



Safeguarding Children's Annual Report

An account of the effectiveness of
Slough safeguarding partnership
for the period 2018-2019

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<https://sloughsafeguardingboards.org.uk>



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Forward by Independent Chair: Nick Georgiou

I hope that you find this Annual Report interesting, informative and accessible. The approach taken in writing it is to make extensive use of web links so that you are able to access a lot of data and information without being faced by a welter of pages.

A good deal of the focus in this year ending March 2019 has been on practice: Understanding Neglect, devising a new neglect tool and the application of thresholds. A new Safeguarding Leaders group has been established to strengthen and clarify strategic and tactical arrangements using the Working Together 2018 guidance and embracing the concept of “Contextual “ safeguarding and creating cohesion with the community safety and safeguarding adults partnerships. Developments are beginning to strengthen partnership working and clarifying governance and accountability.

Nick Georgiou

Independent chair, Slough Safeguarding Children Board.

About This Document

Read this online.



Links are provided to help you find more detail.

You can print out the document and the on line supplementary documents if you prefer.

If you need anything else,

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Slough population: Key Facts from Slough Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/council/joint-strategic-needs-assessment>

- Total Population of 148,768 including 41,406 children.
- Slough has a young population; 28% are aged under 20.
- Population predicted to grow to 169,600 by 2036
- It has a higher proportion of people aged 30-40, and a higher fertility rate than the rest of Berkshire.
- It is ethnically diverse; 40% of the population is Asian or Asian British and 36% are White British
- It has a highly transient population and high rates of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Slough is an attractive location for both European and global headquarters. Slough trading estate provides local employment opportunities.
- Slough is ranked 78th out of 152 upper-tier unitary authorities in England, where a ranking of 1 is the most deprived (based on the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation average score).
- There are number of neighbourhoods in Slough that are among the most deprived in England.

Progress on areas for development identified in the annual report 17/18

Objectives in annual report 2017/18	Progress made	Next steps
<p>“Create new LSCB strategy on neglect”.</p>	<p>A multi-agency neglect strategy group (Insert link to strategy) delivered a comprehensive neglect strategy, and a neglect tool (Insert link to tool) for practitioners.</p>	<p>An intensive programme of seminars to promote awareness of neglect and the application of the neglect tool has been arranged for 2019-2020. the neglect strategy group will evaluate the impact of the strategy and the tool using agreed measures in the Autumn of 2019 and the Spring of 2020.</p>
<p>“Develop the local CSE group to encompass broader exploitation issues affecting young people.”</p>	<p>A new criminal exploitation strategy (insert link) and terms of reference for the local group have been developed to include broader exploitation of children.</p>	<p>This group is becoming increasingly involved in the Pan Berkshire group. A self evaluation and performance data set has been prioritised for 2019/2020</p>
<p>“Seek assurance from Safer Slough partnership to ensure impact from the planned new strategy on gangs and youth violence”.</p>	<p>Slough Strategic Safeguarding Leaders group is developing new arrangements to develop increased cohesion and consistency across children’s, adults and the community safety partners on safeguarding children from violence. A new violence strategy has been agreed.</p>	<p>The new violence strategy will be delivered, impact measures established and evaluated by end March 2020.</p>

CHILD PROTECTION PERFORMANCE

An account of child protection performance is provided by the Children's Trust in the link below . As well as accounting for the performance of the Children's Trust, this data is analysed to help us to understand the multi-agency implications specifically around thresholds.

The facts, analysis and conclusions are provided in the next two slides.

Please find full report:

<https://www.sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/scsp/scsp/professionals/annual-report-18-19>



Key Facts From This Data:

- On 31 March 2019 there were **219** children who were subject to a **CP Plan**, a rate of **51.9** per 10,000
- The number of contacts to the Childrens Trust front door services has increased modestly from **9,465** in 2017/18 to **12,107** in this reporting period of 2018/19. There were some in year fluctuations.
- The proportion of cases proceeding to referral increased to **1,978** in 2018/19 compared to **1,580** in 2017/18. The proportion of referrals that are repeat referrals has decreased to **14.8%** from **19%** in 2017/18. Statistical neighbours (**19.5%**), England averages (**21.9%**) in 2017/18

Analysis

The data provided in this report shows that activity within the Trust has increased from the front door through the system to children who become looked after, subject to a Child Protection Plan or S17 child in need .

There has been a concerted effort to raise awareness of the Trust roles and responsibilities and close working with the LSCB has led to the revision of the Threshold Document and roll out of a large number of workshops supported by front door staff raising awareness and outlining expectations of partners in relation to referrals. This in part may have contributed to the increased levels of activity as professionals become more confident in making appropriate referrals to the Trust.

It is positive to note that despite the increase in contacts and referrals the repeat referral rate was lower than the previous year, although the % of children on a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time had risen slightly, it is important to continue to focus on the process of stepping down and supporting families following intervention to ensure the changes and improvements made are sustainable.

The change in the front door incorporating early help referrals has allowed a more consistent overview of the level of need that is being identified and more consistent application of threshold as a result.

Overall need appears to have increased, and the Trust is now more in line with statistical neighbours and England averages in relation to child protection figures.

In some areas of activity the increased volume of demand has impacted on the timeliness of work being completed including child and family assessments and timeliness of ICPC in 15 working days. The Trust continues to review this performance through a regular Performance Board and identify solutions to improve performance, which may include consideration of additional resources in some key areas.

The Trust has in place a comprehensive improvement plan designed to address ongoing areas for improvement and development and progress is reported to the Trust Board and the Council through ongoing contract monitoring activity.

Early Help

STRENGTHS

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

NEXT STEPS FOR 19/20

Investment by Local Authority in providing leadership and co-ordination function to support partners to deliver Early Help. Multi-agency early help board well established

Widespread communications by way of newsletter and multi-agency networks.

Monitor impact in terms of reduction in the inappropriate demand for statutory social care services and more families being supported appropriately by services according to need and risk. ***Develop work with partners to identify need for early intervention services to prevent the demand on targeted family support.***

Ambition and vision: A collaborative approach (early help) involving partners with the aim of reducing inappropriate demand for statutory social care services and more families being supported appropriately by services according to need and risk

Performance monitoring framework in design at time of writing-

Performance framework to be agreed by early help board. Regular accounts to safeguarding partners. Robust multi-agency audit process to be put in place to ensure regular oversight of quality of Early Help support.

Child Exploitation in Slough Highlights of Multi-Agency Performance:

STRENGTHS	AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT	NEXT STEPS FOR 19/20
Contextual safeguarding recognised as a priority for the safeguarding leaders group.	The safeguarding leaders group will create “One” exploitation strategy.	Bring adults and children’s leads together to deliver.
Local strategy reviewed to incorporate broader forms of criminal exploitation of children.	Improve the CE performance data set.	Data set linked to strategy and action plan.
CE identification tool devised with pan berks group and widely publicised.	Incorporated into training.	Impact evaluation in the Autumn of 2019 and/or Spring 2020.
Increasing alignment between the Sexual Exploitation and Missing Risk Assessment Conference (SEMRAC) and the Serious Youth Violence panel improving information sharing.	More work on improving information sharing around missing children and sharing intelligence to inform local profiling.	Local group will work with Pan Berkshire CE group on the challenges around profiling and
Excellent training provided reaching 265 professionals in 12 events.	Additional training on criminal exploitation of children and to raise awareness about “contextual” safeguarding	New training planned for 2019/20, to be delivered by police and the Willow project.

Policy Development

Slough LSCB gratefully acknowledges the leadership by Reading and Wokingham safeguarding partnerships in managing the Pan Berkshire policy and procedures sub-group.

- Key policies updated in 18/19 were as follows;
- Resolving professional disagreement and escalation;
- Responding to abuse and neglect
- Children living away from home with other families
- Fabricated and induced illness

Training

The training needs analysis carried out in 17/18 demonstrated a priority need for the following courses:

- Exploitation of Children and Young People (CSE),
- The newly revised Working to Together to Safeguard Children and
- Threshold training seminars.

A total of 332 professionals from all agencies took part in this training.

On the day evaluations were very positive.

3 month retrospective evaluations to establish if there was sustained impact demonstrated lasting impact on practice .

All training was highly valued by participants with a new interactive style and focus on the challenges in practice.

The success of the threshold seminars as a means of reaching large numbers of professionals has led to the delivery of a similar programme on neglect for 2019/20.

Training for 2019-2020

Our training needs analysis has informed training for this period with increased concern to understand contextual safeguarding there will be;

6 courses Working Together to safeguard children

6 on criminal exploitation of children

2 courses on Gang awareness (provided by Reach Every Generation)

16 on criminal exploitation of children and adults including modern slavery. (“It’s closer than you think”)

As well as a series of seminars on the neglect tool

A new training and development manager will be appointed to lead on this area of work.

Managing Allegations

The Allegation Procedures apply where a person who works with children has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children

The Local Authority Designated Officer manages and provides oversight of allegations against people that work with children. In Slough this post is employed by Slough Children's Services Trust who provides an annual account of this work to the safeguarding partners. The full report can be found in this link). Below a summary of referrals made over the last 3 years.

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Total no of referrals to LADO	208	178	164

Managing Allegations Outcome Of Referrals Made

Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	False	Malicious	Not Met Threshold	Blank
45	46	37	3	1	66	10

The majority of allegations referred to the LADO with an outcome were either substantiated or unsubstantiated. This is a similar pattern to other local authorities and indicates that the decision to proceed to a strategy meeting was appropriate and proportionate to enable the evidence to be examined.

Private Fostering

Private fostering occurs when a parent (or someone with parental responsibility) makes an arrangement for their child or children to be cared for by someone else who is not a close family member. The person who they arrange to look after their child or children is known as the private foster carer. The arrangement is classed as private fostering if it is expected to last for more than 28 days or more with the child living with someone who is not a close relative on a full time basis. This also includes the child living with people who are friends of the family or a boyfriend or girlfriend's family.

Private fostering in Slough

Slough safeguarding partners recognise that there are low numbers of children (4 in 2018/19) identified as living in private fostering settings and there is a need to raise awareness in our local community about this. A one minute guide and publicity have been devised and delivered through the safeguarding partners communications group which involves the voluntary sector and community groups.

FGM Understanding

- Slough recognises that FGM is a hidden harm, and that numerical data is unlikely to represent the true scale.
- Recorded cases would suggest procedures have taken place outside of the UK, typically in country of origin.
- Current risk identified in relation to cutting, is from relatives from country of origin applying pressure.
- There is a misconception in country of origin that cutting is based on religious belief.

FGM in Slough:

- During 2017 training for all childminders and early years providers rolled out across Slough follow up sessions for staff during 2018/19.
- Schools incorporating FGM training on inset days and using Oxford Against Cutting to train school staff.
- Thames Valley Police via the OPCC sent out a letter to all early years settings, schools and colleges advising on indicators of risk during summer holidays and action required.
- Schools across Slough have added an FGM policy to their wider safeguarding policy and available to parents via websites.
- Slough Multi agency pathway ratified & published.
- East Berkshire FGM Pathway for Children & Adults ratified & published.
- FGM Strategy document (2016) currently under review.
- Regular practice & pathway training for Slough GP's.
- FGM Progression Group (Community & Clinical Focus) meets quarterly.
- SIS are rolling out community training providing certification to help strengthen their opposition to relatives back home.
- Slough received £10,000 from MHCLG to support work in Slough specifically around FGM.

Female Genital Mutilation International Women's Day Event

On March 8th 2019 the partnership engaged in a 'Community Conversation' at Slough Integration Service where community members spoke directly to Jaswant Kaur Narwal, Chief Crown Prosecutor from the Thames Valley, Crown Prosecution Service. Shared issues facing Slough residents



FGM & Forced Marriage LSCB Partnership & Practitioner Event

Funded by the Home Office on 27th March 2019 over 200 practitioners gathered at the Copthorne Hotel to learn how to identify those at risk of FGM & Forced Marriage and how to apply for protection orders.



Communications

The safeguarding partners have created “One” communications group to deliver on communications for the safeguarding partnerships, including children, adults and the community safety partnerships. Made up of representatives from the community sector and attended by all partner agencies, the group delivers on essential communications, acting as a conduit to the professional and general community.

Are We Making a Difference?

(Monitoring Effectiveness/ Quality Assurance)

Safeguarding partners gather evidence to inform learning from the following sources;

- Practitioners in both adults and children's services, through learning events and via their LSCB representatives,
- Feedback from young people and their families.
- Leaders and managers identifying operational challenge.
- Multi-agency case audit.
- Performance data
- "Section 11 audits" This is about partners informing the LSCB about individual agency safeguarding responsibilities under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.
- Serious case reviews and learning reviews.
- National policy and research evidence.

Are We Making a Difference?

In 2017/18 we learned that we needed to;	We did	What needs to happen next.
Create new LSCB strategy on neglect	Created a new multi-agency neglect strategy and tool.	Deliver high level training seminars on the strategy and the tool and monitor impact.
Develop the local CE group to encompass broader exploitation issues affecting young people.	The new CE strategy and training includes broader criminal exploitation. The local group is increasingly engaged in the Pan Berkshire CE developments.	AS in CE slide, improving use of intelligence and profiling. Carry out another self assessment when the JTAI themes are published.
Seek assurance from Safer Slough partnership to ensure impact from the planned new strategy on gangs and youth violence.	New violence strategy in place. Gang awareness training being planned for Autumn 2019/2020/.	Develop the idea of “one “ serious violence strategy.

Serious Case Reviews

Now referred to as Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

In this reporting period, there were no serious case reviews initiated or underway. 5 new cases were heard by the serious case review panel and rapid review reports were completed on each. These cases did not meet the criteria for safeguarding practice reviews but provided additional learning for example;

- The need to work together with children with acute mental health, emotional and/or behavioural needs in hospital settings.
- A learning review provided lessons learned around the management of pregnant women with learning disabilities when they go in to labour.
- When an adult has acute mental health problems professionals need to consider risks to younger children in the household.

Serious case reviews/ Safeguarding practice reviews Plans for 2019/20

The sub-group continues to monitor historical cases via a case tracker to ensure delivery of actions agreed and to ensure completion and this is kept up to date by the safeguarding practice review panel.

In 2019, delivery of lessons learned from reviews locally and nationally will be via seminars using key themes around Domestic Abuse, exploitation, neglect and serious violence. Work will begin with neighbouring areas to extend this delivery across East Berkshire.

At the time of writing, work is underway to update processes and procedures to ensure compliance with the national safeguarding practice review panel guidelines.

Partners' listed below have provided individual accounts to the LSCB

- **Slough Children's Services Trust**
- **Berkshire Clinical Commissioning group**
- **Slough Youth Offending Team**
- **Berkshire Health Care Foundation Trust**
- **Solution 4 Health**
- **Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust**

Please find individual accounts

<https://www.sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/scsp/scsp/professionals/annual-report-18-19>



Slough Strategic Safeguarding Leaders Group

- Made up of accountable leads for safeguarding children, safeguarding adults and community safety.
- The key agencies are Slough Borough Council, Thames Valley Police, Clinical Commissioning Group and Slough Children's Services Trust.
- Priority setting and leading on multi-agency safeguarding and community safety
- Steering the sub-structure, redesigning to deliver effectively to Slough Residents.
- Creating "one" approach to multi-agency delivery.
- Providing overall leadership and clear governance.
- Work has commenced by partners on a strategic plan

Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in consultation in the timeframe of this report and have since been published since. See the link below for more details

<https://www.sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/scsp/scsp/about-the-partnership/what-we-do-working-together-to-safeguard-children>

**Thank you for reading, please find further
information below:**

<https://sloughsafeguardingboards.org.uk>