

The Shareholder Committee of the Dorset Centre of Excellence

5 December 2022

Appointment of Non-Executive Directors

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): Cllr

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Claire Shiels
Title: Appointment of Non-Executive Directors
Tel: 01305224683
Email: claire.shiels@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

This report provides an overview of the recruitment process and proposes the appointment of 3 Non-Executive Directors to the Board of the Dorset Centre of Excellence.

Recommendation:

To agree the appointment of the 3 non-executive directors enclosed in the report to the Board of Directors of the Dorset Centre of Excellence.

Reason for Recommendation:

The appointment of directors to the board of the company is a council consent matter (as outlined in the Shareholder Agreement Schedule 1) and the Shareholder Committee for the Dorset Centre of Excellence is responsible for this delegated function.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A review of the membership of the Board of Directors for the Dorset Centre of Excellence identified that the board had strong representation of directors with a wide range of educational and therapeutic experience but would benefit from the addition of board members with a commercial background to support the company to move forward in the delivery and further development of its business plan. The role of the new Non-Executive Directors is to play a key role in building robust compliance, governance, and financial control.
- 1.2 A recruitment process was undertaken, using an executive search agency which brought forward a highly competitive field. Candidates participated in rigorous interviews undertaken by a panel that included the Chair of the Board; the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education,

Skills, and Early Help; the Executive Director People - Children and the Corporate Director – Commissioning and Partnerships.

1.3 The calibre of candidates was high and resulted in the identification of three people who would each be able to add significant value to the board. Due diligence and Disclosure and Barring checks have all been completed satisfactorily. Each board member offers strong commercial experience but will also offer additional experiences that will strengthen the board and support the development of the company into the future.

1.4 An overview of each proposed board member is provided below:

- i.) Hilary Morris – Commercial Director. Hilary is a pragmatic and solution focused commercial leader with over 15 years' experience in delivering high profile organisational change focused on improving outcomes, realising savings, and supporting an inclusive economy. Hilary works for Barking and Dagenham council and has led significant programmes including leading the creation of a commercial company portfolio which includes regeneration, traded and schools improvement vehicles as well de-commissioning of a Council's Joint Venture and the re-design of services for IT, Customer Contact, Corporate Procurement and Income Collection. As a commercial advisor to the Council's Investment and Shareholder Panels, Hilary is focused on securing commercial returns through effective challenge to business cases and business plans combined with strong performance management frameworks.
- ii.) Diane Grannell - retired Principal & Chief Executive of Bournemouth & Poole College. Diane has recently retired following a long career in further and higher education. She has recently been appointed as a Board Member at Falmouth University and will take up that appointment on 1 December 2022. Diane was Principal & Chief Executive for six years and is experienced at working in partnership with many local statutory and industry bodies across Dorset. She led her college to develop a curriculum that better met local skills needs and to improve the quality of student outcomes resulting in an Ofsted judgement of Good in all categories in January 2022. She has served as a Director of Dorset LEP and as Chair of their Finance, Audit & Risk Committee. A qualified Chartered Management Accountant, Diane has worked at several different institutions including nine years as senior finance executive lead at Bournemouth & Poole College and eight years in a similar role at the Arts University, Bournemouth. In addition to financial expertise, she has extensive senior level leadership experience of further and higher education policy and regulation, institutional strategy, culture, organisational development, and quality assurance. At one time or another, she has led most of the different professional services functions relevant to colleges and universities. Diane holds a master's degree in Business Administration from Manchester University. Having been involved in education for most of her working life, she is passionate about providing all young people with opportunities to fulfil their potential whatever their starting point and is a strong advocate for high quality education as a route to future individual success and wider economic prosperity.
- iii.) Anil Patil – Anil is a former barrister specialising in children act, family, and matrimonial finance law. As an entrepreneur, he was the world's first Starbucks franchisee, and now

principal shareholder of an organisation employing more than 1,500 team members across 91 sites, with a market value of c.£135m. Anil currently volunteers as a mentor to looked after children with Barnardo's; is a carer to children and young adults at Naomi House hospice; and is part of Oakhaven hospice community befriending service. He also serves as an independent member of a fostering panel; Non-Executive Director of two health and social care Community Interest Companies; and chairs a charity providing psychological therapies to infants and parents within vulnerable families; and alongside his wife is a respite carer of a child in care.

2. **Financial Implications**

The development and delivery of the Dorset Centre of Excellence Business Plan will be supported through these additional Non-Executive Director posts, which will enhance and support the financial sustainability and growth plans of the company.

Remuneration for Non-Executive Directors is provided by the company.

3. **Environmental Implications**

None identified through this report.

4. **Well-being and Health Implications**

None identified through this report

5. **Other Implications**

None identified through this report

6. **Risk Assessment**

6.1 **HAVING CONSIDERED:** the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: low

Residual Risk: low

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

Not required for this report

8. **Appendices**

None

9. **Background Papers**

none