

20 March 2017

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

D2N2 TEACHING PARTNERSHIP – SECONDMENT OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE TO TEACHING PARTNERSHIP ROLE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide brief information on the D2N2 Teaching Partnership initiative.
2. To inform Committee about the planned secondment of a Nottinghamshire County Council employee to the role of Partnership Practice Educator Lead, working with the D2N2 Teaching Partnership, for a period of 12 months.

Information and Advice

3. Funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and Department of Health (DoH), teaching partnerships are being rolled out nationally to help raise the quality of social work trainees and the teaching they receive.
4. The D2N2 Teaching Partnership brings together six local employers of social workers – Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Rampton Hospital and Framework Housing Association – who will work in a joint endeavour with the County's two universities – Nottingham Trent University and the University of Nottingham.
5. Funding has been awarded, by the Department for Education and the Department of Health, for the period 1st November 2016 to 31st March 2018, and totals £475,730.
6. A key objective of the Teaching Partnership is to improve the quality of social work student placements and, to this end, each local authority within the Partnership will need to second one person, from its existing workforce, to lead on supporting and facilitating the development and on-going availability of high quality student placements – in the role of Partnership Practice Educator Lead (the job description is available as a background paper).
7. The Partnership funding incorporates full salary costs for the PPEL role, which has been evaluated as a Band C position, and funding covers the period during which the secondee will be in post (from 1st April 2017 until 31st March 2018), so there will be no direct cost implications to the Council.

8. The Partnership Practice Educator Leads (PPELs) will be required to work both within their own authority and across the other agencies within the Partnership, and will be involved in reviewing and enhancing the existing provision of student placements across the partnership, working closely with existing staff who currently oversee Practice Educator activity within each agency.
9. Nottinghamshire's PPEL, will be located within the corporate HR Workforce Planning and Organisational Development (WP&OD) team, and will report to the Senior HR Business Partner, WPOD, for line management and supervision purposes, and the work undertaken on behalf of the Teaching Partnership will be matrix managed by the Project Manager, TP (a post hosted by Nottingham Trent University, but operating across the Partnership).
10. As a result of delays to the receipt of Partnership funding (due to the impact of the 2016 Referendum on Government activity), the work of the Partnership will need to be progressed within quite demanding timescales, and therefore there is a need to have the Council's PPEL in post from 1st April 2017.
11. Approval for the establishment of the PPEL post will therefore be sought from the Personnel Committee at its meeting on 29th March 2017.

Other Options Considered

12. Whilst this post could be advertised externally, it was recognised that – within each local authority – there were likely to be suitable candidates, in similar roles, who would be able to move quickly into this secondment role with minimal requirements around induction and training. Equally, given the short-term nature of the role itself, it is unlikely that the Council would be able to recruit someone of a suitable calibre to this post.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. This secondment is for a fixed term only, and will be fully funded by DfE and DoH grant payments. There are, therefore, no direct cost implications for the Council.
14. Neighbouring authorities, who are part of the Teaching Partnership, are also now in the process of seconding to their own PPEL roles, and the Council needs to ensure that it is well placed to keep up with the programme of work that these individuals will be taking on, by having Nottinghamshire's PPEL in post by 1st April 2017.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. As detailed above, there will be no financial implications arising from the secondment of a member of staff to the PPEL role, as the post will be fully funded from DfE and DoH grant payments.

Human Resources Implications

17. The secondment of a member of staff, from the Human Resources team, to the PPEL role will require the establishment of a temporary post within the Human Resources team, and work will take place with colleagues from Workforce Planning & Organisational Development to facilitate whatever arrangements need to be put in place.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

18. The person seconded to the PPEL role will be a qualified social worker, with all appropriate checks already in place.

Implications for Service Users

19. The creation of this secondment opportunity will enable the Council to provide better quality placements for social work students and, consequently, ensure that the quality of newly qualified social workers coming through from our partner universities is enhanced.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1) the information on the D2N2 Teaching Partnership initiative be noted
- 2) the proposed secondment of a Nottinghamshire County Council employee to the role of Partnership Practice Educator Lead, working with the D2N2 Teaching Partnership, for a period of 12 months, be noted.

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 21/02/17)

20. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SS 17/02/17)

21. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Partnership Practice Educator Lead job description
Partnership Practice Educator Lead secondment summary

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0947