

Slough Borough Council

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Report To: | Cabinet |
| Date: | 22nd June 2026 |
| Subject: | Slough Early Help Strategy 2026-2029 |
| Lead Member: | Cllr. Puja Bedi – Lead Member for Children’s Services and Lifelong Learning |
| Chief Officer: | Rashida Baig, Director of Operations, Slough Children First |
| Contact Officer: | Rebekah Kundi, Head of Early Help, Slough Children First |
| Ward(s): | All wards |
| Purpose of report: | For decision |
| Key Decision: | NO |
| Exempt: | NO |
| Decision Subject To Call In: | Yes |
| Appendices: | Appendix A Early Help Strategy 2026-2029 |

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 This report sets out the new revised Early Help Strategy in Slough for 2026-2029. This builds on the previous Early Help Strategy 2023-2025 and maintains the overarching vision to ‘ensure that children, young people and their families receive the right help at the right time’.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1.2 Approve the Slough Early Help Strategy 2026-2029 as at Appendix A.

Reason: To ensure Cabinet are sighted on and in agreement of the strategic vision for the partnership Early Help Strategy for the next 3 years.

Commissioner Review

Early help is a vital component of an effective approach to safeguarding. This needs further development and expansion in Slough and the report sets out a strategy to achieve this. It is envisaged that this will sit together with the implementation of the government’s Family First reforms and application of the Council’s approach to transformation to produce an increasingly effective and resilient service designed better to address the

needs of local children and young people. The Commissioners agree that this report should be considered.

2. Report

Introductory paragraph

2.1 The previous Early Help Strategy was for 2023-2025. This strategy affirms that 'Children and their families should be able to easily access early help and know where to go and who to speak to when they need it' 'Children and young people will be enabled to participate and shape services with us' 'We will work in partnership with colleagues across the Council and all services that work with children, young people and their families'....

Options considered

2.2 There is a requirement to have an updated Early Help Strategy to ensure ongoing strategic vision for Early Help in Slough

Background

2.3 This Strategy is a revised version of the previous Early Help Strategy 2023-2025.

2.4 This strategy has been shared with the Children and Young Peoples Partnership (CYPP) board with reflections being received from the chair of the Slough Faith Standing Together (a multi-faith consortium to promote community cohesion, respect and support for each other) who has advised 'In summary I welcome a positive and well-considered Strategy and would urge to have an inclusive delivery plan supported by a clear performance and evaluation framework. Setting out implementation mechanisms, allocated resources, defined outcome deadlines, diversity and inclusion measures, and transparent success indicators would provide additional assurance and confidence. This would reinforce the Council's shared commitment to delivering meaningful, measurable, and equitable outcomes for all children, young people, and families across the Borough'

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 *Financial implications*

3.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this strategy. The Early Help Strategy 2026–29 must be delivered through existing budgets and additional funding allocated from the Government and partner organisations. The strategy does not in itself create any specific new financial commitments, however, delivery plans and service developments arising from the strategy, such as the development of Best Start in Life Family Hubs, should be fully funded and will be subject to the Council's usual financial governance and budget approval processes. This includes any future funding requirements, external grant opportunities, commissioning arrangements or investment proposals arising from implementation of the strategy.

3.2 *Legal implications*

3.2.1 There is a duty under The Childcare Act 2006 to
(a) improve the well-being of young children in their area, and

(b)reduce inequalities between young children in their area

The Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on local authorities, police, health services, and early years partners to cooperate in safeguarding and improving children's wellbeing.

The Children Act 1989 imposes a legal duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children "in need" and provides powers to make child protection inquiries.

3.3 *Risk management implications*

3.3.1 There are no known risk management implications arising from this strategy

3.4 *Environmental implications*

3.4.1 There are no known environmental implications arising from this strategy

3.5 *Equality implications*

3.5.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report as it is for information purposes

3.6 *Corporate Parenting Implications*

3.6.1 There are no corporate parenting implications with this strategy

3.7 *Procurement implications*

3.7.1 DfE funding for the Best Start in Life Family Hubs will support with the rollout of parenting through the appointment of a Parenting Coordinator and funding training for practitioners across the partnership in delivering the 'Centre for Emotional Health' evidence based programmes.

3.8 *Workforce implications*

3.8.1 There are no workforce implications with this strategy

3.9 *Property implications*

3.9.1 There are no property implications with this strategy

4. **Background Papers**

None