

Director of Children's Services

Compliance & Assurance Framework

(based on Statutory Guidance on Roles & Responsibilities of the DCS and LMCS)

Key Points:

- The Children Act 2004 requires LBB to appoint a Director of Children's Services (DCS) and designate a Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS)
- DCS (and LMCS) are appointed for the purposes of discharging the education AND children's social services functions of LBB.
- Functions for which they are responsible are set out in sec 18(2) of the Children Act 2004 – includes responsibility for children and young people receiving education or social care services in LBB and all children looked after by LBB or in custody (wherever placed).
- LBB can determine its own organisational structures. However LBB must ensure a single officer and single elected member as DCS (and LMCS)
- DCS (and LMCS) should have an integrated children's services brief ensuring the safety and educational, social and emotional needs of children and young people are central to the local vision.
- DCS (and LMCS) provides a clear and unambiguous line of local accountability.
- DCS has professional responsibility for children's services – including operational matters.
- DCS has a key leadership role within LBB and with local agencies to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- DCS is politically restricted, first tier and reports directly to Chief Exec.
- LBB should assure itself that arrangements enable it to discharge its education and children's social care functions effectively.
- LBB should consider protecting the DCS role and responsibilities before allocating additional responsibilities.

Compliance & Assurance Framework – assuming separation of operational management structure from DCS as proposed:

Role & Responsibility of DCS	Type of Responsibility	Focus	How Discharged	Compliance
LBB to appoint a DCS	Organisational	Structural	Strategic Director: Communities (SDC) appointed as DCS (formerly Director for People)	
Professional responsibility for leadership of LBB children's services	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ Strategic Commissioning Board (SCB) & Commissioning Board (CB) re outcome of	

			children's services as a result of their strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy role	
Professional responsibility for strategy of LBB children's services	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy	
Professional responsibility for effectiveness of LBB children's services	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible @ SCB & CB re general outcomes & effectiveness of services against strategic plan. Director, Family Services & Director, Education & Skills responsible @ Delivery Board (DB) re operational performance & effectiveness of delivery. Management Agreement between the two with DCS intervention process built in In addition, internal scheme of delegation are in place to give authority from the SDC to the appropriate Delivery Unit Director.	
First Tier Officer reporting to Chief Executive – politically restricted post	Organisational	Structural	SDC (DCS) reports to Chief Executive	
Responsible for securing the provision of services to address the needs of all children & young people	Commissioning	Output	SDC responsible @ SCB & CB re commissioning of service delivery re children's services (internally, externally, or jointly delivered) In addition, internal scheme of delegation are in place to give authority from the SDC to the appropriate Delivery Unit Director.	

Will work closely with local partners to improve outcomes & well-being of children & young people	Partnership	Outcome	SDC responsible @ SCB & various partnership/3 rd party boards re development & delivery of partnership working to deliver improved outcomes	
Responsible for performance of LBB functions relating to education & social care of children & young people	Performance	Output	SDC responsible @ SCB & CB re general outcomes & effectiveness of services against strategic plan. Director, Family Services & Director, Education & Skills responsible @ Delivery Board (DB) re operational performance & effectiveness of delivery. Management Agreement between the two with DCS intervention process built in	
Responsible for ensuring effective systems in place to discharge functions where services commissioned	Commissioning	Structural	SDC responsible @ CB re governance of commissioned services (internally, externally or jointly delivered)	
Have regard to UN Convention on Rights of Children to ensure involvement of children & young people in development & delivery of services	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible @ SCB & CB for professional leadership of services inc. engagement re commissioned services (internally, externally or jointly delivered)	
Provides a clear & unambiguous line of professional accountability for children's well being	Professional	Structural	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re outcome of children's services as a result of their strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy role. The scheme of delegation	

			ensures accountability.	
Need to work closely with the Director of Public Health	Partnership	Structural	SDC represents LBB @ H&WB Board & ongoing relationship with DofPH as Commissioning Director	
LBB to undertake a local test of assurance to ensure that focus on outcomes for children & young people will not be weakened or diluted as a result of additional responsibilities	Organisational	Input	Chief Exec to commission assurance test (using Local Assurance Framework below) to ensure impact on outcomes of changes	
DCS cannot be the Chief Executive	Organisational	Structural	Chief Exec & DCS (SDC) are separate	
DCS provides strong, strategic leadership & development of children's services sector	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy	
Ensure children's services are integrated across LBB	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy	
DCS leads, promotes and creates opportunities for co-operation with local partners	Partnership	Outcome	SDC responsible @ SCB & various partnership/3 rd party boards re development & delivery of partnership working to deliver improved outcomes	
Establish local co-operation arrangements re child poverty	Partnership	Outcome	SDC responsible @ SCB & various partnership/3 rd party boards re development & delivery of partnership working to deliver improved outcomes	
DCS will drive local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and	Partnership	Outcome	SDC responsible @ SCB & various partnership/3 rd party boards re development	

joint health & well-being strategy			& delivery of partnership working to deliver improved outcomes	
DCS will promote interests of children, young people & families	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy	
DCS will join up local commissioning plans for clinical & public health services with children's social care & education	Commissioning	Output	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy	
DCS will ensure effective relationships between health & well-being board & Local Safeguarding Children Board	Partnership	Outcome	SDC responsible @ LSCB and H&WB Boards for effective relationships	
Responsible for agreements under sec 75 of NHS Act re LBB and NHS re children & young people	Partnership	Outcome	SDC responsible @ SCB & various partnership/3 rd party boards re development & delivery of partnership working to deliver improved outcomes	
DCS ensures clear arrangements to protect children & young people from harm	Commissioning	Outcome	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re outcome of children's services as a result of their strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy role	
DCS to be a member of the LSCB & held to account for working of LSCB	Organisational	Structural	SDC (DCS) in lead role at LSCB	
Ensures collaboration & dialogue with family courts to	Partnership	Outcome	SDC responsible @ SCB & various partnership/3 rd party boards re development	

ensure high quality assessments & evidence			& delivery of partnership working to deliver improved outcomes	
Shared responsibility to act as effective & caring corporate parents	Organisational	Cultural	Chief Exec & SDC (DCS) to drive change re 'corporate parent' @ SCB	
Ensure disabled children & SEN can access provision that meets needs & fund provision for children with statements of SEN	Commissioning	Output	SDC responsible @ CB re governance of commissioned services (internally, externally or jointly delivered)	
Ensure arrangements for alternative provision for children outside mainstream education or missing education	Commissioning	Output	SDC responsible @ CB re commissioning & governance of commissioned services (internally, externally or jointly delivered)	
Ensure coherent planning between agencies providing services for children in youth justice system	Partnership	Outcome	SDC responsible @ SCB & various partnership/3 rd party boards re development & delivery of partnership working to deliver improved outcomes	
Understand local need & secure provision of services taking account of benefits of prevention & early intervention	Commissioning	Output	SDC responsible @ CB re commissioning & governance of commissioned services (internally, externally or jointly delivered)	
Ensure fair access to all schools for every child in accordance with codes	Commissioning	Output	SDC responsible @ CB re commissioning & governance of commissioned services (internally, externally or jointly delivered)	
Ensure provision of suitable home to school transport	Commissioning	Output	SDC responsible @ CB re commissioning & governance of commissioned services	

			(internally, externally or jointly delivered)	
Actively promote a diverse supply of strong schools	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re outcome of children's services as a result of their strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy role	
Promote high quality early years provision	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re outcome of children's services as a result of their strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy role	
Secure access for young people to sufficient educational and recreational leisure time activities & facilities for improvement of well-being	Commissioning	Output	SDC responsible @ CB re commissioning & governance of commissioned services (internally, externally or jointly delivered)	
Promote children's & young people's participation in public decision making so they can influence local commissioners	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re outcome of children's services as a result of their strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy role	
Promote participation in education or training of young people	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re outcome of children's services as a result of their strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy role	
Take action re poorly performing schools	Performance	Output	SDC responsible @ SCB & CB re general outcomes & effectiveness of services against strategic plan. Director, Education & Skills responsible @	

			Delivery Board (DB) re remedial action plans. Management Agreement between the two with DCS intervention process built in	
Develop robust school improvement strategies	Performance	Output	SDC responsible @ SCB & CB re general outcomes & effectiveness of services against strategic plan. Director, Education & Skills responsible @ Delivery Board (DB) re remedial action plans. Management Agreement between the two with DCS intervention process built in	
Promote high standards by supporting effective school to school collaboration	Professional	Outcome	SDC responsible for professional leadership of children's services @ SCB & CB re outcome of children's services as a result of their strategy, integration, oversight & advocacy role	
Support maintained schools to deliver National Curriculum & Early Years Foundation Stage	Commissioning	Outcome	SDC responsible @ CB re commissioning & governance of commissioned services (internally, externally or jointly delivered)	
Establish a schools forum & maintain a scheme for financing maintained schools & provide financial info	Organisational	Structural	Schools Forum established & led by Dir E&S	
Responsibilities re staffing & governance of maintained schools	Performance	Output	SDC responsible @ SCB & CB re general outcomes & effectiveness of services against strategic plan. Director, Education & Skills responsible @ Delivery Board (DB) re	

			remedial action plans. Management Agreement between the two with DCS intervention process built in	
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