the Panel discussed data from Slough Foodbank and expressed concern at the increasing reliance on food banks and similar provision in Slough. The Panel then decided to set up a task and finish group on food poverty to investigate the causes of this increase and suggest actions to reduce it.
- 5.2 The Task & Finish Group have had preliminary meetings with the manager of Slough foodbank as well as representatives from Shelter, MyCouncil and DWP that helped define the initial scope of the problem and shape the Group's Terms of Reference.

### **Membership**

5.3 The Task & Finish Group will be chaired by Cllr Hulme and will also include the following Councillors:

- Cllr Plenty
- Cllr Ajaib

### **Timeframes and Work Programme**

5.4 When the final report with recommendations is presented to the Panel, members will be asked to approve and adopt the recommendations. Following this, the Panel will then assume responsibility for monitoring the progress of these recommendations. Officers will update the Panel on this as appropriate.

5.5 In order to compile its final report, the Task & Finish Group will conduct a series of site visits to children's centres, My Council, Slough foodbank and other possible sources of information throughout January and February 2020. Once these have been completed, it will then hold a plenary session with officers to talk through their findings from the site visits and proposals for the future. This will then lead to the compilation of the final report and its recommendations for the future of the service.

## **6. Comments of Other Committees**

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

## **7. Conclusion**

7.1 This report is intended to provide the Panel with information and guidance on the work to be undertaken by the Task and Finish Group. There will be flexibility for the Task and Finish Group to arrange meetings to suit its work; however, its focus on the work it has been commissioned to complete will remain resolute.

## **8. Background Papers**

Agenda papers and minutes of the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

## **9. Appendices**

A - Proposed Terms of Reference for the Food Poverty Task & Finish Group.