

## Denbighshire County Council

### Role Description – Homelessness Champion

#### Accountability

To the Full Council

#### Role, purpose and activities

1. To act as a strong strategic leader on homelessness and raising and promoting homelessness issues.
2. To gain an understanding of homelessness, its' causes and the Council's statutory obligations and where required to explain the duties.
3. To advocate the importance of prevention and responding proactively to homelessness; including advocating realistic funding regimes to provide efficient and effective services for vulnerable families and individuals at risk of homelessness.
4. To gain an understanding of the work of the teams in Housing services including the Homelessness unit and the Supporting People team, promoting these internally and externally. To reflect back to the teams, via appropriate channels, how the service is perceived in the community.
5. To consider and highlight the role of public, private and third sectors in bringing forward solutions.
6. To attend training and regular briefings from the Homelessness team.
7. To visit projects run by the voluntary sector.
8. To keep abreast of the evolving impact of national and legislative changes.
9. As a spokesperson to keep issues at the forefront of debate; raising awareness amongst fellow elected members of homelessness issues and the implications of these for the Council.
10. Where required, in conjunction with the Lead Member and the Councils' Communications team, to engage with the media.

#### Person Specification

##### Within the Council

Understanding of the area of interest being championed in terms of council strategies and policy, good practice, improvement and national agendas and the needs of the client group

Ability to engage with a range of members and officers around the area of interest and listening to requirements

Ability to advocate on behalf of the area of interest within the council

**In the Community**

Understanding of the needs of the community in relation to the interest  
Ability to engage with citizens and community groups in matters related to the interest.

Ability to lead and support local initiatives related to the interest.

Ability to represent the position of the council to the community in relation to the interest.

September 2012

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