



Doncaster Council

Job Role Summary

Role Title: Service Director: Education and Skills
Directorate: Children, Young People and Families

General Role Description

To strategically lead the development and delivery of the education and skills and lifelong learning strategy to maximise the impact of the partnership and make sustained improvement of outcomes for children, young people and their families. This role will provide the directorate's strategic link into the wider Doncaster partnership linked to driving education and skills improvement and statement of intent for 2030 through the Doncaster Growing Together learning programme and University city agendas.

The postholder, will strategically lead the Education functions including all schools across primary, secondary, alternative provision and special sectors and maintain key relationships with local, regional and national partners and stakeholders including DfE, Regional School's Commissioner, head teachers, governors, external learning partners, academies, post 16 providers.

As the lead for statutory education, the postholder will lead a range of operational services across education and vulnerable groups, including Learning Provision Standards and Effectiveness, Virtual School, Education Psychology, Inclusion and SEND, Home to School Transport, School Governance, Safeguarding, and cross Council oversight and customer interface for traded services for schools through Buy Doncaster.

Duties and Responsibilities

Core responsibilities and duties will include:

- To strategically lead the development and delivery of the education and skills and lifelong learning strategy to maximise the impact of the partnership and make sustained improvement of outcomes for children, young people and their families. Working in partnership with key partners, including business sector, leader the development of a comprehensive education and skills strategy.
- To be the statutory lead for education including all schools across primary, secondary, alternative provision and special sectors and maintain key relationships with local, regional and national partners and stakeholders including DfE, Regional School's Commissioner, head teachers, governors, external learning partners, academies, post 16 providers.
- As the lead for statutory education, the postholder will lead a range of operational services across education and vulnerable groups, including Learning Provision Standards and Effectiveness, Virtual School, Education

Psychology, Inclusion and SEND, Home to School Transport, School Governance, Safeguarding, and cross Council oversight and customer interface for traded services for schools through Buy Doncaster.

- Lead the monitoring and holding to account providers of educational services, including schools across the borough, invoking the schools causing concern protocol if required.
- Strategically lead the inclusion strategy and development of an inclusive approach to education and lifelong learning, including holding to account both service providers and users in line with statutory responsibilities and powers in relation to admissions, attendance and exclusion approaches.
- Lead regulatory requirements for relevant service and key priorities, including focus visits and annual conversation as appropriate.
- Lead the continued development of the Buy Doncaster services for schools, ensuring full cost recovery and sustained business model.
- Strategically lead the development of the education improvement offer across 0-25 age range ensuring that service standards are met and that all young people attend education provision to enable improved and sustained outcomes.
- Strategically lead and advocate for improved sustained outcomes for vulnerable groups, discharging statutory duties for SEND and inclusion effectively.
- Lead the effective commissioning of services for all age learning linked to the statement of intent and local offer.
- Actively participate in the partnership activity related to improving outcomes for children and young people, in particular the local Safeguarding Board.

Specialist Skills and Knowledge

Essential skills, knowledge and experience required to fulfil the role include, but are not limited to:

- Qualified teacher and headteacher/ or equivalent.
- Leadership and management qualification.
- Evidence of continuing professional development.

Relevant Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- Significant and successful experience of working at a senior leadership level in education and Children's Services environments and at partnership levels role.
- Demonstrable experience of creatively managing complex budgets and other resources including evaluating competing budget priorities to achieve deliverables, including efficiencies and savings within the limits agreed.
- Proven experience of the involvement with and engagement of education and business partners, service users and carers in the planning, development and

evaluation of services.

- A demonstrable experience of advocating on behalf of children, young people and families, including vulnerable groups, to ensure the voice of the end user drives development of services.
- An in-depth knowledge and understanding of whole system working and how integrated working can improve outcomes within children services with an understanding of whole family issues and interventions.
- An in-depth practical knowledge of major children's services legislative, social and economic issues facing commissioning, contracting and delivery of education and inclusion services, including knowledge and experience of related Health, Education and Social Care related issues.

Date: November 2025