

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting4th December 2014

1. Title of Item/Report

Assurance Statement – Director of Children’s Services and Lead Member
– Children and Young People

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that provided details of a local test of assurance that had been carried out in relation the roles of Director of Children’s Services and Lead Member – Children & Young People in compliance with Statutory Guidance. Reference was also made to the roles of Director of Adult Services and Lead Member – Adults and health. The outcome from the assurance test had indicated no need to change the arrangements. The assurance test had been carried out independently of the Children, Education and Social Care Service and would be subject to regular review.

Statutory guidance in relation to the roles of the Director of Children’s Services and the Lead Member for Children’s Services was released by the Department for Education in 2005, 2009, 2012 and updated in 2013.

Local authorities in England must have regard to it in relation to the appointment of the Director of Children’s Services and the designation of the Lead Member for Children’s Services.

Whilst there wasn’t any up to date statutory guidance in relation to the role of Director of Adult’s Services or the Lead Member role for Adults, both of these roles are referenced in the Statutory Guidance relating to the Children’s roles where, as in Stockton’s case, there was a joint appointment.

The test of assurance document was attached to the report and set this out in more detail and provided the position within Stockton alongside a diagrammatical representation of the assurance arrangements.

The risk assessment undertaken had reached a conclusion that the control measures were sufficient to mitigate the risks identified in the statutory guidance but that this would be kept under regular review as part of the corporate arrangements for risk management.

The risk assessment had been subject to scrutiny by the Corporate Management Team and the Corporate Governance Group.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The outcomes from the assurance test be noted.
2. Regular monitoring via the Resources Service Grouping risk assessment arrangements be agreed.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Authorities are required to carry out a regular test of assurance of their arrangements in relation to the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member – Children & Young People, especially where the role(s) is/are combined with other functions.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Mrs McCoy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Assurance Statement - Director of Children's Services and Lead Member - Children and Young People as she was the relevant Cabinet Member for the area and did not vote on the item.

Councillor Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Assurance Statement - Director of Children's Services and Lead Member - Children and Young People as he was the relevant Cabinet Member for the area and did not vote on the item.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 12th December 2014

Proper Officer
08 September 2014