

COUNCIL

22 MARCH 2023

APPOINTMENTS TO TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN SUNDERLAND LIMITED

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council of changes required further to the report to the 16 November 2022 Council meeting in relation to proposed changes to Together for Children Sunderland Limited (“TfC”) board composition in order to maintain good governance arrangements
- 1.2 The full list of appointments to committees and outside bodies will be published on the Council’s website in the Yearbook at <https://committees.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm15/PublicDocuments.aspx> following the meeting.

2.0 Together for Children Sunderland Limited (“TfC”)

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Council on 16 November 2022, it was reported that there were currently five independent Non-Executive Directors¹ (including the Chair) (“NEIDs”) on the Board of TfC:

Name	Term End
Paul Moffat (Chair)	31 March 2023
Denise Exley	31 December 2022
David Gallagher	30 November 2022
Catherine Hearne	31 March 2023
Steven Mason	31 March 2023

- 2.2 Board Members Paul Moffat and David Gallagher expressed an intention to resign from the Board at the end of their term.
- 2.3 In order to maintain continuity, it was agreed that the terms of office of Ms Exley, Ms Hearne and Mr Mason be extended to 31 March 2024. This timescale was co-terminus with the end of the initial period of the Service Delivery Contract between the Council and TfC.
- 2.4 In addition, it was reported that a recruitment process had commenced for a new Chair of the Board. Given the “Outstanding” judgement on TfC in 2021 and the subsequent enhanced reputation, it was not proposed to use a recruitment agency for this exercise but adopt a careful placement of advertisements blended with proactive social media usage.

¹ In addition to two Council officer Non-Executive Directors

- 2.5 It should be noted that the appointment of the Chair of the Board was now the responsibility of the Council, rather than the Department for Education, following the revocation of the Direction and the “Outstanding” judgement.
- 2.6 The process to appoint a replacement Chair has been concluded and the position has been offered to Ms Tammy Banks. The appointment has been offered subject to due diligence checks and clearances being received and these checks are in progress. The Chair’s appointment has been offered initially as a one year term with potential for reappointment for a further two year term. Ms Banks’ commencement date in the Chair role will be agreed once all due diligence and clearances have been received to TfC’s satisfaction.
- 2.7 The process to appoint the remaining independent non-executive director has also been concluded and the position has been offered to Mr Steve Williams. The appointment has been offered subject to due diligence checks and clearances being received and these checks are in progress. The appointment has been offered as a three year term with potential for an extension to the appointment by mutual agreement. Mr Williams’ commencement date in the role will be agreed once all due diligence and clearances have been received to TfC’s satisfaction.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Council is accordingly invited to approve the appointments of Ms Tammy Banks as Board Chair and Mr Steve Williams as NEID.