

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 7 July 2022

### Report of the Director of Corporate Services

#### Part I

Electoral Division affected:  
None;

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Caring for the vulnerable;  
Delivering better services

### Changes to Cabinet Portfolio Responsibilities

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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#### Brief Summary

Cabinet is asked to consider amendments to the responsibilities contained within the Cabinet portfolios. These changes are proposed to ensure that the county council continues to meet its obligations in relation to the guidance on the Lead Member for Children's Services.

#### Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the changes to the portfolio responsibilities as set out in the report and in Appendix 'A'.

#### Detail

The county council has a statutory duty to identify a "Lead Member for Children's Services". This designation is held by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, County Councillor Cosima Towneley.

The statutory guidance relating to the role of Lead Member for Children's Services says that, given the importance of the role, great caution should be exercised before the postholder is given any additional responsibilities which may distract from it.

County Councillor Cosima Townley also serves on Burnley Borough Council, where she has been elected as mayor for the municipal year 2022/23. Whilst the statutory guidance makes no reference to "dual hatted" members, it is clear that the

responsibilities and duties of Mayor will require a commitment of time and energy from County Councillor Towneley.

To mitigate any potential risk, a review has been undertaken of the responsibilities within the current Cabinet Member for Children and Families portfolio. It is proposed to move, for the municipal year 22/23 only, responsibility for Early Years, Family Hubs and Start for Life to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing portfolio; and Youth Justice to the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services.

To facilitate this adjustment, it is also proposed to move responsibility for Emergency Preparedness, Health & Safety and Resilience from the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing's portfolio to the Deputy Leader's. Additionally, responsibility for Business Continuity will also go to the Deputy Leader, from the Leader where it currently sits.

Appendix 'A' shows the full updated Cabinet portfolio descriptions

## **Consultations**

The council has sought assurance via the Local Government Association that these proposals appropriately mitigate the potential risk. They have agreed that the mitigations are suitable, and have recommended that a quarterly meeting take place with the Leader, Lead Member for Children's Services and those Cabinet Members who are taking on the responsibilities outlined to ensure that information is shared and in particular that there is no impact on the council's safeguarding duties. The Chairs of the Corporate Parenting Board and the Chair of the Children's, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee will also be invited to attend the meetings. The meeting will be supported by the Chief Executive and Director of Resources and the statutory Director of Children's Services.

## **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

## **Risk management**

The role of the Lead Member for Children's Services is a statutory one, and the council must be able to give assurance that the member who undertakes this role has sufficient time and capacity to undertake the responsibilities.

## **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		