

Report of: City Solicitor

Report to: Inner West Community Committee, [Armley, Bramley & Stanningley and Kirkstall]

Report author: Debbie Oldham

Tel: 0113 3788656

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For decision

Community Committee Appointments 2024/2025

Purpose of report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to note the appointment of Councillor Alice Smart as Chair of the Community Committee for 2024/25 as agreed at the recent Annual Council Meeting, and to invite the Committee to make appointments to those positions detailed in section 6 / the appendices. Members are also asked to consider the appointment of a Deputy Chair whilst Cllr Smart is on maternity leave.

Main issues

Noting Appointment of Community Committee Chair for 2024/25

1. Members are invited to note the appointment of Councillor Alice Smart, as Chair of the Community Committee for 2024/25, as agreed at the recent Annual Meeting of Council.

Appointments to Outside Bodies including Cluster Partnerships and Local Care Partnerships

2. General Purposes Committee annually determines which Outside Bodies will be delegated to Community Committees for appointment. Attached at Appendix 1 is the current schedule of organisations as delegated to the Community Committee.
3. Most recently, Member Management Committee agreed in 2019 that appointments to Local Care Partnerships be delegated to Community Committees for determination.

Appointments to Community Committee ‘Champions’

4. The Constitution requires that Community Committees appoint Member ‘Champions’ in several designated areas. Currently, these areas are: ‘Environment & Community Safety’; ‘Children’s Services’; ‘Employment, Skills & Welfare’; and ‘Health, Wellbeing & Adult Social Care’.

Appointment to Corporate Parenting Board

5. In recent years Community Committees have been used as the appropriate body by which local Elected Member representatives are appointed to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Schedule of Appointments

6. The Committee is invited to review the details in the table below together with the accompanying information which follows / is appended, and determine appointments for the 2024/25 municipal year:

Organisation / Outside Body	No. of Places	Current Appointee(s)
Outside bodies		
Bramley Poors Allotment Trust	1	Cllr K Ritchie
Families and Children’s Clusters		
Bramley	1	Cllr K Ritchie
ACES	1	Vacant (Former Cllr McKenna)
Headingley/ Kirkstall	1	Cllr H Bithell
Local Care Partnerships		
West Leeds Local Care Partnership	1	Cllr K Ritchie
Armley Local Care Partnership (Bramley, Wortley, Middleton seat)	2	Cllr K Ritchie Cllr A Parnham
Champions		
Employment, Skills and Welfare	2	Cllr T Hinchcliffe Vacant (Former Cllr McKenna)

Children's Services	2	Cllr Bithell Vacant (Former Cllr Gruen)
Health, Wellbeing & Adult Social Care	2	Cllr K Ritchie Cllr A Parnham
Environment & Community Safety	2	Cllr A Rontree Cllr T Hinchcliffe
Corporate Parenting Board	2	Cllr Bithell Vacant (Former Cllr Gruen)

Options

Outside Bodies

7. The Community Committee is invited to determine the appointments to those Outside Bodies as detailed within the table at section 6 / the appendices. The Council's Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules can be made available to Members upon request, however, a summary of the rules can be found at sections 8-13:
8. The Community Committee should first consider whether it is appropriate for an appointment to be of a specific office holder¹ either by reference to the constitution of the outside body concerned (if available), or in the light of any other circumstances as determined by the Community Committee. Such appointments would then be offered on this basis.
9. Nominations will then be sought for the remaining places, having regard to trying to secure an overall allocation of places which reflects the proportion of Members from each Political Group on the Community Committee as a whole.
10. All appointments are subject to annual change unless otherwise stated within the constitution of the external organisation, which will therefore be reflected on the table at Appendix 1. Each appointment (including in-year replacements) runs for the municipal year, ending at the next Annual Council Meeting.
11. A vacancy occurring during the municipal year will normally be referred to the Community Committee for an appointment to be made, having regard to the principles described above.
12. Community Committees may review the list of organisations to which they are asked to make appointments at any time and make recommendations, as the Committee feels appropriate.
13. Any appointments to those Outside Bodies detailed in the appendices / section 6 which are made by the Committee at today's meeting are subject to General Purposes

¹ For example it may be considered necessary or otherwise appropriate to appoint a specific Ward Member

Committee approving at its first meeting of the municipal year that arrangements for such appointments remain unchanged and that they continue to be made by this Community Committee.

Local Care Partnerships

14. Local Care Partnerships (LCPs) bring health and care providers together with other partners and local communities to improve people's experience of care to be more personalised and joined up. The second purpose is to tackle the health inequalities that exist both within local communities and across Leeds. LCPs are aligned to Primary Care Network boundaries; NHS funded collaborations of GP practices working together locally to share resources and extend their offer. Further information on Local Care Partnerships and their current priorities can be found on their website: www.leedslcps.org.uk
15. From July 2019 forwards Community Committee meetings agreed individual arrangements for representation from Members at LCP meetings. Members raised that representation on LCPs could helpfully be aligned with the existing Community Committee Health Champion role for some committees, as well as consider how wider elected members were included. Community Committees recognised there were already good relationships in place between some Members and individual GPs but that the picture varied significantly from GP practice to GP practice.
16. In previous years, appointments to LCPs have been made using a 'best fit' approach to membership, mapping the geography of LCPs to Community Committee boundaries. Appendix 2 captures this best fit. Frequency of meetings varies from one LCP to another (current arrangements are captured in Appendix 2). Whilst some meet monthly, increasingly partners come together on a bimonthly or quarterly basis with working groups in between. All LCPs also have working groups or task and finish groups to take forward their key priority strands of work. During COVID, meetings were virtual which has resulted in a greater breadth of partners being able to attend and contribute regularly. This includes participation by Members. Moving forward, to strike a balance between attendance and ability to network and strengthen local relationships, the LCPs have moved to a model of a mix of in person meetings (at least three per year per LCP) and online meetings (mainly by Teams, some by Zoom).
17. Members are an integral part of LCPs and it is requested that the links between LCPs and Community Committees are retained and strengthened. Community Committees are therefore requested to nominate members to those LCPs aligned to their Committee.

Community Committee 'Champions'

18. The Community Committee Champions role aims to provide a local "lead" perspective and further facilitate local democratic accountability; particularly in conjunction with the relevant Executive Member. It is formally defined as covering the following areas:
 - To provide local leadership and champion the agenda at the Community Committee;
 - To represent the Community Committee at relevant meetings, forums and local partnerships;
 - To build links with key services and partners;

- To provide a link between the Community Committee and the Executive Member to ensure local needs are represented, issues are highlighted, best practice is shared and to facilitate local solutions to any issues;
 - To maintain an overview of local performance; and
 - To consult with the Community Committee and represent local views as part of the development and review of policy.
19. As set out in the Constitution, the Community Committee is invited to appoint to the Community Lead Member roles detailed in section 6.
20. Given that these roles may need to be tailored to best reflect specific local needs and circumstances, Community Committees may wish to consider splitting 2 of the roles namely:
- Environment & Community Safety – with one Member focusing on the environment agenda and another on community safety.
 - Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care – with one Member covering the public health and wellbeing agenda and another focusing upon adult social care.
21. Further to this, the Champions’ Role Profile, as ratified at the Community Committee Chairs’ Forum in 2022 and as previously presented to Community Committees is detailed below for information:

- Lead on the oversight and delivery of a themed programme work across the Community Committee Area
- Work with elected colleagues, partners and local people to drive improvements across the committee area within the remit of the Champion theme
- To provide regular updates to the Community Committee and bring any emerging or priority issues relating to the theme to the attention of the committee
- To chair themed sub-groups, and where appropriate provide oversight on requests for grant funding relevant to the theme
- To lead on the dissemination of information and raise awareness of agreed issues relating to the theme
- Provide political influence in the delivery of the theme in the committee area
- To work with the relevant Executive Member and other themed champions across the city to address city wide priorities associated with the theme
- Support the development of local and cross committee themed projects where appropriate
- Attend and represent the Community Committee at themed events and other activities as appropriate

Corporate Parenting Board

22. Under the Children’s Act 1989, all local Councillors are corporate parents, this means they have responsibilities relating to the quality of services for those children who have been taken into care by the local authority (children looked after).
23. Executive Board has previously agreed a clear framework for the corporate parenting role in Leeds which is set out in the Leeds Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021 - 2024. This includes ensuring a core group of councillors with a special

interest in leading the work on Corporate Parenting – who are nominated to the 'Corporate Parenting Board'. This Corporate Parenting Board includes representation from each of the 10 Community Committees alongside partners from relevant statutory and third sector organisation, and takes particular responsibilities relating to influencing, performance monitoring, and governance of those issues and outcomes that affect looked after children.

24. In 2021 Leeds published the City's Corporate Parenting strategy which sets out the priorities for ensuring that our children in care and care leavers receive the highest quality services and support. This strategy is overseen by our Corporate Parenting Board, which also ensures that our 'Promises' to children in care and care leavers are delivered. The Board considers information including fostering services, residential care, looked after children's educational attainment and their voice and influence across the city. Representatives on the board are expected to link back to their Community Committee and champion the importance of effectively supporting the work of the board. The Corporate Parenting Board is an important partnership within the overall framework of support and accountability for looked after children's services and is chaired by the relevant executive member.
25. The Community Committee is asked to appoint one representative to the Corporate Parenting Board for the duration of the forthcoming municipal year and to promote attendance and engagement with the Corporate Parenting Board. The Committee may consider it appropriate to combine the role with that of the Committee's Children's Services 'Champion'.
26. It should be noted that membership of the Corporate Parenting Board is encouraged for any Elected Members with a particular interest in the outcomes of looked after children, therefore whilst each Community Committee is asked to appoint one Member (to ensure an even geographic spread), it is possible for additional Members to participate. Therefore, additional Members with a particular interest are advised to make the relevant officers aware.

Children's Services Cluster Partnerships

27. Clusters are local partnerships that include, amongst others: the 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 and a senior representative from children's services. Local clusters are key to the Leeds Children and Young People's Partnership arrangements.
28. They aim to:
 - enable local settings and services to work together effectively to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families;
 - build capacity to improve the delivery of 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 of a child friendly city across the locality.
29. A "well-coordinated locality and cluster approach results in early identification and extensive work with families according to need." (Ofsted report, March 2015).
30. 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.

31. 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.
32. 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 children and families across the city.

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 and Outside Bodies. 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

Both the Community Committee Champion roles and the Corporate Parenting role aim to champion, address and monitor issues arising in their respective fields, whilst also providing clear links with the relevant Executive Member, Council officers and partner agencies. As such, these roles would also look to address any equality, diversity, cohesion or integration issues arising in their specific areas.

Also, Council representation on Outside Bodies and 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.

c. Council policies and city priorities

Council representation on, and engagement with those Outside Bodies, partnerships and organisations to which the Community Committee has authority to appoint, is in line with the Council's policies and 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.

If a Councillor is nominated to an Outside Body by the Council then that Councillor receives full indemnity from the Council. For example should someone attempt to take civil action against a Councillor personally in their role as a Council appointed trustee/director of an Outside Body; then the Council would cover the cost of defending the action against that Councillor, and if the action were successful the Council would cover any compensation which the Councillor had to pay. The only exceptions to this are for “fraud, or other deliberate wrongdoing or recklessness”, or for a criminal offence (although the indemnity would cover defending criminal proceedings, if no conviction resulted). The indemnity applies to a company, trust, or charity and whether a Councillor is nominated as a director or trustee. If a Member becomes a trustee or director but has not been nominated by the Council, then the indemnity will not apply, and the Member should check that the trust, company etc. has got appropriate insurance cover for its trustees/directors.

e. Risk management

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

Conclusion

33. The Community Committee is asked to consider and determine the appointments to those designated Outside Bodies, partnerships and organisations as detailed within the report and appendices.

Recommendations

34. The Community Committee is asked to consider and confirm appointments to those positions detailed in section 6 / the appendices, having regard to the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules, as summarised in this report;
35. The Committee is also invited to note the appointment of Councillor Alice Smart, as Chair of the Community Committee for the duration of 2024/25, as agreed at the recent Annual Meeting of Council, and the appointment of a Deputy Chair.

Background information

- None