

Report of: Director of Children and Families

Report to: Inner East Community Committee (Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton & Harehills, Killingbeck & Seacroft wards)

Report author: Gillian Mayfield and Nicola Engel

Date: 7th September 2017

For Decision

Changes to Clusters and Appointments for 2017/2018

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update the Community Committee on the changes that have occurred within the cluster structures affecting the Inner East Community Committee and to invite the Committee to make appointments to the Children's Services Cluster Partnerships, as listed at paragraph 14.

Main issues

1. Noting the changes that have occurred within the clusters
2. Appointments to Children's Services Cluster Partnerships
3. Previously, Member Management Committee has resolved that the nomination of Elected Member representatives to the local Children's Services Cluster Partnerships be designated as a 'Community & Local Engagement' appointment, and therefore be delegated to Community Committees for determination.

Background information

Children's Services Cluster Partnerships

Clusters are local partnerships that have evolved from partnerships of schools within a specific geographical area. In addition to schools the partnerships include representation from Children's Social Work Service, schools, governors, Police, Leeds City Council youth service, Youth Offending Service, Children's Centres, Housing services, third sector, health, local elected members. Local clusters are key to the Children & Families Trust Board partnership and delivery arrangements.

4. The purpose of clusters is to:
 - enable local settings and services to work together effectively to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families;
 - build capacity to deliver early intervention, preventative and targeted services to meet local needs;
 - create the conditions for integrated partnership working at locality level;
 - promote the Children & Young People's Plan and the ambition for Leeds to be a child friendly city.
5. The value of the cluster model was confirmed by the Ofsted report, March 2015 which stated that a "well-coordinated locality and cluster approach results in early identification and extensive work with families according to need."
6. Clusters began life as extended services for schools and have grown to engage a wide range of partners who provide early help and early intervention and prevention. In April 2011, the Children & Families Trust Board and Schools Forum agreed the adoption of a minimum standard for the terms of reference across the cluster partnerships, which included elected members as standing members of the governance group for each partnership.
7. Elected Members also sit alongside a senior leader (Local Authority Partner) from the Children's Services directorate to be part of the Council's representation on each cluster partnership.
8. In June 2013 Member Management Committee delegated the nomination of Elected member representatives to local Children's Services Cluster partnerships to Community Committees. This was with the aim of establishing a clear formal link between those Committees and Clusters. It was also with the intention of building closer working arrangements to better support the needs of children and families across the city. As a general principle it was agreed that each cluster would have two elected member representatives on their governing committee.

Main Issues

9. At the June meeting of the Inner East Community Committee, the committee was invited to appoint Cluster Representatives:
 - ❖ 1 Member to the CHESS cluster. The CHESS cluster covers schools in the Chapel Allerton and Gipton & Harehills wards. (Vacant)
 - ❖ 2 Members to the Inner East cluster – 1 Member from Burmantofts & Richmond Hill and 1 Member from Gipton & Harehills wards. (The appointment of Councillors D Ragan and S Arif was to be confirmed on receipt of information from the Cluster)
 - ❖ 1 Member to the Seacroft/Manston cluster – 1 Member from Killingbeck & Seacroft ward. (Councillor C Dobson was appointed)
10. In September 2017 the CHESS and NeTworks clusters merged to create one cluster known as 2gether. There are no changes to the geographical coverage of the new cluster however as a result there is now only one Joint Collaborative Committee (JCC) which is the governance model for the cluster.
11. It is proposed that two elected member representatives are appointed to sit on the JCC, with one being appointed from the Inner East Community Committee and one from the Inner North East Community Committee.

12. The table below sets out the suggested make up of elected member representation to the 2gether cluster.

13.

Cluster	Number of Elected Members	Suggested Ward link
2gether	1 from Inner North East CC.	Chapel Allerton or Moortown
	1 from Inner East CC	Gipton and Harehills

14. In addition, this report seeks to confirm that the restructure of the CHESS and NeTworks clusters has not impacted on the adjacent clusters. As such, the Committee is asked to confirm the appointments suggested to the Inner East Cluster as detailed in para 9 above.

Corporate considerations

a. Consultation and engagement

This report facilitates the necessary consultation and engagement with Community Committee Members in respect of appointments to the designated positions. Given that the Community Committee is the relevant appointing body, there is no requirement to undertake a public consultation exercise on such matters.

b. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

Council representation on Children's Services Cluster Partnerships will enable those appointed Members to act as a conduit in terms of promoting the Council's policies and priorities. As such, this would potentially include matters relating to equality, diversity, cohesion or integration.

c. Council policies and city priorities

Council representation on partnerships and organisations to which the Community Committee has authority to appoint, is in line with the Council's Policies and City Priorities.

d. Legal implications, access to information and call in

In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, the power to Call In decisions does not extend to those decisions taken by Community Committees.

e. Risk management

In not appointing to those Outside Bodies or Cluster Partnerships listed within the report, there is a risk that the Council's designated representation on such organisations would not be fulfilled.

Conclusion

15. The Community Committee is asked to consider and determine its appointment to the 2gether cluster partnership and confirm the appointments to the Inner East Cluster as detailed within the report.

Recommendations

The Community Committee is asked to

1. Note the merge of the two cluster partnerships formally known as CHESS and Networks to form the new 2gether cluster.
2. Consider the request to appoint one Member from the Gipton & Harehills ward to the 2gether Cluster
3. To note the information provided regarding the Inner East Cluster and to confirm the appointment of Councillor D Ragan and Councillor S Arif to that Cluster