

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING: Restructuring Implementation Committee	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
DATE: 15 December 2020	
TITLE: Interim appointment of DASS and DCS	
WARD: ALL	
REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE	

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 To seek the Committee's approval of interim appointments to the statutory posts of Director of Adult Social Services and Director of Children's Services (including Education) for a further period to 31 March 2021.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority on behalf of the RIC to appoint Lesley Hutchinson, Director of Adult Social Care, Complex and Specialist Commissioning as the Interim Director of Adult Social Services.

2.2 That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority on behalf of the RIC to appoint Mary Kearney-Knowles, Director of Children and Young People's Services, as the Interim Director of Children's Services (including Education).

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications of these interim appointments.

4 THE REPORT

4.1 The Corporate Director for People and Communities service areas, Mike Bowden, resigned his position with notice expiring on 31 August 2020. He held the statutory roles of Director of Adult Social Services (DASS), and Director of Children's Services (DCS), including Education.

4.2 On 1 September 2020, the Committee gave approval for Lesley Hutchinson and Mary Kearney-Knowles to be appointed as Interim DASS and Interim DCS respectively for a period to 31 December 2020. These appointments now need to be extended to 31 March 2021 whilst proposals for the senior management restructure are finalised and implemented.

4.3 Lesley Hutchinson is the Council's Director of Adult Social Care, Complex and Specialist Commissioning and has been in post since May 2019. She has the necessary skills and experience to undertake the DASS role as part of her Director role on an interim basis from 1 September 2020 to 31 March 2021. Lesley will report to the Chief Operating Officer.

4.4 Mary Kearney-Knowles is the Council's Director of Children and Young People's Services and has been in post since May 2019. She has the necessary skills and experience to undertake the DCS role (including Education) as part of her Director role on an interim basis from 1 September 2020 to 31 March 2021 in the first instance. Chris Wilford, Director of Education will report to the DCS for this period. Mary will report to the Chief Operating Officer and directly to the Chief Executive for all DCS safeguarding and complex case matters.

4.5 These appointments have been discussed and agreed by Councillor Rob Appleyard, Cabinet Member for Adults and Councillor Kevin Guy, Cabinet Member for Children. No member of cabinet has raised any objections to these appointments. Tracey Cox, Chief Executive of BSW CCG has also been consulted on these appointments and is in agreement.

4.6 The Chief Executive is working with the Leader and Deputy Leader and the Director of HR&OD to bring forward proposals for a senior management restructure implemented by 1 April 2021. A further report will be provided to the RIC as these proposals are developed.

5 EQUALITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 These interim appointments have been made with advice from the Corporate Director and the Director of HR&OD. The affected Directors have been consulted and have agreed to undertake these roles.

5.2 Appointments to these roles on a substantive basis will be actioned in accordance with the Council policy and procedure and a further report will be provided to the RIC.

6 ADVICE SOUGHT

6.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer has had the opportunity to input to this report and has cleared it for circulation.

Contact person	<i>Will Godfrey, Chief Executive (Tel: 01225 477410)</i>
Background papers	None
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