

## Membership

**Ordinary Membership** of the Association is open to statutory directors of children's services, senior managers who report directly to a statutory director of children's services ('second tier managers'), and senior managers who report directly to second tier managers ('third tier managers').

**Associate Membership** of the Association is open to children's services professionals who do not meet the criteria for ordinary membership but who are of equivalent seniority within their organisations, or who have held a post of equivalent seniority in the past.

**Membership Fees** of the Association are set annually. The cost of ordinary membership for statutory directors of children's services, second and third tier managers is included in the local authority contribution\* to the Association. The cost of ordinary membership for directors of children's services, second and third tier managers who work in local authorities that do not make the local authority contribution to the Association is calculated at a flat rate. The cost of associate membership is set annually and is calculated at a flat rate.

## Further information

*\*For further information about the local authority contribution and the cost of ordinary and associate membership, please contact a member of ADCS staff (contact details are below).*

*For further information on all aspects of the Association's work, as well as membership details, please do contact us:*

### By post

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### By telephone

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### On the web

[www.adcs.org.uk](http://www.adcs.org.uk)

**ADCS**  
Leading Children's Services

**The Association of  
Directors of Children's  
Services**

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## About us

**The Association of Directors of Children's Services – ADCS – is the national leadership Association in England for statutory directors of children's services and other children's services professionals in leadership roles.**

Our members specialise in considering, developing, commissioning, leading and managing children's services in all the diverse ways in which they are provided to children, young people, families and communities.

Through the contribution of our members, ADCS ensures a vigorous presence in all areas concerning education, children's social care and safeguarding. Our members are actively involved in the strategic planning, delivery, commissioning and management of services for children and young people including adolescents, children at school, in children's centres and nurseries, children in need of different types of protection and care – residential, fostering or adoption – as well as young offenders, teenage parents and vulnerable families.

ADCS is based on a welcoming and supportive regional branch structure which provides a network for mutual support and sits alongside our comprehensive policy committee framework.

ADCS works closely with Ministers, government officials, the community and voluntary sectors, local government organisations and other key local and national agencies on the implementation and implications of *The Children Act 2004* and the Change for Children programme, the children's workforce, local authority and school inspections.

Through its national network of expert professional leaders in children's services, ADCS provides invaluable routine professional support and advice to colleagues.

The Council of ADCS acts as guarantor for the Virtual Staff College (VSC) and is the professional sponsor of Research in Practice (RiP). The VSC provides professional development training and mentoring for children's services leaders and the leaders of tomorrow through a range of developmental activities aimed at building the capacity of local authorities to effectively lead and develop a dynamic children's services sector which improves outcomes for all children and young people. RiP is a childcare research implementation project and is a department of The Dartington Hall Trust. It supports evidence-informed practice to promote positive outcomes for children and families through the use of research evidence. It does so by supporting and encouraging the implementation of research findings into everyday professional practice.

## Our values

We are committed to:

- A national framework for children's services with a clear definition of accountabilities, powers and responsibilities
- Local delivery of children's services that are accountable to local communities through the democratic process
- Promoting equality and diversity in service delivery and in the children's services workforce
- Securing both adequate and equitable funding to deliver and support the work of children's services in each local authority area
- Promoting improved outcomes for all children, young people, their families and carers so that they are healthy, safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well being.

## Our origins

*The Children Act 2004* established for the first time a statutory duty on local authorities to integrate the previously separate functions of education and children's social care, creating children's services departments and the new statutory chief officer post of director of children's services. There can be little doubt that this is one of the most important and challenging chief officer roles in modern local government and as such two well established and influential organisations - the Confederation of Children's Services Managers (Confed) and the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) – agreed to combine their expertise into a single, strong national voice as a champion for children, with local and central government, and with the public.

Launched on 5th February 2007, the Association of Directors of Children's Services brings together Confed and the children's element of the Association of Directors of Social Services. ADCS benefits from the vibrant traditions of the two pre-cursor organisations.