**Job Title: Independent Chair BCP Education Partnership Board**

**Reports to: Director of Education and Skills**

**Grade: Paid on a consultancy basis. The daily rate will be competitive.**

**Time Commitment**

We envisage that the Board will meet half-termly. Other meetings with priority group leads will be required in advance of each meeting plus some other work. It is expected that the time commitment for this role will be a total of 12 – 18 days per year.

We recognise that meetings in person are beneficial to relationship building particularly at the start of the work. For this reason, we would need the person to be able to travel to Bournemouth.

**Role Purpose**

The overarching purpose of Education Partnership Board is:

*To own and drive the conurbation’s education agenda for the benefit of all children and young people across the BCP conurbation drawing on the collective knowledge, skills and experience of all partners in the local education system.*

The board will lead the local education system taking the decisions that can only be taken at the system-leadership level.

The main goal of the role is to unite partners around this purpose, establish objectives aligned with this purpose, and implement strong governance for the identified priorities.

We also expect the chair to bring fresh ideas and an external perspective to our work, ensuring the right balance of support and challenge to the board.

The Chair will:

Governance

* Ensure that the governance arrangements are effective.
* Ensure that there are clear lines of accountability mapped out across the partnership.
* Develop the knowledge and capability of the Board members.
* Encourage positive change where appropriate and address and resolve any conflicts within the Board.
* Appraise the performance of the Board on an annual basis.
* Ensure that the Board is regularly refreshed and incorporates the right balance of skills, knowledge and experience needed to govern and lead the effectively, and which also reflects the wider population.
* Work within any agreed policies and terms of reference adopted by the board.

Relationships

* Act as an ambassador and spokesperson for the board to a range of stakeholders.
* Maintain close relationships with key members of the council, elected members, schools and relevant external stakeholders.
* Ensure that constructive relationships exist between board members and dialogue is strength-based and children and young people focused.

Effectiveness

* Chair the board meetings effectively and efficiently, bringing impartiality and objectivity to decision-making processes.
* Ensure that board members are fully engaged and that decisions are taken in the best interests of children and young people.
* Ensure that the board takes collective ownership of decisions.
* Monitor that decisions taken at meetings are implemented.

**Person Specification**

Skills

* Strong leadership skills, ability to motivate all stakeholders and bring people together.
* Excellent written, verbal communication and presentation skills
* Good oral skills and ability to speak in public, sufficient to represent the BCP Education Partnership Board effectively to the wider audience of schools and the Local Authority.
* Ability to communicate with a range of people at all levels.
* Skills in promoting collaboration between partners, enabling partners to constructively challenge each other in the context of non-defensive learning.
* Organisational abilities to ensure the effective operation of the Board
* Excellent analytical skills to provide effective scrutiny of education data.
* Ability to ensure high standards of confidentiality.
* Assertive, clear thinking and able to negotiate, challenge, have influence and authority.
* Skill in negotiations to assist in resolving conflict between stakeholders.
* Self-motivating and able to operate independently.
* Ability to recognise discrimination in its many forms and to promote equal opportunity

Knowledge and Experience

* Broad knowledge and understanding of the education sector and current issues affecting it.
* Experience of operating at a senior strategic leadership level within an organization.
* A detailed understanding of the education landscape nationally.
* A track record of making a significant difference to underperforming or underrepresented groups.
* Experience of governance and working with or as part of a Board.
* Experience of external representation, delivering presentations and managing a wide range of stakeholders
* Experience of chairing complex professional meetings at a senior level and the ability to chair in an efficient manner.
* Experience of promoting children’s education outcomes demonstrable through previous or current professional or voluntary activities.
* Experience of implementing and managing effective and sustainable change

Personal Qualities

* Demonstrate a strong and visible passion and commitment to the work of the Board, its values, aims and strategic objectives.
* Demonstrate a commitment to the leadership of equality and diversity.
* Personal gravitas to lead a significant local area partnership.
* Exhibit strong inter-personal and relationship building abilities and be comfortable in an ambassadorial role.
* Demonstrate tact and diplomacy, with the ability to listen and engage effectively.
* Strong networking capabilities that can be utilised for the benefit of the board.
* Ability to foster and promote a collaborative team environment.
* Ability to commit time to conduct the role well, including travel and attending events such as the Education Conference.

**How to apply**

Please submit a comprehensive CV and a supporting statement which outlines your reasons for applying and what relevant skills and experience you would bring to the role.

For a confidential discussion regarding the role please contact Lisa Linscott