

Job Description and Specification

Job Title:	Executive Director Children's Services
Reference:	CE115
Service:	Directorate – Children's Services
Grade:	CX
Reports to:	Chief Executive
Location:	Delamere House, Crewe with travel to Macclesfield Town Hall and other locations within Cheshire East.
DBS Check:	Enhanced with Child Barred List

Your job

Support the Chief Executive in the overall management and leadership of the Council to ensure the effective delivery of Council priorities and strategy.

As a member of the Corporate Leadership Team, to play a critical role in driving up performance and efficiency across the Council and its partnerships for the benefit of residents, and to work effectively with lead Members and Council officers to help continuously improve both service and individual performance.

Be accountable for the effectiveness, availability, and value for money of social care and education services to children and young people, effectively leading, co-ordinating, and supporting the activities of Council services in order to fulfil the Council's overarching strategic objectives and goals.

Provide effective leadership to secure the necessary changes to culture and practice to establish the Children & Families Directorate so that services are organised around children and young people's needs.

Build and lead effective joint working arrangements and partnerships with and between other providers and agencies in order to focus resources jointly on improving outcomes for children and young people.

Contribute to the formulation and delivery of the Council's policy objectives and plans to help to deliver the Council's vision and values.

Fulfil the statutory role of Director of Children's Services.

In this job you will

1. Act as the Council's statutory Director of Children's Services and principal adviser on all aspects of safeguarding and services to children, young people and schools to ensure that the Council meets its statutory responsibilities and provides a coherent and responsive approach to identifying and meeting local needs.
2. Actively contribute, support and articulate the creation of the longer term vision, strategy and priorities of the Council through identifying, developing and implementing new ways to reduce the cost of services to taxpayers and improve their overall productivity and value for money to

service users through a range of approaches. This will include the strategic re-design of services and their costs, the use of business and operational process improvements, the smarter use of supply, the better use of demand management, improved asset management and through the effective use of technology.

3. Develop and articulate a clear vision for co-ordinated services to children and young people in Cheshire East and provide a framework and common sense of purpose in order to commission an effective shared programme of joined-up and accessible service delivery which keeps children and young people at the centre.
4. To work closely with all elected Members and support them in undertaking their Strategic Leadership and Community Leadership roles effectively, by providing expert strategic advice and helping them hold local public service providers to account for delivery performance and outcomes.
5. Provide leadership in the development of cross-organisational and multi-disciplinary team working, across boundaries with other agencies and partners, (voluntary and other public sector organisations) to deliver more cost effective, quality and valued services for children and young people and solve problems in a coherent and integrated manner.
6. Develop and embed a performance culture that delivers results in terms of better outcomes for local people through rigorous open challenge, personal accountability, disciplined execution, and continual improvement
7. Ensure that effective risk management arrangements are in place to maximise the ability to identify and take up opportunity, and to minimise the Council's exposure to risk and uncertainty, whilst encouraging creative thinking and innovative practice.
8. Ensure the establishment and review of resilient business continuity arrangements, and robust response and recovery arrangements in the event of emergencies and critical incidents locally – in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Emergency and Business Continuity Plans.
9. Ensure that all services/functions are delivered within budget and savings required are identified and delivered.
10. Support, encourage and enable collaborative, shared accountability and multi-agency working, in partnership with a wide range of other local service providers, to deliver better quality of life outcomes for children and young people efficiently and effectively.
11. Assure the quality of services delivered (whether by the Council or in an integrated manner with partner or contracted agencies) through robust management arrangements including clarity of accountability, effective commissioning and monitoring and re-allocation of resources as necessary.
12. Lead the work of partner agencies to establish strategic priorities for children and young people, aligning resources of all partner agencies with agreed priorities through the Children and Young People's Plan, establishing and developing information sharing and referral protocols, monitoring performance against agreed activities to ensure that the strategy is implemented.
13. Champion the rights of children and young people and implement effective frameworks and strategies to improve overall standards and improve the health, safety, wellbeing, and quality of life for all children and young people in Cheshire East.

14. Support and provide leadership to schools and Head Teachers and ensure effective arrangements for school improvement in order to drive up standards, encourage collaborative working and improve outcomes for children and young people.
15. Recruit, manage, motivate and develop employees in the Directorate, ensuring their health, safety and well-being at work, in order to ensure all aspects of service delivery are provided to the highest possible standard.
16. Develop and implement effective communication and engagement strategies with children and young people, stakeholders, employees, partner agencies and other Directorates so that all can understand and fulfil their roles in the delivery of effective services.
17. Contribute pro-actively to the national debate to shape and influence the direction of children and young people's services nationally and keep abreast of developments within local government and elsewhere to evaluate creative and radical solutions to problems and promote best practice.

From time to time you may be asked to undertake work as may be determined by the Chief Executive and/or an Executive Director. This will be up to or at a level that is consistent with your job role. This supports our joint commitment in our employee deal to work together as one team and one council to deliver the best service for our customers and communities.

Statutory Function

Section 18 of the Children Act 2004 requires every top tier local authority local authority to appoint a Director of Children's Services.

The DCS role:

- Has professional responsibility for the leadership, strategy, and effectiveness of local authority children's services.
- Is responsible for securing the provision of services which address the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers.
- In discharging these responsibilities, the DCS will work closely with other local partners to improve the outcomes and well-being of children and young people.
- Is responsible for the performance of local authority functions relating to the education and social care of children and young people.
- Is responsible for ensuring that effective systems are in place for discharging these functions, including where a local authority has commissioned any services from another provider rather than delivering them itself.
- Should have regard to the General Principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and ensure that children and young people are involved in the development and delivery of local services.

In this job you will need

You must be able to demonstrate the following essential requirements:

- Degree qualification or equivalent
- Completion of a structured management development programme.
- Personal commitment to continuous professional development and improvement.
- Proven track record of reforming services to align them with the needs of customers and communities
- Experience of delivering successful new service delivery models
- Evidence of establishing a performance management culture, including service planning, target setting, performance and appraisal and the management of diverse staff groups.
- Experience and demonstrable success in the generation and management of major organisational and cultural change.
- A track record of working in and forging successful partnerships at all levels, including sub-regionally, to successfully deliver cross sector projects.
- A proven track record of working effectively within a political environment, across political groups, providing clear, balanced advice and guidance on strategic issues.
- Senior experience in the leadership of Children and Young People services to inspire others with a compelling vision of the future underpinned by operational detail.
- Able to demonstrate and apply innovative thinking and judgement to initiate and support change, to take action, to meet targets and achieve desired outcomes
- Ability to cope with ambiguity, uncertainty and pressure and be able to work under public scrutiny.
- Skills in dealing effectively with issues of major public, political and media interest.
- High levels of leadership, communication, interpersonal skills, and experience of managing in a political environment.
- Ability to role-model the leadership values of the Council with residents and staff.
- Ability to propose, develop and implement effective strategies in pursuit of agreed goals and to make clear, informed, appropriate and timely decisions.
- Highly developed networking, advocacy, written, oral and presentation skills to relate effectively to employees, specialist managers, Council Members, the public and other stakeholders, to command their respect, trust, and confidence.
- Ability to actively engage with people at all levels of the organisation on issues that really matter to them.
- Must be able to facilitate constructive, frank dialogue and manage conflict.
- Knowledge of legislation and national and local developments affecting the services managed, and the Council as a whole.
- Substantial expertise in financial and budgetary management with the ability to formulate financial strategy that really constitutes value for money and puts the customer at the heart of all financial decisions.
- Strong sense of accountability; taking ownership of mistakes and ensuring lessons are learnt.
- The ambition and drive to motivate and work with others in an enthusiastic and determined way to create a flagship authority.
- Willingness to assess and take appropriate risks, proportionate to the relevant service.

- Strong commitment to probity, honesty, and openness in dealing with others.
- High level of personal resilience and ability to manage competing priorities in a high-pressure environment.
- Professional personal presentation and a level of self-awareness and emotional intelligence that helps build rapport and credibility, and trust and confidence
- Ability to challenge others constructively and improve others' performance through coaching / mentoring skills
- Ability to design and deliver services that meet the needs of a diverse population.
- Understanding and record of achievement in promoting diversity and equality of opportunity in employment and service delivery.

Our culture

For us, it is not just about our achievements as an organisation, but about how we do it. At Cheshire East Council we are working for a brighter future together –

- **We have a shared purpose**
- **We are supported and well led**
- **We are treated fairly and highly valued**
- **We succeed together**

This is all underpinned in our employee deal and everyone is expected to uphold their commitments by living by our values and demonstrating our behaviours.

Our values

Flexibility: adaptable, open to learning and resilient

Innovation: creative, challenges convention and always looks to improve

Responsibility: delivers on promises, efficient and has integrity

Service: listens, delivers quality, is reliable and enables others

Teamwork: respectful, inclusive and contributes at all levels

Employee deal

Our COMMITMENT

Shared purpose

- Provide a safe and positive working environment
- Setting clear performance objectives with realistic timescales for delivery
- Having fair and efficient policies and procedures in place and applying them consistently
- Listen, respond and act appropriately when you tell us about something that is inappropriate or wrong

Well led

- Provide honest, respectful, and responsible leadership
- Be fair, consistent, and timely in our decision making
- Work with you, enabling you to do your best work every day with the right resources, tools, and technology

Valued people

- Have regular, useful team meetings, keep you informed and provide an opportunity for everyone to share their views
- Treat you as individuals, be respectful, flexible and supportive
- Care for your health and well-being
- Provide you with regular, meaningful and constructive feedback on your performance through one-to-ones and performance review meetings

Succeeding together

- Offer you opportunities for learning and developing
- Recognise and value your hard work and contribution
- Work together as one team and one council to deliver the best service for our customers and communities

Your COMMITMENT

Shared purpose

- Bring a positive and can-do attitude into work
- Be proactive and always responsive to our customers and communities
- Work responsibly and ask for help if you need it
- Tell us if you see or experience anything that is inappropriate or wrong

Well led

- Be honest and reliable
- Get involved, keep informed, make suggestions and share your ideas
- Embrace technology and new ways of working

Valued people

- Participate fully and make helpful contributions to team meetings
- Be respectful of others and work flexibly and collaboratively with colleagues and partners
- Care for your health and well-being enabling you to maximise your attendance at work
- Value helpful constructive feedback and act upon it

Succeeding together

- Take the opportunity to learn and develop
- Be supportive and appreciate others
- Work together as one team and one council to deliver the best service for our customers and communities

Working for a brighter future together

