

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

18 October 2017

Report of the Chief Executive

STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES: INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

SECTION A

Purpose of Report

1. To make a recommendation to Council to enable the authority to discharge its statutory obligations on this matter.

Background

2. Members will be aware that the Director of Social Services, Health and Housing left the employment of the Council on 9 October. The recruitment process for his permanent successor has commenced in line with the decision of the Personnel Committee on 4 September and the objective is to make that appointment before Christmas.
3. However, Section 144 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 consolidates the requirement that a local authority must appoint a statutory Director who meets various competencies outlined in Part 8 of the Code of Practice on the Role of the Director of Social Services (Social Services Functions). The Council therefore needs to make an interim appointment to the position pending the appointment of Mr Jarman's permanent successor.
4. I have considered two alternatives to the recommendation as follows:
 - Taking on the statutory duties myself, as indeed was the case briefly in the interregnum between his predecessor's departure and Mr Jarman's arrival. However, that is not now possible under Part

8 of the Code of Practice which assumes that the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) and the statutory Director of Social Services should not be one and the same person. This interpretation of the Code of Practice has been checked with senior officials at the Welsh Government who agree; and

- Appointing another officer in the Department as the statutory Director. I do not favour this option simply on the grounds of equity because it could be interpreted as favouring one potential candidate for the permanent post over another.

5. Thus, I have concluded that the most appropriate interim solution would be to appoint the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning as the statutory Director of Social Services on an interim basis pending the permanent appointment being made. I am fully satisfied that he meets the competency requirements.

Legal Implications

6. As set out in the report.

Financial, Workforce Implications and Equality Impact Assessment

7. None/not required.

RECOMMENDATION

Members agree the appointment of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning (Mr Aled Evans) to this role on an interim basis to take effect immediately and retrospectively to 9 October 2017.

Reasons for proposed decision

To meet the Council's statutory obligations.

Background Document

Part 8: Code of Practice on the Role of the Director of Social Services (Social Services Functions)

Officer Contact

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