

Appointments Etc Panel

Friday, 18 December 2020, 9.00 am, Online Only

		Minutes
Present:		Mr T Baker-Price, Cllr Marcus Hart, Mr R C Lunn, Mrs J A Potter, Mr Andy Roberts and Mr Tom Wells
1256	Named Substitutes	None.
1257	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	None.
1258	Election of Chairman	Mr A C Roberts was elected Chairman.
1259	Election of Vice-Chairman	Mr M J Hart was elected Vice-Chairman.
1260	Confirmation of Minutes	RESOLVED: that the minutes of this meeting be circulated to Members of the Panel and be signed by the Chairman in the light of any comments on their accuracy received within 7 days of their circulation.
1261	Exclusion of Press and Public	RESOLVED: that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it is likely that exempt information relating to any individual will be disclosed and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.
1262	Director of Children's Services	<p>Dr Catherine Driscoll, Chief Executive, would be leaving Worcestershire Children First in February 2021.</p> <p>In addition to her role as Chief Executive of WCF, Catherine had conducted the statutory role of Director of Children Services for the County Council via a tri party agreement with WCF and the Council. This was considered to be very effective.</p> <p>By statute, the Council was required to have a designated Director of Children's Services (DCS). This was to undertake the duties and services in accordance with the statutory requirements and statutory guidance.</p> <p>The DCS would be responsible for the performance of</p>

the Council functions relating to children's services including the education and social care of children and young people. The Post was responsible for ensuring that effective systems were in place for discharging these functions, including:

- a) where the Council had commissioned any relevant services from another provider rather than delivering them itself.
- b) where specific duties were undertaken by staff within WCF who must carry out functions on behalf of the DCS which cannot be delegated to WCF.

The tri-party agreement allowed for dedicated time (20% of the working week) to undertake the DCS responsibilities for the Council whilst continuing to fulfil the Chief Executive role for Worcestershire Children First. This had worked well and has been adopted as a best practice way of working by other organisations who were setting up the same arrangements as Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Children First.

It was noted that the Board of Worcestershire Children First had recommended to the Secretary of State that Tina Russell be appointed on an interim basis as Chief Executive of the Company. It was felt that this would ensure stability, continuity and continued focus on the agreed priorities in 2021/22. The Panel was satisfied that Tina Russell could also carry out the role of Director of Children's Services.

RESOLVED that the Panel

- (a) agreed to continue the tri-party arrangement between Worcestershire Children First (WCF), the Council and the nominated Director of Children's Services (DCS);**
- (b) delegated to the Chief Executive authority to engage in the tri-party agreement, on behalf of the Council, with Tina Russell with effect from 22 February 2021; and**
- (c) In agreeing to (b) agreed that this appointment is temporary until 31 August 2021, by which time it will be reviewed.**

The meeting ended at 9.10am

Chairman