

Southend on Sea Borough Council

SOULBURY AGREEMENT

PROCEDURE FOR STRUCTURED PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENTS

PREAMBLE

1. The Soulbury Committee has an agreement for local assessments which recognise the contribution of Soulbury officers to the authority's role in raising standards in schools, improving involvement of young people in community activities and the promotion of child development and learning.
2. The national agreement provides a framework for local decisions relating to an assessment of the officer's contribution.
3. This procedure has been subject to local consultation and negotiation with the relevant trades unions and professional associations and will be kept under regular review. It builds on the national framework in order to provide a local mechanism by which Soulbury officers may apply to the Director of Children and Learning to progress to the first or, subsequently, the second or third levels. Successful enhancement to the first level will result in the award of one additional point on the Soulbury spine and successful enhancement to the second level will result in the award of a further additional point. Thus there is the provision for a Soulbury officer to extend his or her pay scale by up to 3 points, subject to satisfactory assessment.
4. The local assessment process is part of the LA's overarching performance management process and performance appraisal and development scheme, and as such links to service planning, team planning and the Children and Young Persons Plan. The appraisal scheme will be used as a basis for officers to evidence applications for assessment.

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

5. Soulbury officers may apply for assessment after four years' continuous Soulbury service with one or more local authorities. In normal circumstances this will be after not less than two years in the current post (see para. 7 below). Only in exceptional circumstances, which should be discussed with the Head of School Support & Preventative Services, will applications be considered before the four years have elapsed. A Head of Service may also agree, as an exception, the transfer of SPA points from another LA, where the job to be undertaken is the same or broadly similar, but not a promotion to a higher post.

Assessments will be based on the officer's contribution over the four year period. This will be at three levels:

LEVEL 1

- 5.1 Local assessments will be based on the range of duties and responsibilities and achievements against targets and objectives for the post. This assessment of the overall contribution will need to take account of the following national criteria:

- Development - Officers must show that they are fully informed of the developments in their area of specialism;
- Developing the Services - Officers must make a recognised contribution to the policy, planning and meeting of performance targets for their authority;
- Improving Standards - Officers must make an identified contribution to the improvement and evaluation of service delivery across all appropriate aspects of the authority's functions;
- Management and Administration - Officers must manage and assess resources to provide efficient delivery of services;
- Equal Opportunities - Officers must contribute to the development of the authority's policies in improving access to their services in raising achievement levels for their local communities.

LEVEL 2

- 5.2 Assessment of officers' contributions to the service of the LA will be based on showing that they have made a sustained contribution to the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.

LEVEL 3

5.3 Officers will:

- Demonstrate that they have made an exceptional contribution to the development of the service over a sustained period, for instance in developing the Children's Services agenda in the authority.
- Be involved in a programme of cpd focused on the requirements of the service and the aspirations of the officers for their own professional development.

PROCEDURE

6. On completion of four years' continuous Soulbury service with one or more local authorities, two of which have been in the current post, an officer may choose to apply for Level 1 Assessment. For the purpose of this procedure 'current post' means overall job 'type', at the same level, as it is recognised that some responsibilities within that may change from time to time. These areas of responsibility will also be reflected in the officer's current specialism. A Head of Service may also agree, as an exception, the transfer of SPA points from another LA, where the job to be undertaken is the same or broadly similar, but not a promotion to a higher post.
7. Form SASS1 should be completed, providing evidence on how the officer meets the national criteria, in relation to the range of duties and responsibilities outlined in the job description and to achievements against targets and objectives for the post, as discussed by means of the Performance Management Development Scheme and 1 to 1 meetings. The paperwork may be supplemented by a portfolio of evidence, other written records, including externally verified records, but the completion of the proforma is not expected to be extensive.
8. Form SASS1 should be endorsed by the relevant line manager, who will not be involved in the assessment process, but may support the officer should any review be necessary (paragraph 18). The applicant may choose to proceed even where the application is not supported by the line manager. Regardless of whether or not the application is endorsed, a brief written commentary will be provided by the line manager.
9. The application will be considered by the appropriate Head of Service (where this is the line manager, this will be the Corporate Director of Children and Learning).
10. Successful assessment to the first level will result in the payment of an additional point on the Soulbury spine from the date on which the application was made.

11. Assessment to the second level will be subject to a sustained contribution to the efficiency and effectiveness of the service. There is no automatic entitlement to progression. Where annual reviews have taken place the officer's line manager may submit a written recommendation, with documentary evidence, for progression to Level 2. Should the officer wish to apply without the recommendation of the line manager, or where annual review information is not available, the officer may submit a written application. Form SASS2 is provided for this purpose. Regardless of whether or not the application is endorsed, a brief written commentary will be provided by the line manager. Application to the second level will normally be after a minimum of at least one year on the first level and will relate to the annual appraisal interview.
12. The award of a third SPA point will not be made until at least two years after officers have achieved SPA2. Application should be made on form SPSS3, as outlined in paragraph 12.
13. The assessment process will be as outlined in paragraph 10. After each assessment the officer is entitled to oral feedback from the line manager, which may feed into the annual appraisal process.

REVIEW

14. Should officers wish to challenge an assessment to Levels 1, 2 or 3 they have the right to request a review. This right should be exercised in writing, to the Director of Children and Learning, within 14 calendar days of written notification of the formal assessment, outlining the reasons for the review.
15. The Director of Children and Learning will undertake a review of the application. Where the Director of Children and Learning is the line manager, the review will be undertaken by an alternative Corporate Director of the Council.
16. The applicant may be accompanied by a trades union representative or work colleague to that meeting, and may wish to call their line manager in support of their case.
17. The decision will be given in writing within seven calendar days of the date of the review.
18. The decision of the Director will be final. No other procedure will take precedence over the Assessment and Review procedure outlined above.

SOULBURY ASSESSMENT

LEVEL 1

NAME: _____

SERVICE: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

SPECIALISM: _____

DATE APPOINTED TO SOULBURY POST AT SOUTHEND BOROUGH COUNCIL:

DATE APPOINTED TO CURRENT POST: _____

CURRENT SALARY RANGE: _____

CURRENT SPINE POINT: _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: _____

DATE: _____

This application is/is not* supported by the line manager. The
applicant does/does not* meet all five standards.

LINE MANAGER: ----- SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

HEAD OF SERVICE: -----SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

A PORTFOLIO OF EVIDENCE MAY BE ATTACHED.

*Delete as appropriate.

REF SASS1

1.	DEVELOPMENT
<p>Please summarise evidence that you are fully informed of the development in your area of responsibility/specialism over the last 4 years.</p> <p>(As part of your ongoing professional development it is anticipated that this section will include evidence of outcomes arising from up to date knowledge and understanding of local and national developments).</p>	

2.	DEVELOPING THE SERVICES
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Please summarise your personal, and recognised, contribution to the policy, planning and meeting of performance targets for the LEA.

(It is anticipated that the evidence in this section will have a direct correlation to service plans, the Education Development Plan, the Equal Opportunities Action Plan, the Education Strategic Plan and any other departmental plans over the past 4 years. Please cross reference the evidence as appropriate).

Please summarise evidence of your personal contribution to the improvement and evaluation of service delivery across all appropriate aspects of the authority's functions over the past 4 years.

4.	MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION
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Please summarise evidence of your management and assessment of resources over the past 4 years, in order to provide efficient delivery of services.

Please summarise evidence of your contribution, over the past 4 years to the authority's policies in improving access to our services and in raising achievement levels for the local community.

6. EVALUATION BY LINE MANAGER

Line managers are required to carry out an initial assessment of the application, as endorsed on the cover sheet.

In addition, please explain below what evidence additional to this form which you have taken into account. Set the officer's performance in the overall context of the authority's role in raising standards in schools, improving involvement of young people in community activities and the promotion of child development and learning. Indicate to the best of your knowledge whether the information provided by the applicant is correct, that it derives from the applicant's own practice and is representative of their overall performance.

SOULBURY ASSESSMENT

LEVEL 2

NAME: _____

SERVICE: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

SPECIALISM: _____

CURRENT SPINE POINT: _____

DATE PROGRESSED TO LEVEL 1: _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: _____ DATE: _____

This application is/is not* supported by the line manager.

The application has/has not* made a sustained contribution to the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.

LINE MANAGER: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

HEAD OF SERVICE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

* Delete as appropriate.

REF SASS2

PLEASE SUMMARISE AGAINST
EACH STANDARD EVIDENCE OF YOUR SUSTAINED
CONTRIBUTION TO THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
SERVICE SINCE PROGRESSION TO LEVEL 1

(You may choose to use direct extracts from you annual appraisal where these match
the criteria below).

1.	DEVELOPMENT
2.	DEVELOPING THE SERVICES
3.	IMPROVING STANDARDS

4.	MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION
5.	EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
6.	<p>EVAULATION BY LINE MANAGER</p> <p>Please endorse the cover sheet and explain below any additional evidence you have taken into account to assess the officer's sustained contribution to the effectiveness of the service. Indicate to the best of your knowledge whether the information provided by the applicant is correct, that it derives from the applicant's own practice and is representative of their overall performance.</p>

SIGNED: _____ LINE MANAGER: _____

SOULBURY ASSESSMENT LEVEL 3

NAME: _____

SERVICE: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

SPECIALISM: _____

DATE PROGRESSED TO LEVEL 2: _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: _____ DATE _____

This application is/is not* supported by the line manager.

The application has/has not* made a sustained contribution to the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.

LINE MANAGER: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

HEAD OF SERVICE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

* Delete as appropriate

REF SASS3

PLEASE SUMMARISE BELOW EVIDENCE AND EXAMPLES WHICH SUPPORT AN EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN SOUTHEND
(YOU MAY USE APPRAISAL STATEMENTS).

1. CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTHEND'S CHILDREN'S SERVICE

PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND CPD, SINCE THE AWARD OF SPA2, WHICH SUPPORTS BOTH SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND YOUR OWN ASPIRATIONS.

2. CPD