

**Role Profile**

**Strategic Director of Children Services**

**Salary: SD1**

**Role Purpose**

The Strategic Director of Children's Services at the Waltham Forest Council is a strategic leadership role responsible for shaping and delivering high-quality services that support the well-being and development of children and young people in the borough. The role requires a visionary and collaborative leader with a deep commitment to promoting positive outcomes for children and families.

A challenging and high-profile role. The purpose of the role is to lead the Children's Services Directorate and ensure that the children and young people of London Borough Waltham Forest are supported and safe and to deliver high quality, high performing, responsive and cost-effective support. The opportunities and challenges include, balancing a large, complex budget; preparation for Ofsted inspections working with key internal and external partners to offer an innovative and integrated approach to care delivery.

This role is responsible for ensuring Waltham Forest discharges the statutory obligations of the Director of Children Services and Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 (as amended).

This role will be responsible, with the Chief Executive and other members of Strategic Leadership Team, for the strategic and corporate management of the Council.

The post will report into the Chief Executive.

**Core Accountabilities**

- Ofsted and CQC readiness, preparing teams and establishing and monitoring robust systems for quality assurance and performance management, ensuring compliance with relevant standards and regulations.
- Direct the planning, commissioning and delivery of all services provided by the Children's Directorate, including children social care.
- Responsible for the arrangements for safeguarding Children and Young People, ensuring that all relevant services, processes and practice are robust, effective and open to regular scrutiny and challenge.
- Develop and articulate a visionary and inclusive SEND and education service, aligned with current national reforms.
- Ensure the Council is compliant with all statutory duties relevant to the services delivered by the Children's Services Directorate. Discharge any additional responsibilities associated with the statutory roles of Director of Children Services.
- Ability to work with a wide variety of key internal and external partners including, Health, schools, partner agencies, community, families, and voluntary third sector organisations.
- You will be a core member of the corporate leadership team with responsibility of successfully delivering outcomes that contribute to the organisation's corporate objectives in Mission Waltham Forest.
- Represent the Council at local and national level, in order to share and promote Waltham Forest.
- Oversee budgetary responsibilities for children's social services, ensuring the efficient and effective use of resources to achieve strategic Mission Waltham Forest objectives.

## Indicative Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Educated to degree level or equivalent standard.
- Relevant post-graduate / professional qualification
- Evidence of continued professional development
- Significant senior strategic management experience, including translating organisational drivers into strategic objectives, longer term plans, new ways of working and specific outcomes, for a portfolio of services in a large public sector organisation.
- Performance management
- Proven ability to enter into complex negotiations with senior stakeholders and partners with a view to completing complex deals that drive growth.
- Proven ability to manage a wide variety of activities across a range of professional areas of expertise and oversee their achievement of the organisation's strategic goals.
- Extensive knowledge of the statutory obligations and role local authorities have in children's social care.
- Extensive and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the national policy context, requirements and future direction for relevant service areas.

## Key Behaviours

- Strategic and analytical thinker
- Commercial and business acumen
- Impactful communication, negotiation and influence skills
- Working together
- Equality driven
- Community and customer focused