

**Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
25 March 2013**

People and Communities Strategic Directors' Briefing

1. Update on items from briefing 28 January 2013

(i) Staffing Changes

Divisional Director for CYP Specialist Services (Social Care)

Richard Baldwin has been appointed as Divisional Director. Richard joined Bath and North East Somerset Council on 18 March in an interim capacity on secondment from London Borough of Lambeth and has secured the permanent post following a very thorough recruitment process.

I am delighted to welcome Richard to the authority and I am confident that he will make an outstanding contribution.

Director of Public Health

Dr Bruce Laurence has been appointed as Director Public Health and will join us in early June. Bruce is currently Deputy Director in Derbyshire and will bring a depth and breadth of experience to Public health as it returns to the Council.

Paul Scott will continue as Acting DPH until early June, Paul has made a fantastic contribution in his acting capacity and I am grateful for his help and expertise over the last few months.

Education Outcomes Lead

This post will lead our Inclusion Support and School Improvement Services. Wendy Hiscock takes on this role temporarily from 1 April until 31 August. We are currently advertising to secure a suitably skilled replacement.

Safeguarding Assurance

Nicola Bennett has secured a promotion with Wiltshire County Council and will leave Bath and North East Somerset in late April. We are now recruiting a replacement.

I want to place on record my thanks to Nicola who has been a great asset to the Council for many years and she will be greatly missed by her colleagues across the entire Children's Schools and health service landscape.

2. Ofsted Inspection of Services to Protect Children

Ofsted arrived at 12.00 on Monday 4 March to carry out an unannounced inspection of our services for protecting children, a telephone call was received at 11.00am on the day to advise of their arrival.

The Inspection lasted until Wednesday 13 March. It is different to past inspections as it primarily focused upon Case work and the experience of the child and family.

A confidential draft report should be received on 25 March; however, judgements are embargoed until mid-April when Ofsted publish the report.

The staff response was excellent and the Ofsted team were extremely challenging, professional, engaging and courteous.

I will bring a full report to the May Panel.

3. Review of Early Years and Children's Centre Services

Following the Council budget setting decision of 19 February I have been asked to develop a proposal for how this piece of work can involve and engage the EYC&Y PDSP.

A briefing paper will be developed for agreement by the Chair within the next two or three weeks to be formally approved at the May PDSP meeting.

Broadly I envisage that the service will carry out a series of briefing workshops for the Panel over the summer concluding in September.

Sarah Willis and her staff will then begin to develop re-structure proposals for debate and consideration by the Panel during autumn 2013. This process will lead to formal proposals by early spring 2014 for wide consultation.

Implementation of the full restructure will happen from 1 April 2015.

A critical element will be to understand how the re-structure of services aligns with the 'thresholds' for access to social services for children and young people and how the interfaces with Connecting Families will work.

Panel may wish to discuss how they wish to be involved in the shaping of the initial brief I will be providing.

Ashley Ayre
Strategic Director: People and Communities