

By: Director of Governance and Law
To: County Council – 6 April 2011
Subject: Accountability Protocol for the Director of Children’s Services
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Following the approval by the County Council in December 2010 of the Change to Keep Succeeding proposals, the County Council is invited to approve an accountability protocol for the Corporate Director Families and Social Care with the Corporate Director Education, Learning and Skills to ensure that the current statutory guidance on the post of Director of Children’s Services is met.

FOR DECISION

(1) As part of the Change to Keep Succeeding report, approved by the County Council on 16 December 2010, Members approved a new operating framework. The operating framework is compliant with the legislative requirements placed upon this Authority. The design of the specific Corporate Director posts that have a statutory role incorporated within them are also compliant with the demands placed upon them.

(2) It is proposed that the creation of the combined role of Director of Children’s Services and Director of Adult Social Services as the Corporate Director Families and Social Care will be underpinned by an amendment to the Constitution, enabled through an accountability protocol with the Corporate Director Education Learning & Skills, to ensure that the statutory guidance on the post of the Director of Children’s Services is met. The proposed accountability protocol (attached as **Appendix 1**) will also form part of the job descriptions and employment contracts for both posts.

(3) The Leader has designated the Cabinet Member for Specialist Children’s Services as the Lead Member for Children’s Services and the accountability protocol ensures that the Corporate Director Families and Social Care, as the statutory Director of Children’s Services, is accountable for ensuring that the Lead Member for Children’s Services and other elected Members are supplied with full and accurate information about children’s services in the local authority area and for children outside the area for whom the authority is responsible.

Recommendations

(3) The County Council is invited to approve the accountability protocol for the Director of Children’s Services, appended to this report.

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Background Papers:

Change to Keep Succeeding – final proposals (County Council report – 16 December 2010)