

Dear Applicant

Chair of the Pathways for All Strategic Board

Nationally, the recent publication of the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 is driving changes in the sector and we are keen to ensure our response to these is as appropriate to the Kent context as we are able to make it. Whilst local authorities have responsibilities in the 16-19 sector, they have no powers.

Locally, as you may be aware, Kent County Council [KCC] recently led a comprehensive Review of post-16 provision in the county focused on the education, skills, and training opportunities available to Kent's young people and how these can be improved. The Review report (*Pathways for All*) is based on extensive research of our post-16 sector, including with young people, providers and stakeholders in Kent. The executive summary and full report can be viewed here <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/college-sixth-form-employment-and-training/kent-16-to-19-review-pathways-for-all>

We are now preparing to take forward the recommendations included in *Pathways for All*; the first of these relates to the establishment of a Strategic Board during the autumn of 2022. Once established, the Board will work to ensure that the other recommendations are taken forward and provide strategic oversight of the co-ordination and development of 16+ provision throughout Kent.

We want the new Board to build on the spirit of collaboration and the consensus on the issues we need to address that has been achieved through the Review process, whilst playing an important role in driving change and holding all partners (including KCC) to account. To achieve this we need the Board to have credible, non-partisan leadership, and to be underpinned by a clear shared moral purpose.

The role of Chair is clearly going to be critical to the success of the Board. Alongside someone who has a good understanding of the policy context and the sector, this role will require excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to develop and deliver a compelling narrative which brings stakeholders together and keeps young people at the heart of decision-making. I have taken the liberty of including a Job Description; if you would like to find out more through an informal discussion, please contact me or my colleagues via kent16-19review@kent.gov.uk

To meet the demands of the role, we envisage a time commitment of approximately two days per month will be required. Whilst we are not able to offer a commercial rate of remuneration, an honorarium up to £12,000 and travel expenses will be paid.

If this is something which sounds of interest to you, a CV and covering letter should be submitted via email to kent16-19review@kent.gov.uk by the close of play on 22 August 2022. The requirement process will involve a panel interview on 6 or 7 September. We would hope to be in a position to make the appointment shortly thereafter with the Chair being available to take up their post ideally in late September or as soon as possible thereafter. The first meeting of the Strategic Board will be on 28 September. If possible, the Chair should be available on that date.

I very much hope you will apply.

With best wishes

Christine McInnes

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Making Kent a county that works for all children