

Job Description

Corporate Director – Children, Young People and Education

(Statutory Director of Children’s Services)

Directorate:	Children, Young People and Education
Grade:	KR19 (revised range)
Responsible to:	Head of Paid Service Member of the Corporate Management Team

Job outline:

Discharge the statutory obligations of the Director of Children’s Services.

Identify, lead and commission strategies to deliver the Council’s and Government’s vision for the provision of services to 0-25 year olds to ensure that the needs of the local community are achieved.

Champion the interests of parents, families and vulnerable children and young people across all related services.

Promote education excellence, ensure a high quality supply of school places, co-ordinate fair admissions and develop school improvement strategies to support local schools.

Job accountabilities:

Corporate Directors will work within the KCC Organisational Responsibilities for Senior Officers. In addition, as members of the Corporate Management Team and working closely with Cabinet Members, Corporate Directors will work together to enable organisational responsiveness to elected members; secure the best approach to resource stewardship for the Council’s budget and finances; ensure that overall management attention, effort and controls are commensurate to risk and opportunity across the council’s functions and activities; and enhance the reputation of Kent as a place as well as Kent County Council as the democratic agent of change in the region.

Ensure that children’s safeguarding is an organisational and universal priority, through effective performance monitoring and management within the directorate and through wider communication and engagement across KCC.

Protect children and young people from significant harm through high quality social work that is integrated with other key services and partners.

Provide strategic advice and support for relevant bodies such as the Kent Safeguarding Children Board.

Work in partnership with the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health to ensure achievement of the statutory responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and Director of Adult Social Services in line with the Constitution of Kent County Council which provides clarity where the delivery of services relevant to this statutory post are not directly managed by the postholder.

Create such working arrangements as are necessary with the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health and Lead Cabinet Members to ensure that statutory compliance is achieved and any overlaps are managed effectively and in compliance with legislation and best practice.

Ensure the council's compliance with the relevant statutory obligations and statutory guidance relating to vulnerable children and young people. Ensure that these obligations and responsibilities, including appropriate training, are complied with by the directorate as well as internal and external commissioned providers.

Lead and direct the development, implementation and review of school and young people's learning services, championing the appropriate intervention in failing schools, to encourage a culture of high added value and ensuring that the Council meets its legal and statutory obligations for young people and their achievements.

Commission and lead on strategies to work with schools and other associated bodies to influence and inform the level of school performance and pupil attainment and a range of work related learning opportunities.

Provide effective leadership working locally, regionally and nationally to build and maintain partnerships with school governors, head teachers and other partners and groups in Kent to develop new models of partnership and collaborative work between schools, delivery vehicles and support to schools in the new government agenda for education.

Actively review all services provided by this post to ensure the most effective and efficient delivery methods are employed including consideration of outsourcing, co-sourcing or in-sourcing and ensure schools can continue to buy high quality services from the Council.

This job description sets out the accountabilities specific to the role. These should be read in conjunction with KCC's Constitution and the Organisational Responsibilities that apply to the Corporate Director, Director and Head of Service roles.

Direct Reports

Director of Specialist Children's Services
Director of Early Help and Preventative Services
Director of Education Planning and Access
Director of Education Quality and Standards
Staff Officer and Business Support Manager
Portfolio Delivery Manager