

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	<b>Appointments Panel</b>
<b>2. Date:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014</b>
<b>3. Title:</b>	<b>Director Children’s Services</b>
<b>4. Directorate:</b>	<b>Human Resources</b>

### **5. Summary**

This report provides detail of the Council’s responsibility with regard to a nominated Director of Children’s Service.

### **6. Recommendations**

The Appointments Panel is asked to confirm the appointment of the Chief Executive as the Director of Children’s Services pending the appointment of either an interim or permanent Director of Children’s Services.

## **7. Proposals and Details**

The Council is required by s18 of the Children' Act 2004 to appoint an officer as Director of Children's Services to exercise the functions conferred on the authority by the Act.

The Council's Scheme of Delegation provides for the duties of the statutory post of Director of Children's Service to be undertaken by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services. Following the departure of the current post holder the Council does not have a nominated officer fulfilling this mandatory role.

It is therefore proposed that the Chief Executive becomes the nominated Director of Children's Services until such time as an appointment to the post of Strategic Director of Children's Services is made (be that either interim or permanent).

The Department for Education issued statutory guidance in April 2013 ( Statutory Guidance on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services) indicates at paragraph 7:-

“ The DCS should report directly to the Chief Executive, so it is not appropriate for the Chief Executive (to) also hold the statutory role of DCS (except possibly as a temporary measure whilst the Council actively takes steps to fill a vacant DCS post and an alternative DCS appointment is not considered appropriate).

There are no suitable alternative post holders within the Council nor is it considered appropriate for the post to be held by the Director of Children's Services of another authority.

The Chief Executive is felt to be a suitable temporary appointment as he chaired the Council's Improvement Panel following the Council's Children's Services being placed into government intervention and has been the lead Chief Executive for Yorkshire and Humberside on children's matters.

The Chief Executive has confirmed his agreement to holding the position.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, should the Committee approve this arrangement, Cabinet will need to be consulted prior to the appointment being confirmed.

## **8. Finance**

There are no financial implications and there is no additional payment to be made to the Chief Executive as a result of him undertaking these additional duties.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

A failure by the Council to appoint an officer to carry out the functions of the Director of Children's Services would result in the Council not meeting the requirements of the Children Act 2004.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The way we do business: Right people, right skills, right place, right time; reducing bureaucracy; and getting better value for money.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

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