

3. THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

3.1 Introductory

3.1.1 The Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member provide respectively, a professional and political focus for children's services, ensuring that a clear strategy for improving outcomes for all children and young people within the area is developed. In doing so they will listen to and involve children in determining their needs and champion their interests both across functional boundaries within the local authority and across local partnerships, ensuring that the needs of children, young people and their families or carers are addressed.

3.2 Role of the Director of Children's Services

3.2.1 The Director of Children's Services will have three key roles:

- a. professional responsibility and accountability for the effectiveness, availability and value for money of all local authority children's services;
- b. leadership both within the local authority to secure and sustain the necessary changes to culture and practice, and beyond it so that services improve outcomes for all and are organised around children and young people's needs; and
- c. building effective partnerships with and between those local bodies, including the voluntary and community sectors, who also provide children's services in order to focus resources⁴ jointly on improving outcomes for children and young people.

3.3 Role of the Lead Member for Children's Services

3.3.1 The Lead Member's role mirrors the DCS's role at the local political level. He/she will have:

- a. political accountability for the effectiveness, availability and value for money of all local authority children's services;
- b. leadership to engage and encourage local communities in order to improve children's services and to ensure that services, both within the local authority and across partner organisations, improve outcomes for all and are organised around children and young people's needs; and
- c. a particular focus on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children across all agencies.

⁴ Financial, human, physical or any other resources.

3.3.2 The DCS and LM will work with partners to establish a framework of accountabilities for the effective discharge of functions, and the delivery of services within this framework. They will work with partners to ensure that robust management, reporting, governance, partnership and audit procedures exist to enable services to be delivered effectively, and outcomes for children and young people to be improved. In exercising their functions and responsibilities the DCS and LM must have due regard to the CSA's responsibilities to promote equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination, for example under the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.