

Job Description

Service and Team	Children's services
Post Title	Director of Children's Services
Grade	26
Reports to	Chief Executive
Job Purpose	
• As a member of the Council's Senior Leadership Team provide strategic and professional leadership, contributing to the development and delivery of the North Tyneside Council Plan • Ensure strategic support to the Chief Executive, Elected Mayor, Cabinet, non-Exec members and Scrutiny Committees • Work closely with the Lead Members to ensure all services contribute to improving outcomes in line with the Council Plan meet legal and statutory obligations • To be responsible and accountable for the development of policy and strategy on all matters relating to children and families in North Tyneside • Be the Council's Statutory Director for Children's Services, responsible for duties as set out in the statutory guidance on role and responsibilities, discharging the functions of the Authority as listed in Schedule 1 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 and the Children's Act 1989 and 2004 • Understand the needs of the Borough and plan appropriately to lead the commissioning and contracting of high-quality services which deliver independence, dignity and ensure that residents are cared for, safeguarded and healthy • Lead the care of vulnerable children in North Tyneside and be the lead officer for keeping children safe as well as the lead on child protection, looked after children and other vulnerable children and families • Implement statutory powers and effective policies on all matters relating to Children's Services • Act as the office holder under Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 • Lead in market oversight of children's provider care services • Lead a partnership approach across the Borough and regionally for effective service delivery • Act as lead officer for OFSTED	

Job Content

- Provide clear, visible strategic leadership to deliver better outcomes for children and families that will transform North Tyneside, promoting prevention, early intervention and resilience to improve outcomes for residents
- To lead the development of service strategies and best practice in commissioning, collaborating with Public Health, NHS and Housing to improve health, wellbeing and independence in North Tyneside
- To effectively manage and be accountable for commissioning budgets
- To ensure all service, directly delivered commissioned are achieving high standards in safeguarding vulnerable children and families and relevant safeguarding procedures are adhered to
- For the Authority and in line with statutory roles, discharge the statutory responsibilities to the necessary regulatory bodies including OFSTED
- Act as the lead officer for the Regional Adoption Agency
- To lead for the Authority on engagement with professional/expert bodies in the field of Children's Care
- Deliver high quality adoption, fostering and residential childcare services
- Provide strong, forward thinking, positive leadership and management of people and partnerships in order to deliver improvements to the portfolio of children's social care, fostering and adoption early help, youth offending, safeguarding children's partnership.
- Ensure that the requirements and implications of legislation affecting Education, Social Care and Health and Wellbeing are identified, interpreted, disseminated and met
- Ensure that the requirements of the mental health act are identified and implemented within Children's Services.
- Ensure the range of services provided and commissioned are accessible to the whole community
- Demonstrate commitment to customer care by ensuring regular communication, visibility and feedback to service users and front-line staff, taking a lead role with the Children's service portfolio to ensure complaints are dealt with systematically and to drive future improvement
- Provide professional advice and management information to the Chief Executive, Mayor, Cabinet, Non-Executive Members and Scrutiny Committees as required
- As part of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), provide direction and leadership to develop and deliver Council strategy and plans, ensuring specialist support is available where appropriate

- Maintain a national reputation for providing high performing services where a supportive learning culture to staff is embedded at all levels
- Take lead responsibility for ensuring the Council have appropriate systems and procedures in place with regards to all elements of safeguarding and social care
- Direct and lead managers in the provision of the above services to secure effective services, value for money and to ensure that appropriate specialist advice and support is available
- Lead on Emergency Planning and Resilience Management, ensuring appropriate business continuity plans and emergency response procedures are in place.
- Participate in the Council's Duty Gold on-call rota, providing resilience and major incident response leadership when required
- Ensure implementation of all appropriate inspection and audit recommendations
- Be responsible for making a significant corporate contribution, ensuring effective performance management and the delivery of agreed targets, service standards and budgets both internally and by partners
- Consolidate and broker traded services for schools and work closely with the Councils Strategic Partners who offer services to schools
- Produce, monitor and evaluate key plans including the Children and Young People's Plan
- Provide advice to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team on strategic and operational issues facing children, young people and learning services
- Contribute to the development of management information systems that will enable informed planning work, monitoring and evaluation
- Contribute to the development of quality assurance measures and the implementation of a rigorous monitoring process across commissioned services
- Establish effective working relationships with Members, Headteachers, Diocesan representatives, the NHS and other regional and national agencies
- Promote a corporate approach to corporate parenting and safeguarding
- Develop the role of customers by ensuring user voice in the design and development of services, building capacity to engage on service issues, bringing the service closer to customers.
- Develop and implement strategies and policies ensuring that corporate and cross-functional issues across the Authority are taken into account
- Promote internal and external partnerships to maximise service delivery
- Develop national and regional relationships with a range of stakeholders including business, government agencies, community, local authorities, universities and community planning partners at both a local and national level with a view to securing all income opportunities

- Lead in supporting and advising failing authorities to improve and deliver the provision of essential services through the PIP model that creates income generation opportunities
- Ensure effective risk management systems are in place to enable consistent and uninterrupted delivery of services, ensuring teams comply with relevant statutory and legal provisions
- Develop strong working relationships with key stakeholders ensuring they have an accurate view of the performance of North Tyneside Council
- Represent the Council on a local, regional, or national basis as appropriate
- Meet the performance standards detailed in the Council's Code of Values and Behaviours
- Ensure the Council complies with the requirements of the Council's Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy, Health & Safety Policy, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

Climate Change Values and Behaviours

We strive to reduce the carbon footprint of our services by using less energy in our buildings, travelling less in our vehicles and increasing our recycling.

We encourage innovation and the generation of new ideas in the way we do things, including increasing the environmental sustainability of our services.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Values and Behaviours

We treat all our colleagues, residents and service users with dignity and respect. We embrace and value people's differences. We act as allies, educating ourselves, empowering others and tackling discrimination.

We build an inclusive and fair workplace where all team members feel valued and accepted. We encourage team members, residents, and service users to contribute their perspectives to our understanding of the borough and how best to support our people. We role model inclusive behaviour in our leadership styles, and champion equality.

Special Requirements of Post

Working Conditions and Arrangements	The postholder will be required to work with the Elected Mayor, Elected Members and officers in various locations. This will include participating in public meetings and events within and outside the borough, with regular requirement to work outside normal office hours.
DBS and Safeguarding Checks required	DBS Check – Enhanced (without Barred List Check)
Responsibility for Safeguarding or extent of contact with children,	To promote a corporate approach to corporate parenting and safeguarding.

young people and/or adults at risk of harm.	
Politically Restricted	Yes. Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated regulations, anyone who holds a politically restricted post cannot: a) Become or remain an elected member of a local authority. b) Become a member of the House of Commons or one of the devolved assemblies. c) Take part in certain political activities.