

Blackpool Council Director of Adult Social Services (DASS)

March 2026

Blackpool Council



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in becoming our Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) at Blackpool Council.

This is one of the most important leadership roles in our organisation, and it comes at a pivotal moment for both our council and our town. Blackpool is a place of enormous ambition and resilience. We are seeing significant regeneration and renewed confidence in our future. At the same time, we are realistic about the challenges we face, including deprivation, social complexity and a highly mobile population. These realities make strong, compassionate and well-led adult social care not just important, but essential to the wellbeing of our residents and communities. We have made meaningful progress through our foundation improvement work, strengthening practice, leadership and culture across our services. The next phase is about sustaining momentum, embedding the progress that's been made, and shaping what excellent looks like for Blackpool in future.

This appointment also coincides with a significant period of change through Local Government Reorganisation. Over the coming years, our service footprint is expected to grow substantially, and with that comes the opportunity to help design and lead adult social care at a new scale. We are looking for a leader who can combine a sharp focus on quality and outcomes today with the vision and system leadership needed to shape services for a much larger population tomorrow. You will find in Blackpool a committed political and corporate leadership team, strong partnerships, and a shared determination to improve the lives of our residents. This is a role for a visible, values-driven leader, someone who builds trust, supports their workforce, and works confidently across organisational boundaries. If you are motivated by both the impact of frontline services and the opportunity to shape the future of adult social care in a changing system, we would be delighted to hear from you.

With best wishes,

Neil Jack
Chief Executive

Blackpool Council - Director of Adult Social Services (DASS)



About us

Blackpool is a town with renewed momentum. Investment and regeneration are reshaping its future, while a strong civic spirit continues to define its character. At the same time, many of our residents experience significant disadvantage, making effective, compassionate adult social care central to our ambitions for the town.

Our ambition is clear: to ensure that every adult, regardless of age, disability or complexity of need, can live with dignity, independence and purpose. Adult Social Care in Blackpool is evolving to meet the future with confidence. We are further developing our strengths-based approach that focuses on people's abilities, relationships and community connections, supporting residents to maintain independence for as long as possible. This means working earlier, intervening more effectively, and building solutions that are rooted in neighbourhoods as well as services.



What Makes Us Different?

A Unique Coastal Context

Blackpool's identity as a major visitor destination sits alongside the realities of deprivation, transience and health inequality. This creates a level of complexity that demands thoughtful, adaptive leadership and a strong understanding of place.

A Culture of Strength and Accountability

We are committed to enabling independence while being clear about our statutory responsibilities and our duty to provide safe, high-quality care. Continuous improvement, reflective practice and strong professional leadership are central to how we operate.

System Partnership in Action

We work in an integrated way with health colleagues and the voluntary and community sectors to provide coordinated, person-centred support.

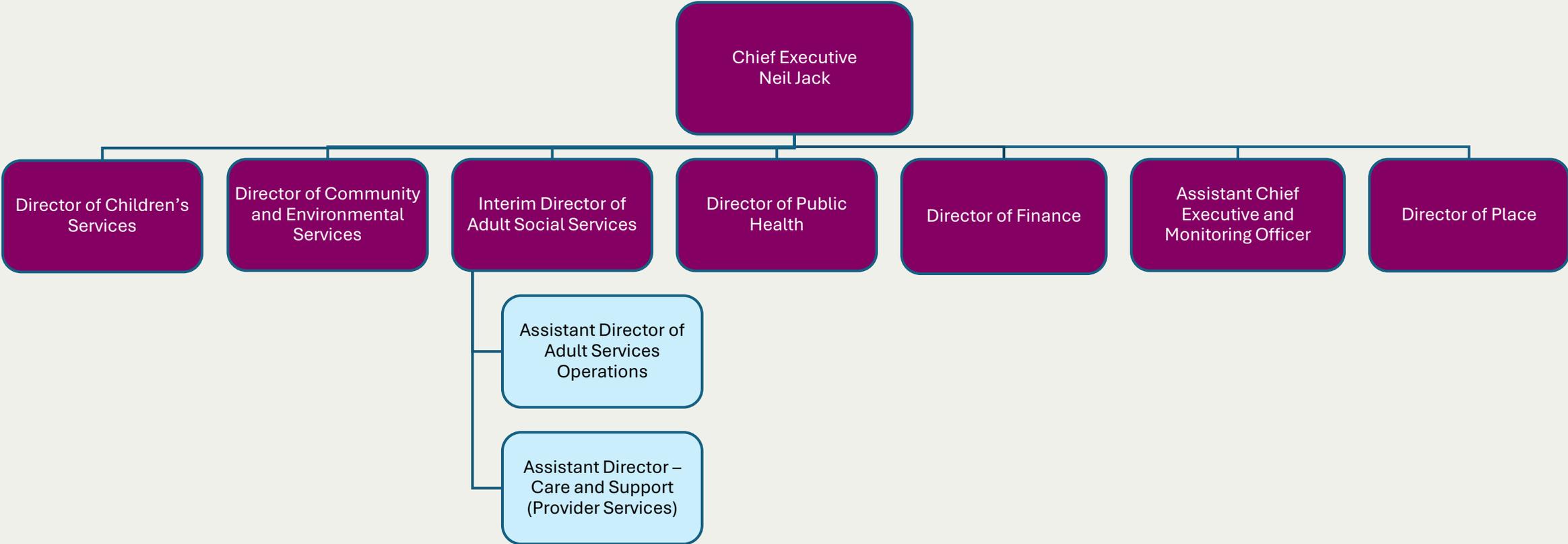
Transformation with Purpose

We are modernising our services through better use of data, digital innovation and co-production with residents and partners. Our focus is on building models of support that are sustainable, responsive and centred on what matters most to people.

Our People

Our workforce is dedicated, skilled and values-driven. We are investing in leadership, practice development and workforce wellbeing, creating an environment where high standards are expected and people feel supported to do their best work.

Senior Leadership Structure



Role Profile

Knowledge, skills and experience

- Must hold a relevant professional qualification in Social Work with evidence of continued professional development in a senior public sector role.
- Management Expertise: A relevant management qualification (e.g., leadership/management degree) and significant experience operating successfully within political and financial constraints.
- Collaborative Leadership: Enhanced interpersonal skills to engage with staff, partners, and residents, building sustainable relationships that facilitate high-quality services.



Key strategic responsibilities

- Service Excellence: Exercise overall responsibility for the management and performance of the department, including professional standards, competence, and improvements to service delivery.
- Regulated Services: Oversee and lead the Council's internal regulated and non-regulated care services, acting as the 'Nominated Person' under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.
- Financial Stewardship: Maintain robust budgetary controls and maximise external partnership funding to enhance service development within finite resources.
- Partnership & Influence: Build arrangements for inter-agency cooperation, promoting social inclusion and wellbeing while representing the authority at local, regional, and national levels.
- Political Advisement: Support Council Members in developing their vision and priorities, providing expert advice to portfolio holders regarding internal and external pressures.
- Emergency Planning: Lead and direct emergency planning and response arrangements as a Category 1 Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act.

Role Purpose

In this role you will:

- Serve as the statutory Director of Adult Social Services (DASS), ensuring the Council fulfils all legislative responsibilities in accordance with the Care Act and the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970.
- Lead the strategic transformation and delivery of services for adults and young people in transition, ensuring that co-production is embedded at every level of care.
- Lead transformation and service improvement, ensuring modern, strengths-based and person-centred practice is embedded across the system. You will provide clear corporate leadership as part of the Chief Executive's Management Team, contributing to the development of strategic priorities across the Council and supporting Members with expert advice, political awareness and professional credibility.
- Provide strategic direction and day-to-day leadership to ensure high-quality professional social work practice that promotes positive outcomes and maintains safeguarding compliance.
- Ensure robust leadership and decision-making across the service to manage risk and provide strategic accountability to the Chief Executive's leadership team.



Salary and Towering Rewards

Salary: up to £135,000

Working at Blackpool

We want Blackpool to be an even better place for everyone to live, work or visit.

Working for Blackpool Council means you will be contributing to the life of local people. We want you to be proud working for the Council, where our hard-working colleagues put the community at the heart of everything they do.

To acknowledge the commitment and contributions of our employees, we have a wide range of benefits and rewards available for you to enjoy.

- A range of wellbeing initiatives to help support you at work.
- Opportunities for the Council to engage with its employees.
- The chance to benefit from a range of personal, professional and career development activities.
- Employee benefits and discounts, including car lease, cycle to work and Corporate Leisure schemes
- Automatic enrolment into the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

For more information about the full range of benefits available to our staff, please view the Towering Rewards pack [here](#).



Timeline

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| Closing date for applications | Monday 6th April 2026 |
| Longlisting panel | Thursday 9th April 2026 |
| Technical interviews (Teams) | Monday 13th/ Tuesday 14th April 2026 |
| Shortlisting Panel | Wednesday 29th April 2026 |
| Assessment Centre (in person) | Friday 8th May 2026 |
| Final interview with Chief Officer Employment Committee | Monday 11th May 2026 |



How to apply

We hope you will consider making an application. To make an application, please go to the [Starfish Search website here](#) and click on the apply now button, with the following prepared:

- Your CV (no more than three sides).
- A supporting statement (no more than two sides) that sets out why you think this role is the right move for you and how you meet the knowledge and experience criteria.

We would also be grateful if you would complete the Equality and Diversity monitoring form on the online application process. This form is for monitoring purposes only and is not treated as part of your application.

Contact Information

For a confidential discussion about the role please contact Tim Farr on 07756 293292 or tim.farr@starfishsearch.com

