
CHIEF OFFICERS APPOINTMENTS PANEL

MEETING ,23RD APRIL 2007

Present – Councillors Morris (Chairman), Rushton (Vice-Chairman), Hayes and Mrs. Ronson.

Mr. S. Harriss

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Chief Executive

Ms. M. Asquith

-

Director of Children's Services

Mr. D. Winstanley

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Assistant Chief Executive

Mr. A. Jennings

-

Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Morris in the Chair

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Mrs. Thomas.

7 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 11th October, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved - That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraphs 1 and 4 (information relating to any individual and consultations/negotiations relating to labour relations matters) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act; and that

it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in its exemption outweighs the public interest in its disclosure.

8 CHILDREN'S SERVICES MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which requested the Panel's agreement to the restructure of Children's Services, at the Assistant Director level, in order that the service could continue to respond and develop with the changing Children's Services agenda.

It was explained that the current Assistant Director/Chief Officer structure did not change roles and responsibilities or job descriptions when the former Education and Children's Social Care Services merged. Furthermore, as the integration of services within the Council and across partners continued to progress development of Assistant Director portfolios in line with the 'Every Child Matters' agenda also needed to develop.

Members were reminded of the current Departmental structure included a Deputy Director and six Assistant Director posts and it was noted that, in addition to the above, there were other elements which influence the proposed changes, viz:

(a)
discussions with the PCT to create a jointly funded post with lead responsibility for Children's Primary Health Services;

(b)
moving the Youth Offending Team and related early intervention services from Adults Services to Children's Services;

(c)
moving sports development in Schools from Adults Services to Children's Services; and

(d)

the need to link Secondary and Primary School capital investment strategies across the Council as a whole, working together to encompass skills identification, raising educational attainment and regeneration.

Consequently, the report proposed the deletion of the Deputy Director post from the existing structure (which had been agreed with the present potholder) and the creation of the following Assistant Director Structure and portfolio responsibilities:-

1. Assistant Director Health/Early Years
 - Children's Primary Health Care Services
 - Integrated Early Years Support Services
2. Assistant Director Stay Safe
 - Children's Social Care Services
 - Youth Offending Team
3. Assistant Director Policy, Performance, Finance, Data
 - All support service to Children's Services
 - integrated data services
 - Project Management of Change Programme
4. Assistant Director Schools and Achievement
 - Standards in Schools
 - BSF lead into Corporate Policy
5. Assistant Director Inclusion and Engagement
 - specialist support services to schools
 - PRU provision
 - SEN services
6. Assistant Director and Young Peoples Engagement
 - Youth Service
 - Extended Schools
 - Early Years
 - Play Services
 - Family Support

The Assistant Directors would be expected to deputise for the Director as appropriate.

The report explained that, in addition to the deletion of the Deputy Director post, two of the current Assistant

Directors had requested to take voluntary early retirement (although these two posts would be replaced in different formats) and the cost of the proposals had been agreed with the Director of Corporate Resources. The proposals would result in an annual saving of £121,000 and the capital costs would be recovered over a five year period.

Resolved - That the proposed changes to the Children's Services Assistant Director Structure, as now detailed, be agreed in principle and that the Director of Children's Services report further on the details following further discussions with the three members of staff concerned.