

Needs Assessment

1. Introduction

1.1 This report summarises the outcomes of an assessment of need in relation to Children's Centre provision and the exploration of potential options for developing the model in response to identified drivers for change.

1.2 It concludes that there is both a case for change and an opportunity to develop services in a manner that addresses the two primary drivers of achieving best value and increased effectiveness in meeting the needs of those most in need to support.

1.3 It is informed by statutory guidance which advises Local Authorities and their partners of their duties relating to children's centres under the Childcare Act 2006. These include:

- Section 1: Duty on local authorities to improve the well-being of young children in their area and reduce inequalities between them;
- Section 3: Duty on local authorities to make arrangements to secure that early childhood services in their area are provided in an integrated manner in order to facilitate access and maximise the benefits of those services to young children and their parents: and
- Section 5A: Arrangements to be made by local authorities so that there are sufficient children's centres, so far as reasonably practicable, to meet local need.

1.4 A Children's Centre is defined in the Children Act 2006 as a place or a group of places: which is managed by or on behalf of, or under arrangements with, the local authority with a view to securing that early childhood services in the local authority's area are made available in an integrated way; through which early childhood services are made available (either by providing the services on site, or by providing advice and assistance on gaining access to services elsewhere); and at which activities for young children are provided.

1.5 It also discusses need in relation to the the provision of early learning and childcare given its relationship to the directly delivered provision considered as part of the Children's Centre review work.

1.6 It has been produced within the wider context of work being undertaken across Children's Services to identify opportunities to build on the progress made over recent years in the provision of support for children and families in Slough. Given the role Children's Centre play in enabling children to have the best start in life, consideration has also been given to how they may support the process of strengthening the approach to ensuring, that when needed, children and families receive support early enough to prevent problems developing in the first place and when they do, they are resolved swiftly wherever possible.

1.7 It is informed by the need to ensure that any resultant changes to the current delivery model are in keeping with statutory requirements. Consideration has also been given to the impact of Covid 19 pandemic on both families, the Children's Centre programme and the wider range of services supporting families.

1.8 The Council and its partners recognise the need to continue to develop ways of working in support of families so that continued improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of operations may be achieved. This ambition is underpinned by the need to ensure resources are put to best use at a time when the Council has less funding to deliver services.

1.9 Evidence suggests that opportunities are being missed to provide help early enough to avoid poor outcomes. Over the last year, there has been a 30% increase in contacts made to the Children's Social Care 'front door' because of concerns about children and families with a 23% increase in contacts being referred for potential social care intervention. There has been a 10% increase in children in need; 5% increase in the number of children subject to a child protection plan; a 16% increase in the number of looked after children. There is also continuation in the number of poor outcomes for children under 5 and their families which impact on their future lives beyond early years.

1.10 This represents a concerning trend that may get worse given the increasing pressure families are facing because of the cost of living rises they are experiencing. For many, the cost-of-living challenges are impacting families who are already in difficult financial and social circumstances. It also suggests that maintenance of the status quo in terms of approach is not a viable option.

1.11 The case for change process has identified that development of the approach to the provision of Children's Centre services and their contribution to the wider early help offer may be able to drive improvement in preventative outcomes including fewer children and families needing intervention and support at a later stage from statutory services.

1.12 The context for this report includes local consideration of the development of a more targeted approach to Children's Centre services, aligned to the development of a Prevention and Early Help Strategy.

1.13 Slough has 10 Children's Centres operating across the Borough. They deliver a range of family support and development services ranging from early learning and childcare to facilitation of the Healthy Child Programme and the facilitation of health visiting services.

1.14 The following information serves as a summary of the key 'case for change' drivers in relation to how need is currently responded to by the Children's Centre programme and the wider Children's Services system. They may be used to inform any potential modification to the current operating model. They have been identified following detailed consideration of a range of information relating to child and family outcomes, learning in relation to family need and reflections on opportunities and challenges to improving how we work together to provide the most effective and efficient support to families:

- The need to identify ways in which costs may be reduced whilst also maintaining services in accordance with statutory requirements and local need;
- The need to build on the strengths of the current Children's Centre delivered model whilst also addressing identified areas and opportunities for development;
- The need to respond to national and local challenges in relation to pressure on family income and rising costs which are impacting, and will continue to impact on families, particular the most deprived and vulnerable, necessitates new ways of working in response;
- The need to address continued poor child and family outcomes in some areas and the opportunity to develop a renewed preventative approach to effect required change;
- The need to address increased demand on statutory services, minimise the associated human and financial cost, and exploit the opportunity to develop preventative action;
- The opportunity to address identified areas for development in the continuum of support for families;
- The opportunity to address identified areas for development in relation to strengthening our collaborative approach to early help; and
- The opportunity to exploit identified opportunities to maximise enablement of existing community (physical and human) assets, in order to strengthen out collaborative approach to providing support to families in need of early help.

1. Population needs assessment: Informing the need for change

1.1 This paper provides a summary of needs assessment data in order to inform considerations in relation to potential change to the current Children's Centre delivery model and provides the foundations from which options for an alternative to the current operating model have been developed.

1.2 It considers information about the population of Slough, data in relation to outcomes for children, families and young people and associated demographic data.

1.3 Although Children's Centres and early education and childcare provision are primarily concerned with the needs of the 0 – 5 age range, they also related to the needs and issues experienced by the population whole. Given this, information has been collated and considered across a wider age range, as it is important to consider the needs and issues of young people who have transitioned through their early years, into childhood, adolescences, and adulthood in order to understand the bigger picture in terms of overall need. Full needs assessment information across the wider age span is contained within appendix A.

1.4 For the purposes of consideration of the Children's Centre model in particular, in addition to providing an overview, data and analysis has been segmented using the three key elements of the Children's Centre core offer, namely:

- Child development and school readiness
- Parenting capacity and aspirations
- Child and family health and life chances: Child
- Child and family health and life chances: Family

2. Population Needs Assessment

2.1 This section of the report provides a summary of needs assessment data in relation to the needs of children, young people and families. It has been segmented so that specific consideration can be given the needs of children aged 0 – 5 and how the current Children's Centre delivery model responds to them, whilst also offering information on wider family need within the attached appendix.

2.2 A variety of data and information has been obtained from sources ranging from the Berkshire East Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2022 to Children's Social Care demand data. This information has been considered in order to understand Slough demographics and the issues and challenges children, young people and families face in relation to achieving the best possible outcomes. Full details may be found in Appendix 1 to this report.

What we know about children aged 0 - 5 and their families in Slough and what this information tells us about the opportunities and challenges we need to respond to from a Children's Centre perspective

2.3 The following table contains information which serves as a headline summary of the learning arising from 0 – 5 needs assessment analysis together with commentary on potential opportunities and challenges.

Learning	Opportunities and challenges
Overview	
There are a total of 19,873 households with dependent children. This figure is likely to increase when 2021 Census data is published later this year.	The proportionately high number of 0 – 5s in Slough presents opportunities for services to work together to ensure the most efficient use of resources and the delivery of collaborative support when required.
Approximately 12,415 children aged 0-4 live in Slough. This equates to 8.3% of the population, higher than both the South East and England average.	
15% of children aged 0 to 15 in Slough are from income-deprived households and 3% of 0 to 15 year olds live in the most deprived quintile nationally. Deprivation appears more wide-spread across Slough rather than being only in specific neighbourhoods	The levels of deprivation and the associated need to support for families and child across the whole borough presents challenges and opportunities in the provision of targeted, collaborative and creative approaches to identify and reach families who may need support.
Slough is one of the most ethnically diverse Boroughs in England with 54% of the population coming from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background.	The level of ethnic diversity in Slough requires services to be responsive to need in a cultural informed manner. Flexibility is also required to ensure provision responds effectively to the diversity of need evident across communities.
73% of children and young people in Slough are from a non-White British background, which is significantly higher than the rest of Berkshire East and England. 86% of school-children in Slough do not have English as a first language. Slough has the 2nd highest proportion of	

births from mothers who were born outside of the UK in England at 69%.	
Learning	Opportunities and challenges
Child development and school readiness	
GLD achievement for children in Slough compares well when considered against South East and England averages.	The relatively good progress made by children in their early years serves as a sound basis for ensuring children fully benefit from the best start in life.
80% of children in Slough who received the 2 to 2 ½ year ASQ-3 development review in 2020/21 were meeting the expected levels in all 5 skill areas. This proportion was significantly lower than the national figure and was the lowest level in Berkshire East.	There is both the opportunity and need to pay focused attention to why developmental progress for some children in Slough is comparatively lower than in other areas so that appropriate intervention and support may be afforded.
There has been an increase of approximately 33% of children accessing early years and childcare with an identified additional need or SEND.	The increase in the number of children with SEND in early years provides an opportunity for services to consider how they collectively respond to increase in demand whilst also presents as a significant challenge to enable need to be met.
Numbers of children attending early years and childcare are steadily increasing following the impact of Covid 19 on provision and attendance.	The increase presents an opportunity for agencies to collectively support children impacted by Covid and to focus on support the continued increase, particularly for the more vulnerable.
Parenting capacity and aspirations	
Slough has significantly worse employment and unemployment rates than England for people aged 16 to 64.	The associated impact on economic well-being may be exacerbated by wider economic challenges. This in turn can impact on child well-being. There is an opportunity to consider this need alongside related challenges and further develop collaborative support.
13% of households in Slough are overcrowded, which is significantly worse than the rest of Berkshire East and England.	As with the comments above, this issue may get worse given wider economic challenges increasing the need for preventative, collaborative support.
The rate of households that are homeless or threatened with homelessness are significantly higher in Slough compared to England.	Issue presents a similar challenge and concern as outlined above.
In 2019, 5,105 (9%) of households in Slough were considered to be fuel poor. In 2019, 5,105 (9%) of households in Slough were considered to be fuel poor.	Again, this issue may well become more prevalent, further highlighting the need for continued development of integrated support for families who may be experiencing a combination of these factors.

Learning	Opportunities and challenges
Child and family health and life chances: Child	
Slough has the 2nd highest infant mortality rate in the South East, although this is similar to the national figure.	<p>These related health needs appear to be entrenched which suggests the need for renewed focus and potentially alternative approaches effecting the required change.</p> <p>There is a clear relationship between these needs and issues and those referred to re: parenting capacity.</p> <p>Consideration of these issues collectively in relation to how families are impacted by a combination of factors presents ongoing opportunities to apply a whole family approach to enabling an improvement in outcomes.</p>
Slough has the highest proportion of babies born with a low-birth weight in the South East and this has increased over the last 5 years.	
In 2018/19, 38% of 5 year olds in Slough had visually obvious dental decay. This was the highest level in the South East and significantly worse than the national figure.	
Slough's prevalence of obesity continues to be worse than national figures and is the highest rate in the South East for both age groups measured through the National Childhood Measurement Programme.	
Slough has lower than average rates of many recommended childhood immunisations, including the Mumps, Measles and Rubella immunisation and the Flu vaccination.	
Child and family health and life chances: Family	
Slough's male life expectancy and healthy life expectancy continue to be significantly worse than national and regional rates.	<p>These range of interrelated issues have a bearing on not only the life chances of the adults in question but also may also impact on the health of children within family units and serve to exacerbate inter-generational problems.</p> <p>As with the comments above, consideration of these issues collectively in relation to how families are impacted by a combination of factors presents ongoing opportunities to apply a whole family approach to enabling an improvement in outcomes.</p>
Female life expectancy is similar to national rates and also higher than males. However, healthy life expectancy is significantly worse than national and regional rates.	
6.5% of Slough mothers were smokers at the time of delivery in 2020/21.	
60% of adults in Slough were overweight or obese in 2019/20, which is approximately 63,400 people.	
Approximately 1.4% of adults in Slough are alcohol dependent. 90% of these were not in treatment in 2020/21.	

2.4 When considered collectively, these key learning points suggest the need to consider how Children's Centres specifically and agencies more broadly might strengthen how they work together to improve a range of related outcomes for families with particular regard to the targeting of support to those most in need.

5. Summary analysis

5.1 When considering the content and associated findings of this report there appears to be a case for change in how services in Children's Service in general, and the Children's Centre programme in particular meets need. The fact that some key outcomes relating to the Children's Centre programme remain poor and an increasing number of children and families require statutory social care intervention are clear indicators of the need to consider doing things differently.

5.2 The 0 – 5 needs assessment data illustrates the fact that a significant number of families are experiences a range of challenges, often inter-connected, that would likely benefit from a renewed, collaborative and targeted approach. This issue is set against a challenging social and economic context that will increase pressure on families, particularly those already experiencing difficulties. The context for providing family support includes a major financial pressures dimension for the Council and its partners to negotiate. These factors are major drivers for change in and of themselves.

5.3 It is also evident that a 'whole systems' approach is required in order to effect the desired change in outcomes. At present, the Children's Centre programme has a tacit association with the wider Children's Service pathway. Analysis suggests that there is value in realignment within a refreshed pathway that looks to strengthen the early help component.

5.4 Ensuring children, particularly those at risk of poor outcomes, have the best start in life is key to them and their communities prospering. This needs assessment data reinforces the need for partners to collectively focus on this element of the life course with access to effective and targeted early childhood services key to achieving aim.

Case for Change: Appendix A**1. Population Need Assessment (0 – 5 perspective)**

1.1 The following information outlines need as it relates to the 0 – 5 age range. Where possible, information is offered that is specific to the 0 – 5 age range. Where this information isn't available, data relating to broader age ranges which includes children aged 0 – 5 has been offered.

1.2 Slough has an overall population of 149,577 with 51% males and 49% females. Slough's population is significantly younger than England's profile with almost a third of people aged under 18. Approximately 12,415 children aged 0-4 live in Slough. This equates to 8.3% of the population, high than both the South East and England average.

Deprivation

1.3 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England and is used to compare levels of deprivation across small areas or neighbourhoods called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The term deprivation encompasses a wide range of factors that will impact on an individual's life, such as income, employment, health, education, housing, access to services and crime.

1.4 Slough's overall deprivation ranking sits within the 5th more deprived decile in England. None of Slough's LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived in the England, however 7 out of Slough's 80 LSOAs fall within the 10%-20% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally. These are in areas of Britwell and Northborough, Central, Chalvey, Colnbrook with Poyle and Elliman wards.

1.5 15% of children aged 0 to 15 in Slough are from income-deprived households and 3% of 0 to 15 year olds live in the most deprived quintile nationally. Deprivation appears more wide-spread across Slough rather than being only in specific neighbourhoods.

Ethnicity

1.6 Slough is one of the most ethnically diverse Boroughs in England with 54% of the population coming from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background. A further 11% of the population are from a White non-British background. In comparison, 15% of England's population are from a BAME background and 5% from a White non-British group. People from an Asian background make up 40% of Slough's total population and are the largest ethnic group.

1.7 73% of children and young people in Slough are from a non-White British background, which is significantly higher than the rest of Berkshire East and England. 86% of school-children in Slough do not have English as a first language. Slough has the 2nd highest proportion of births from mothers who were born outside of the UK in England at 69%.

Specific needs and issues

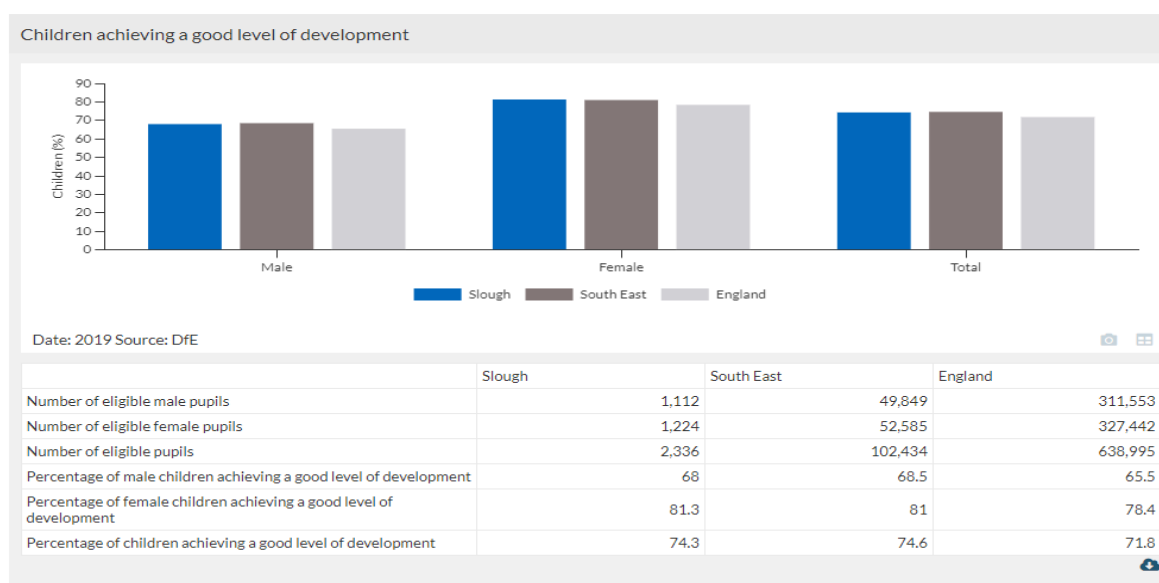
1.8 The following information relates to specific needs and issues affecting children aged 0 - 5 in Slough. They have been framed using the Children's Centre Core Offer categories:

Child development and school readiness

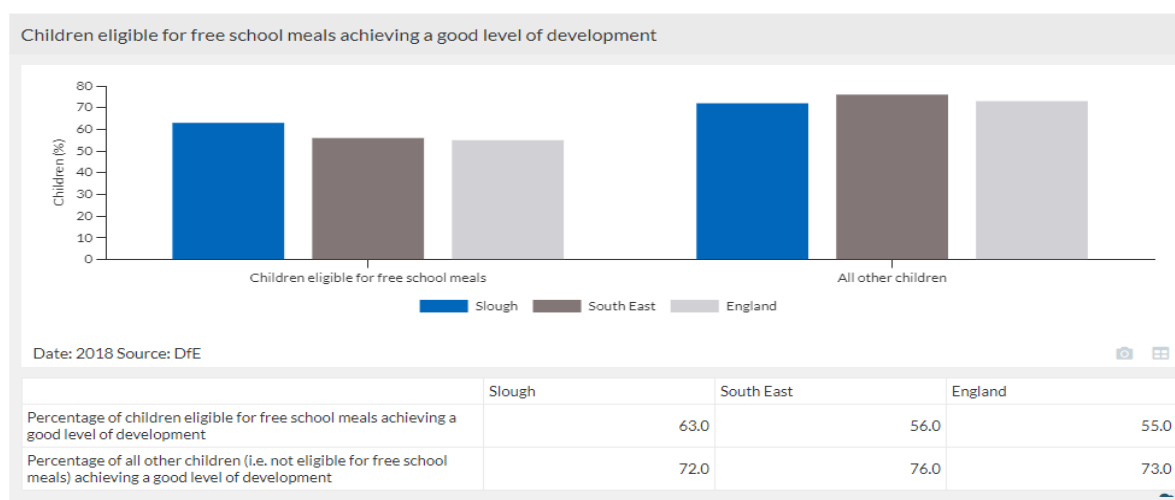
1.9 The early years foundation stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. Children are defined as having reached a good level of development (GLD) if they achieve at least the expected level in the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional development; physical development; and communication and language) and the early learning goals in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy.

1.10 The following information provides details in relation to EYFS outcomes for children in Slough.

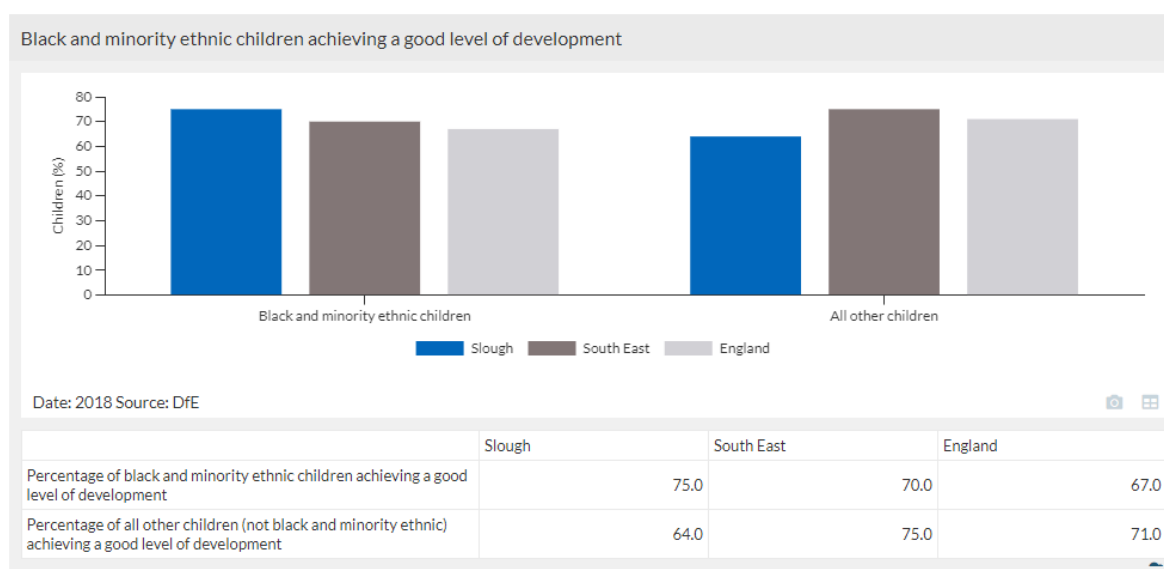
1.11 The information below illustrates that GLD achievement for children in Slough compares well when considered against South East and England averages.



1.12 The following chart outlines GLD outcomes for children eligible for free school meals. Outcomes in this category also compare well against South East and England averages.



1.13 The table below illustrates outcomes for children from black and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. It shows that children from BAME backgrounds achieve relatively well when compared South East and England average.



1.14 There has been an increase of approximately 33% of children accessing early years and childcare with an identified additional need or SEND.

1.15 Numbers of children attending early years and childcare are steadily increasing following the impact of Covid 19 on provision and attendance.

Parenting aspirations

1.16 According to 2011 census data, there are a total of 19,873 households with dependent children. This figure is likely to increase when 2021 Census data is published later this year.

1.17 A significant number of these households will include children age 0 – 5. The following information summaries needs and issues in relation to the adult population who either are or may become parents to children aged 0 – 5. They related to circumstances which may have a bearing on parenting aspirations.

1.18 From Jul-20 to Jun-21, 68% of Slough's working age population were in employment. The proportion of people in employment decreased during the pandemic and this drop has been more pronounced in Slough. Slough has significantly worse employment and unemployment rates than England for people aged 16 to 64.

1.19 13% of households in Slough are overcrowded, which is significantly worse than the rest of Berkshire East and England. The rate of households that are homeless or threatened with homelessness are significantly higher in Slough compared to England. This is the case for households with dependent children and also those headed by a young person (aged 16 to 24).

1.20 A household is considered to be fuel poor if they are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D or below and are left with a residual income below the official poverty line once they have spent the required amount to heat their home. Evidence shows that living in cold homes is associated with poor health outcomes and an increased risk of morbidity and mortality for all age groups. In 2019, 5,105 (9%) of households in Slough were considered to be fuel poor.

Child and family health and life chances: Child

1.21 Slough has the 2nd highest infant mortality rate in the South East, although this is similar to the national figure. Infant mortality is a key indicator of the general health of the entire population. In 2018-20, 29 babies under 1 died in Slough at a rate of 4 per 1,000 population. In 2017-19, 16 children aged 1 to 17 died in Slough at a rate of 13 per 100,000 population.

1.22 Low birth weight. Slough has the highest proportion of babies born with a low-birth weight in the South East and this has increased over the last 5 years. Infant mortality.

1.23 In 2018/19, 38% of 5 year olds in Slough had visually obvious dental decay. This was the highest level in the South East and significantly worse than the national figure.

1.24 3.9% of term babies born in Slough were a low birth weight (under 2,500g) in 2019. This is significantly higher than the England average.

1.25 Childhood obesity is increasing nationally. Slough's prevalence of obesity continues to be worse than national figures and is the highest rate in the South East for both age groups measured through the National Childhood Measurement Programme.

1.26 Data from 2015/16 to 19/20 shows an association between deprivation and obesity in Slough, particularly for the Reception aged group. The difference in

obesity prevalence between ethnic groups is not as great in Slough compared to the rest of Berkshire East.

1.27 Slough has lower than average rates of many recommended childhood immunisations, including the Mumps, Measles and Rubella immunisation and the Flu vaccination.

Family

1.28 Slough's male life expectancy and healthy life expectancy continue to be significantly worse than national and regional rates. Boys born in Slough today can expect to live to 78 with the last 20 years of life not being in good health.

1.29 Slough's female life expectancy is similar to national rates and also higher than males. However, healthy life expectancy is significantly worse than national and regional rates. Girls born in Slough today can expect to live to 82 with the last 23 years of life not being in good health.

1.30 There is also a 5.3 year difference in life expectancy between boys born in the least deprived areas and most deprived areas of Slough

1.31 There is also a 5.8 year difference in life expectancy between girls born in the least deprived areas of Slough and most deprived areas.

1.32 6.5% of Slough mothers were smokers at the time of delivery in 2020/21.

1.33 60% of adults in Slough were overweight or obese in 2019/20, which is approximately 63,400 people.

1.34 Approximately 1.4% of adults in Slough are alcohol dependent. 90% of these were not in treatment in 2020/21.

1.35 38% (49) of Slough adults in treatment for alcohol misuse successfully completed treatment in 2019. 4% (16) of opiate users and 30% (31) of non-opiate users also successfully complete treatment in 2019. These completion rates have also got worse over the last 5 years.

Children and Young People's Vulnerability

1.36 19.5% of Slough's under 16s lived in relatively low-income families in 2019/20. This is over 7,700 children and continues to increase.

Sources:

Local Insight Profile 2021

Health Joint Needs Assessment 2022

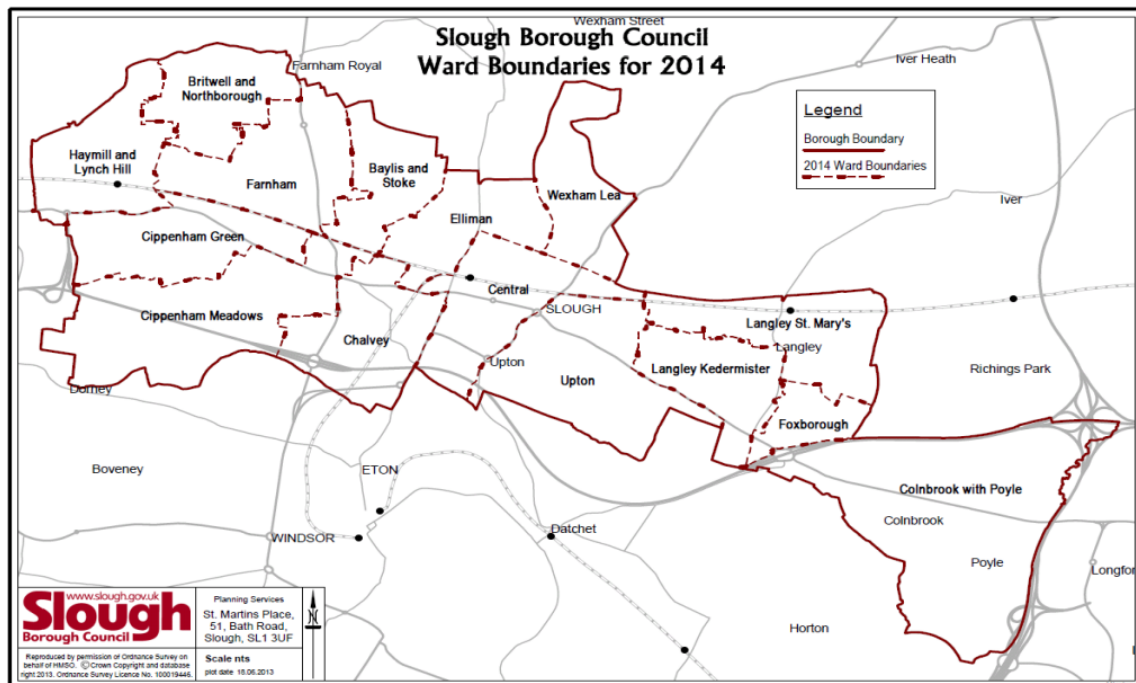
Slough Borough Council Ward Data Summaries 2021

2. Population perspective (0 – 25)

Overview

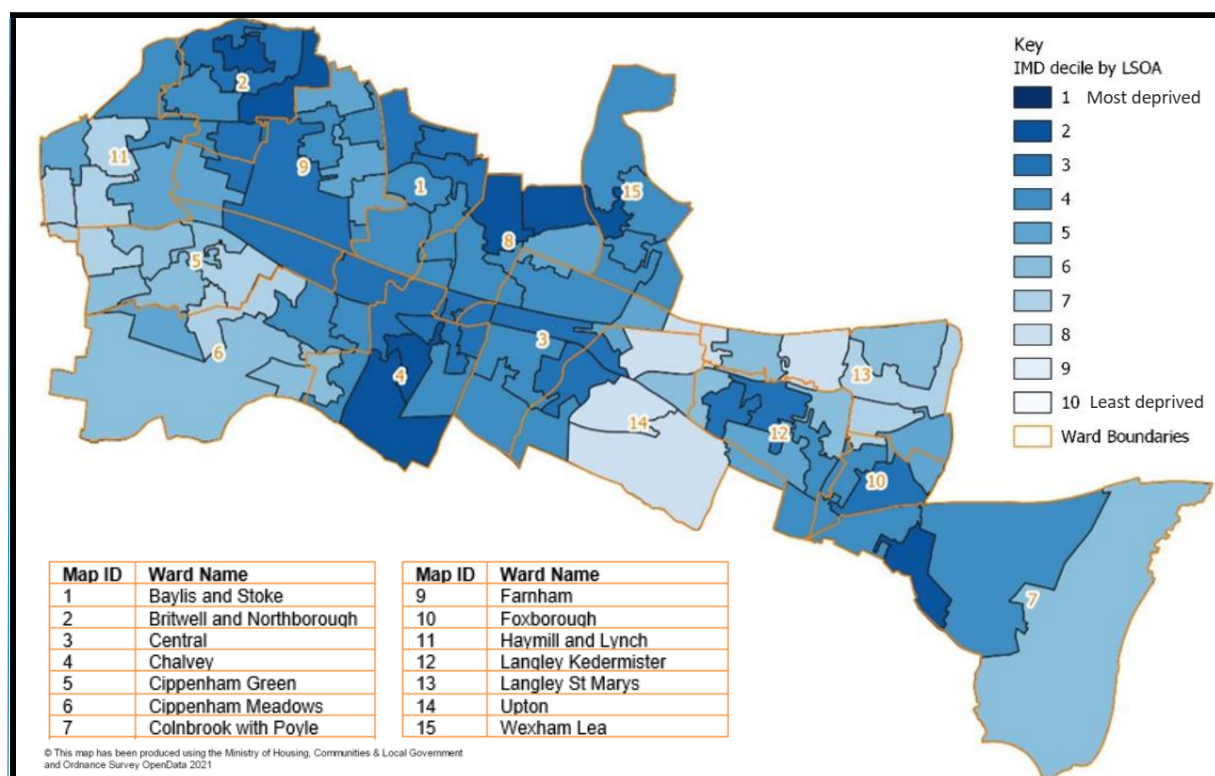
2.1 Slough has a population of 149,577 with 51% males and 49% females. Slough's population is significantly younger than England's profile with almost a third of people aged under 18. Approximately 43,650 children and young people (aged under 18) live in Slough. This is 29% of Slough's total population, which is the 2nd highest proportion in England. The proportion of Slough's population from the 0 to 14 age group is significantly higher than the rest of Berkshire East and the national picture. The borough also includes a higher proportion of young adults aged 25-44, suggesting a large number of young families are resident.

2.2 Slough is made up of 14 wards. It is bisected by the A4 (connecting Bath to London) and the Great Western Main line. It covers an area of 32.54 km² and is approx. 20 miles west of central London.



Deprivation

2.3 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England and is used to compare levels of deprivation across small areas or neighbourhoods called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The term deprivation encompasses a wide range of factors that will impact on an individual's life, such as income, employment, health, education, housing, access to services and crime.



2.4 Slough's overall deprivation ranking sits within the 5th more deprived decile in England. None of Slough's LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived in the England, however 7 out of Slough's 80 LSOAs fall within the 10%-20% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally. These are in areas of Britwell and Northborough, Central, Chalvey, Colnbrook with Poyle and Elliman wards.

2.5 15% of children aged 0 to 15 in Slough are from income-deprived households and 3% of 0 to 15 year olds live in the most deprived quintile nationally. Deprivation is more wide-spread across Slough rather than being in specific neighbourhoods.

Ethnicity

2.6 Slough is one of the most ethnically diverse Boroughs in England with 54% of the population coming from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background. A further 11% of the population are from a White non-British background. In comparison, 15% of England's population are from a BAME background and 5% from a White non-British group. People from an Asian background make up 40% of Slough's total population and are the largest ethnic group.

2.7 73% of children and young people in Slough are from a non-White British background, which is significantly higher than the rest of Berkshire East and England. 86% of school-children in Slough do not have English as a first language. Slough has the 2nd highest proportion of births from mothers who were born outside of the UK in England at 69%.

Economic wellbeing

2.8 From Jul-20 to Jun-21, 68% of Slough's working age population were in employment. The proportion of people in employment decreased during the pandemic and this drop has been more pronounced in Slough. Slough has significantly worse employment and unemployment rates than England for people aged 16 to 64.

Housing

2.9 There are 55,280 residential properties in Slough, primarily made up of flats or maisonettes (35%) and terraced houses (34%). The number of properties in Slough is projected to increase to 57,504 by 2030 and to 59,262 by 2040.

2.10 All property types in Slough are more expensive than the England average and are also higher than the South East average for semidetached and terraced houses. The proportion of people who own their house in Slough is lower than England and the South East region with a higher proportion of people renting, both social renting and private.

2.11 13% of households in Slough are overcrowded, which is significantly worse than the rest of Berkshire East and England. The rate of households that are homeless or threatened with homelessness are significantly higher in Slough compared to England. This is the case for households with dependent children and also those headed by a young person (aged 16 to 24).

2.12 A household is considered to be fuel poor if they are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D or below and are left with a residual income below the official poverty line once they have spent the required amount to heat their home. Evidence shows that living in cold homes is associated with poor health outcomes and an increased risk of morbidity and mortality for all age groups. In 2019, 5,105 (9%) of households in Slough were considered to be fuel poor.

Health

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2.18 Low birth weight. Slough has the highest proportion of babies born with a low-birth weight in the South East and this has increased over the last 5 years. Infant mortality. Slough has the 2nd highest infant mortality rate in the South East, although this is similar to the national figure.

2.19 In 2018/19, 38% of 5 year olds in Slough had visually obvious dental decay. This was the highest level in the South East and significantly worse than the national figure.

2.20 Data from 2015/16 to 19/20 shows an association between deprivation and obesity in Slough, particularly for the Reception aged group. The difference in obesity prevalence between ethnic groups is not as great in Slough compared to the rest of Berkshire East.

2.21 Reception children and Year 6 children from a Black ethnic group do have higher prevalence than those in White and Asian groups, however this is not significantly different.

2.22 6.5% of Slough mothers were smokers at the time of delivery in 2020/21.

2.23 3.9% of term babies born in Slough were a low birth weight (under 2,500g) in 2019. This is significantly higher than the England average.

2.24 Childhood obesity is increasing nationally. Slough's prevalence of obesity continues to be worse than national figures and is the highest rate in the South East for both age groups measured through the National Childhood Measurement Programme.

2.25 60% of adults in Slough were overweight or obese in 2019/20, which is approximately 63,400 people.

2.26 Slough has lower than average rates of many recommended childhood immunisations, including the Mumps, Measles and Rubella immunisation and the Flu vaccination.

2.27 Approximately 1.4% of adults in Slough are alcohol dependent. 90% of these were not in treatment in 2020/21.

2.28 38% (49) of Slough adults in treatment for alcohol misuse successfully completed treatment in 2019. 4% (16) of opiate users and 30% (31) of non-opiate users also successfully complete treatment in 2019. These completion rates have also got worse over the last 5 years.

Emotional Health and Well-being

2.29 On 31-Mar-21, 1,680 People in Slough were recorded as having a serious mental health disorder on their GP Record and 10,719 were recorded as having depression.

2.30 Suicide is a significant cause of death in young adults and can be an indicator of underlying rates of mental ill-health. From 2018 to 2020 there were 32 suicides recorded for Slough residents at a rate of 9 per 100,000 population. The suicide rate in males is higher, both nationally and regionally. In 2018-20 81% of suicides in Slough were male.

2.31 Hospital admissions for self-harm in children have increased in recent years with admissions for young women being much higher than admissions for young men.

2.32 On average, people with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) die 15 to 20 years earlier than the general population and have a 3.7 times higher death rate in people aged under 75.

2.33 In 2018-20, Slough's premature mortality rate for people with SMI was significantly worse than England's at 123.1 per 100,000 population. The under-75 mortality rate was 376% higher than the general population in Slough for this time period, which was similar to England.

Education

2.34 Slough's school readiness and attainment levels are significantly better than England's and continue to increase. This is also true for children eligible for free school meals.

2.35 Attainment 8 Scores (Key Stage 4) in Slough's state-funded schools continue to be significantly better than England's.

Children and Young People's Vulnerability

2.36 19.5% of Slough's under 16s lived in relatively low-income families in 2019/20. This is over 7,700 children and continues to increase.

2.37 195 children in Slough were in care on 31-Mar-20. This is a rate of 45 per 10,000 population.

2.38 Slough has the highest rate of children in need and children on a protection plan in Berkshire East. These rates are also significantly higher than England's.

2.39 13.5% (4,558) of pupils in Slough schools were identified as SEN in January 2021. 3.6% had an EHC and 9.9% received SEN support.

2.40 7.8% (356) of all children with SEN are in special schools within the Borough.

2.41 Children and young people at risk of offending or within the youth justice system often have more unmet health needs than other children and public health services have an important role to play in tackling violence to help focus on interventions that are effective and target prevention and treatment.

2.42 There has been an increase of approximately 33% of children accessing early years and childcare with an identified additional need or SEND.

2.43 94.4% participation level for 16-17 year olds.

2.44 There has been a 30% increase in front door contacts Feb 2021 to Feb 2022.

2.45 There has been a 23% increase in contact to CSC referral Feb 2021 to Feb 2022.

2.46 There has been consistent performance (circa 60%) closure of early help cases where significant and sustained progress has been achieved via Early Help Feb 2021 to Feb 2022.

2.47 There has been an 11% increase in children subject to a CIN plan Feb 2021 to Feb 2022.

2.48 There has been a 5% increase in children subject to a child protection plan Feb 2021 to Feb 2022

2.49 The number of Children Looked After (CLA) has increased by 16% Feb 2021 to Feb 2022.

2.50 The 5 most prevalent parental factors affecting children split by the case type Feb 2021 to Feb 2022 (open cases, CP, CLA) continue to be:

- Known History of Domestic Violence (Victim)
- Illness – Mental
- Problem Drug Abuse
- Known History of Domestic Violence (Perpetrator)
- Problem Drinking Abuse

2.51 Modelled estimates indicate that the rate of children and young people from Slough who living in households where domestic violence and abuse, parental substance misuse or parental mental health issues are affecting an adult in the household are higher than the rest of Berkshire East

2.52 91 children (aged 10 to 17) were in the youth justice system in Slough at a rate of 5.2 per 1,000 population (2019/20).

2.53 40 children (aged 10 to 17) were first time offenders in Slough at a rate of **229** per 100,000 population (2020).

2.54 In 2020/21, there were 5,772 violent offences recorded in Slough at a rate of 39 per 1,000 population. 392 of these were sexual offences at a rate of 2.6 per 1,000. Slough's rates for both violent and violent sexual offences are significantly higher than England's.

Sources:

Local Insight Profile 2021

Health Joint Needs Assessment 2022

Slough Borough Council Ward Data Summaries 2021