



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 7th June 2007

Subject: Co-options to the Board

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for co-options to the Board.

2.0 Background

2.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, which relates to scrutiny, states that in addition to elected Members appointed by Council, the relevant Scrutiny Board dealing with education matters shall include in its membership the following voting representatives in accordance with statutory requirements:

- One Church of England diocese representative
- One Roman Catholic diocese representative
- Three parent governor representatives

2.2 A relevant Scrutiny Board is a Scrutiny Board of a local education authority, where the Board's functions relate wholly or in part to any education functions which are the responsibility of the authority's Executive. If the Scrutiny Board deals with other matters, these representatives shall not vote on those other matters, though they may stay in the meeting and speak.

2.3 The Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses have nominated Professor Gosden and Mr Britten to continue as their respective representatives.

- 2.4 The current parent governor representatives are
- Mr Cluny Macpherson (special) - term of office expires 11th January 2009
 - Mr Robert Greaves (secondary) – term of office expires 18th October 2009
 - Mrs Sue Knights (primary) – term of office expires 25th June 2010
- 2.5 In addition, Article 6 of the Constitution allows that each Scrutiny Board shall be entitled to appoint up to five non-voting co-optees.¹ Each Scrutiny Board may also appoint up to two non-voting co-opted Members to assist with a particular scrutiny Inquiry.
- 2.6 During 2006/2007 Scrutiny Board (Children’s Services) made the following non-voting co-opted appointments:
- Two teacher representatives –Ms Celia Foote and Mr Tim Hales
 - Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership – Mrs Sandra Hutchinson
 - A representative of NCH – Mr Paul Gathercole
 - A representative of the Leeds Youth Work Partnership – Ms Taira Kayani
- 2.7 In making these appointments, Members were keen to ensure coverage of each of the major service areas within children’s services.
- 2.8 An alternative approach was considered at the time, which was to invite a nomination from the Leeds VOICE Children and Young People Services Forum. Members agreed in principle that this alternative approach should be adopted for the coming municipal year. The current NCH representative, Mr Gathercole, is also a member of the Children and Young People Services Forum.
- 2.9 The Leeds VOICE Children and Young People Services Forum is a representative forum for around 500 local voluntary, community and faith organisations. It was established in May 2003 to enable the sector to contribute to the development of service planning for children and young people through
- Representation on strategic groups both locally and citywide
 - Consultation with organisations, children and young people
 - Communicating up to date news, sharing good practice and signposting support and advice
- The Forum is represented on the Children Leeds Partnership and each of the five District Partnerships.
- 2.10 If the Scrutiny Board were to invite a nomination from the Children and Young People Services Forum this would be a generic representative, who would be expected to reflect views across the range of voluntary, community and faith group services to children and young people.
- 2.11 In the event that the nomination from the Children and Young People Services Forum did not have social care experience, the Scrutiny Board would still have the option to co-opt someone with such a background for relevant inquiries.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider co-options to the Board for the coming year.

¹ Co-option would normally only be appropriate where the co-opted Member has some specialist skill or knowledge which would be of assistance to the Board.