



The following is a joint press release from Solihull Council and Williams Ross Consultants Limited.

Press Release

Chairman of Fostering And Adoption Panel

Anthony Williams, Independent Chairman of Solihull's Fostering and Adoption Panels, has announced he is stepping down from the role.

Mr Williams, who has been chairman for five years, is relinquishing his role to pursue other opportunities.

"I have been proud to work with Solihull Council, and will look back with great fondness at my time working with members and officers" Mr Williams said. I wish the Council well for the future and commend its continued work to put the best interests of children and young people first."

Cllr Ken Meeson, Cabinet Member for Children and young people, said: "This is a demanding role and we would like to thank Tony for the hard work he has put in over the past five years. We wish him well in his future ventures."

Arrangements will be made to appoint a successor as soon as possible.

22 January 2010

<END PRESS STATEMENT>

Information for editors about Williams Ross Consultants Limited:

Anthony Williams is a qualified social worker with over 30 years experience primarily in the field of children & families work. He has over the period 1985-2010 continuously acted as either a professional advisor to, member or mostly chairman of fostering and adoption panels within the local authority and independent sectors. He was educated at Oxford and Bristol universities and had a successful career in the voluntary and local government sectors in frontline, middle and senior management roles. He set up Williams Ross Consultants in 2000 which became incorporated in 2003 and run successfully since with the assistance of his partner Lorraine Ross. The scope of company services are set out on the company website,

www.williamsross.co.uk. Mr Williams is planning to retire in 2015 but in the interim will continue as an expert witness in family proceedings, a children's guardian appointed by the Court and other professional ventures in support of children and families.

Post script by WRC Ltd:

Solihull Council will in due course be holding a farewell event in recognition of the partnership between the Council & Mr Williams. Details will be supplied to officers and Members shortly once a date is fixed. Mr Williams looks forward to meeting staff, fostering/adoption panel and elected members in due course.