

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board

DATE: **20.07.22**

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PART I **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD – JULY 2022 UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Slough Wellbeing Board with an update on the work of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board (CYPB).

2. **Recommendations/Proposed Action**

2.1 That the Slough Wellbeing Board 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.

2.2 Identify and nominate any staffing resource across the partnership to support with the coordination and writing of the new Children and Young People's Plan for Slough, to progress this workstream forward.

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

3.1 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

3.2 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.

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.

4. **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.

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 **Purpose:** The Children and Young People's Partnership Board (CYPB) was established to provide strategic oversight to coordinate local system wide improvements, enabling the best outcomes for children and young people in Slough. The partnership is responsible for ensuring partners work collaboratively to share information and resources, and deliver objectives which are informed by data and insight, and the voice of local children and families.
- 5.2 **Information Sharing & Collaboration:** The CYPB has continued to meet regularly and facilitate information sharing between partners working on the children and young people's agenda. Most recently updates and discussions have included the outcome of the Ofsted focussed visit and the learning which can be taken from this, operational capacity challenges, the 0-19 Health Needs Assessment and recommendations evidenced by the assessment, local insights from the Oxwell Survey, an update on the CAMHS crisis service exploring opportunities for future collaborative working, and, a review by Frimley Health and Care mapping the greatest challenges and needs for children and young people, and obstacles preventing progress to address these.
- 5.3 **Local Insight:** Through its members, the partnership has compiled a substantial body of evidence and recommendations relating to local need, this includes the 0-19 health needs assessment, insight from the Oxwell Survey, the Frimley ICB Children and young people portfolio review, and the CYPBs own needs analysis, undertaken in 2021. This wealth of data and insight will help inform activity to support the CYPB's vision, in ensuring that Slough is a great place for children to grow up, and live happy, healthy, and successful lives.
- 5.4 **Voice of Children & Young People:** One of the key shared responsibilities of members of the CYPB is to champion the voice of children and young people in Slough, ensuring that they are represented in both strategic planning and service delivery. The board has started pulling together a youth consultation directory which aims to map partnership engagement with children and young people across the borough. This will facilitate the sharing of insight derived from consultations across the partnership, to inform strategic direction and operational activity, identify gaps in our consultation with young people, both in terms of the groups of young people engaged, and the types of topics, and, prevent duplication which can result in consultation fatigue and wasted resource.
- 5.5 **Slough Written Statement of Action (WSOA) for SEND:** An additional responsibility of the CYPB is to oversee relevant partnership improvement plans including preparation for, and response to external inspections with a particular focus on social care. The SEND and Inclusion Strategic Partnership Board provides scheduled updates to the CYPB on progress against the Slough Written Statement of Action (WSOA) for SEND. The WSOA is a partnership plan to address areas of weakness in the support offered to

children and young people with SEND, identified by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission during inspections in September/October 2021. To date the following progress has been made:

- The Slough Written Statement of Action for SEND has an accompanying action plan broken down into seven priority areas.
- Actions within each priority area have been assigned owners (often multiple owners from across partner agencies) and milestones to meet.
- In June the Department for Education are meeting the SEND & Inclusion Strategic Partnership Board to discuss progress against the WSOA.
- The new SBC Corporate Plan 'Doing Right by Slough' states that the WSOA action needs to be implemented by May 2023, with year-on-year improvement of outcomes for children with SEND between now and 2025.

5.6 **Mapping Exercise:** Members of the CYPB were supporting a piece of work to map the partnership arrangements and key strategies which sit within the children and young people's space, to provide a broad capture and understanding of activity within this area, prevent duplication and wasted resource, and enable the identification of gaps in delivery. This piece of work would benefit from expansion, incorporating an overview capture of delivery programmes which sit beneath key strategies. This mapping exercise could support the development of the delivery plan beneath the overarching Children and Young People's Partnership Plan.

5.7 **The Importance of Early Help:** A primary focus of the partnership will be in ensuring the development of a comprehensive early help offer for children, young people, and families in Slough to prevent and reduce risk of harm at an earlier stage, decreasing the demand on acute and specialist services.

5.8 **Challenges:** The CYPB has struggled with a number of challenges over the past 12 months, which include several changes in leadership and subsequent direction of the partnership, loss of staffing resources to provide coordination support, and increasing demand on members, as result of high levels of local need and staff shortages. CYPB members remain committed to improving the lives of local children, but it is important that the Slough Wellbeing Board be made aware of such challenges and the implications this has had on delaying the development of the new Children and Young People's plan, and subsequent activity to deliver the plan.

5.9 **Children and Young People's Plan Intention:** Given the challenges identified in 5.8 little progress has been made in terms of developing an overarching Children and Young Peoples Plan. Discussions were initiated with members of the CYPB, some partners felt a plan was necessary but it was difficult to identify where capacity will be required, others suggested that given non statutory requirements of CYP plans, and the acute resource challenges (both financial and staff) that we face as a collective group of partners it would be better to focus on key areas of recognised need i.e. SEND, WSOA and developing the Early Help strategy approach and delivery plan with intention of coming back to a CYP plan when resource permits. At the last CYPB

meeting on 5th July 2022 the Board discussed the real benefit of develop a partnership approach to Early Help with an emphasis on identifying difficulties early on for children young people and their families, Involving our schools, the potential development of some children centres into family hubs to extend their reach in order to better engage with our diverse communities. And the development of a comprehensive Early Help system to improve the outcomes for children and young people while reducing the demand on statutory services including the concept of lead professionals. As a result of this we now plan to temporarily disband the CYPB and replace it with a smaller task and finish group of partners including the voluntary and community sector and ensuring the voice of children and young people to work on a refresh of the Early Help strategy and to support a delivery plan. This approach received very positive feedback and is supported by both Councillor Hulme and Councillor Pantellic given the current demands across the whole system for children young people and families. An update on progress will be provided at subsequent wellbeing boards.

6. **Conclusion**

- 6.1 This report is intended to provide the Slough Wellbeing Board with an update of the work of the Children and Young People’s Partnership Board, current challenges, and the direction of the partnership moving forward.

7. **Appendices Attached**

None

8. **Background Papers**

None.