

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 3 December 2020

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WARD(S): ALL

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

OFSTED FOCUSED VISIT TO SLOUGH CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Education and Children Services Scrutiny Panel with an opportunity to review Ofsted's findings, following their focused visit to Slough Children's Services.

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

The Committee is requested to review the findings outlined by Ofsted in their report (Appendix A). Eleni Ioannides, Interim Director of Children, Learning and Skills, and Interim Chief Executive, Slough Children's Services Trust, will present a verbal update at the meeting ,

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

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

The delivery of children's services in Slough affects the following SJWS priorities:

- Priority One: Starting Well
- Priority Two: Integration

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The delivery of children's services in Slough contributes towards the first priority outcome of the Five Year Plan:

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

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial - None

(b) Risk Management - None

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications - None

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment - None

(e) Workforce - None

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 The methodology used to conduct the on site visit was in line with the inspection of Local Authority Children Service's framework (ILACS), but was adapted due to COVID-19.

5.2 The visit looked at the quality and impact of decision-making in help and protection, children in care and care leavers' services, together with the impact of leadership service development.

5.3 The Ofsted report recommended improvements in the following area of social work practice:

- The quality and timeliness of assessments, planning and interventions for children in need of help and protection.
- The effectiveness of PLO processes
- Learning from case file audits
- The stability of the social care workforce

5.4 Examples of positive enriching approaches are also highlighted in the report:

- Effective collaborative working and planning by leaders across the trust.
- Clear commitment to safeguarding children, working effectively with external partners.
- The virtual school being an anchor in continued learning during lockdown.

5.5 Ofsted's report can be found in Appendix A.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

This report is yet to be seen by any other committee.

7. **Conclusion**

The item represents an opportunity to review Ofsted's findings, and discuss the response with Eleni Ioannides, Interim Director of Children, Learning and Skills; and Interim Chief Executive, Slough Children's Services Trust.

Members may also wish to consider whether specific topics need to be explored in further detail through the ECS Scrutiny Panel work programme.

8. **Appendices Attached**

A - 'Focused visit to Slough Children Service's'

9. **Background Papers**

None