

New Director of Children's Services appointed

Sue Harrison has been appointed as the Director of Children's Services at Central Bedfordshire Council.

The appointment follows the decision of our current Director, Edwina Grant, to return to her home town of Nottingham following five years of service in Central Bedfordshire. Sue is currently the Director of Children's Services at Blackpool Council where she has overseen a dramatic improvement programme.

Standards across social care, early intervention and school improvement have all risen sharply under her leadership and her commitment to children was described as "abundantly evident" by Cllr Mark Versallion, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services at the council, who was part of the selection panel.

Sue began her career as an English teacher and spent over a decade in the classroom before moving into a School Improvement role within Knowsley Council. She later moved into a broader leadership role at Manchester Council, where she was both a senior educational adviser and also acted as the Assistant Chief Executive. She has worked at Blackpool since 2006 and feels the time is now right for her to take on new challenges.



"I'm delighted to be moving to Central Bedfordshire. It looks to be a wonderful place which is already offering good services to its children and families. I hope to build on the achievements of this still relatively new authority and look forward to bringing my experience and personal motivation to improve the life chances of every child" she said.

Richard Carr added: **"Sue has comprehensive and impressive experience and I'm sure she will make an excellent addition to our management team when she joins us later in the year.**

"I would like to thank Edwina for her contribution to Central Bedfordshire Council. During her five years with us she has helped to substantially improve Children's Services."