

Chief Officer Appointments Panel

Friday 26 September 2025

PRESENT:

Councillor Laing, in the Chair.

Councillors Blight, Coker, Cresswell (Substituting for Councillor Evans OBE), Laing, Lowry (Substituting for Councillor Aspinall) and Lugger.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Evans OBE, Aspinall and Mrs Beer.

Also in attendance: David Haley (Director of Children's Services), Jake Metcalfe (Democratic Advisor) and Chris Squire (Service Director for HROD).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.52 am.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

21. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

22. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of chairs urgent business.

23. **Recruitment to the role of Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills**

Chris Squire (Service Director for HROD) presented the report to the Panel and highlighted the following key points:

- a) The post had been held been covered by an interim since 13 December 2024;
- b) The interim post-holder declared an interest for the permanent position early on during the recruitment process;
- c) Two candidates went through to the assessment centre, with one being proposed for interview by the Panel today.

The Panel agreed to:

- I. Note the content of this report;

2. Accept the recommendation that one candidate would progress to interview by the Panel;
3. Undertake the formal interview on Friday 26 September 2025.

24. **Exempt Business**

The Panel agreed to pass a resolution under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

25. **Recruitment to the role of Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills**

Following an interview process, the Panel unanimously agreed to offer the role of Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills, to Amanda Davis subject to Cabinet approval and the necessary pre-employment checks.