

Children Act 2004 – Director of Adult Social Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To allocate responsibility for the statutory role of Director of Adult Social Services for the financial year 2019/20 to reflect the alignment of Business Unit 2, Adults Social Care and Health to the Communities Directorate for that period for the reasons set out at the report.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Wendy Lowder the Executive Director Communities discharges the statutory role of Director of Adult Social Services for the financial year 2019/20

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council as a local authority with social services responsibilities is required under the Children Act 2004 to appoint an officer as the Director of Adult Social Services to be accountable for the delivery of local authority social services functions listed in Schedule 1 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970; other than those for which the Director of Children's Services is responsible. This post is required to be an equal standing within the Council's management structure as the Director of Children's Services. The post can be discharged by different officers or by the same officer which is a matter for each relevant local authority to determine.
- 3.2 The Council's Future Council management structure allocates responsibility to discharge the role of Director of Adult Social Services to the Executive Director People. The postholder is also appointed to discharge the statutory role of Director of Children's Services as required by section 18 of the Children Act 2004.
- 3.3 The Executive Director Rachel Dickinson has been appointed President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services for the financial year 2019/ 20. This is a significant personal achievement and reflects the strong contribution which the Director has made to the management of the Council's Children's Services functions as evidenced most recently by the results of the Ofsted inspection which rated the Council's Children's Services as Good.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 The Executive Director has the full support of the Chief Executive in undertaking this important national role. Inevitably these additional responsibilities will make demands on the time of the Executive Director. In order to provide appropriate support and secure the resilience of these important statutory functions within the People Directorate it is proposed to transfer Business Unit 2, Adults Social Care and Health, from the People Directorate, to the Communities Directorate. The relevant Service Director will report to the Executive Director Communities and it is therefore appropriate that the statutory accountability for the delivery of these functions through the role of the Director of Adult Social Services is aligned with that Executive Director post for the financial year 2019/20.
- 4.2 This realignment consistent with the Statutory Guidance with regard to the discharge of the role of Director Adult Social services issued by the Department of Health
- 4.3 The Cabinet will give appropriate consideration to the implications for the allocation of portfolios to Cabinet Spokespersons. Appropriate adjustments will be made to the Scheme Delegation to Officers as amendments made to the Council's Constitution as a consequence of the approval by the Council of this proposal

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposal.

6. Staffing implications

- 6.1 There are no direct staffing implications. The relevant Business Unit will be aligned to the Communities Directorate for the financial year 2019/20. The Service Director will report to the Executive Director Communities.

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Background Papers

Department of Health Guidance on the Statutory Chief Officer Post of the Director of Adult Social Services