Community Committee

Leeds CITY COUNCIL

Report of: City Solicitor

Report to: Outer North East Community Committee – Alwoodley, Harewood & Wetherby Wards

Report author: John Grieve, Governance Services, Tel (0113) 224 3836

Date: 13th June 2016 **For decision**

Community Committee Appointments 2016/2017

Purpose of report

1 The purpose of this report is to invite the Committee to make appointments to the following, as appropriate:-
- Those Outside Bodies as detailed at Appendix 1;
- One representative to the Corporate Parenting Board;
- Community Committee Champions, as listed; and
- Those Children's Services Cluster Partnerships, also as listed.

Main issues

1. **Outside Bodies**

2. Member Management Committee annually determines which Outside Bodies will be delegated to Community Committees for appointment. Attached at Appendix 1 are those organisations.

3. **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'.

5. **Children's Services Cluster Partnerships**

6. 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.

7. **Corporate Parenting Board**

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

Options

9. **Outside Bodies**

10. The Community Committee is requested to determine the appointments to those Outside Bodies as detailed within Appendix 1. The Council's Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules can be made available to Members upon request.

11. The Community Committee should first consider whether it is appropriate for an appointment to be of a specific office holder[1] 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. Elected Members will fill all available appointments but it is recognised that Political Groups may not wish to take up vacancies which are made available to them. In such circumstances, vacancies will be notified to the Community Committee and agreement sought as to whether the vacancy will be filled.

15. 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.

16. Community Committees may review the list of organisations to which they are asked to make appointments at any time and make recommendations to Member Management Committee.

17. Please note, any appointments to those Outside Bodies detailed in Appendix 1 which are made by the Committee at today's meeting are subject to Member Management 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.

18. **Outside Body Appointments 2016/2017**

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

19. This year there is one appointment to be made in relation to the following organisation:-

    Aberford Almshouse Trust – (4 year appointment – currently Councillor M Robinson)

Local Housing Advisory Panels

20. Due to changes regarding Elected Member representation on the Local Housing Advisory Panels, a dedicated report on this can be found elsewhere on the agenda.

21. **Community Committee Champions**

22. 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.
- To consult with the Community Committee and represent local views as part of the development and review of policy.

23. As set out in the Constitution, the Community Committee is invited to appoint to the following Community Lead Member roles, in respect of:

- **Environment & Community Safety** (Councillor G Wilkinson)
- **Children's Services** (Councillor A Lamb)
- **Employment, Skills and Welfare** (Councillor M Robinson)
- **Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care** (Councillor N Buckley)

24. Given that these roles may need to be tailored to best reflect specific local needs and circumstances, Community Committees may wish to consider splitting two 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.

25. **Corporate Parenting Board**

26. 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).

27. Executive Board has previously agreed a clearer framework for the corporate parenting role in Leeds. This included establishing a core group of councillors with a special interest in leading the work on Corporate Parenting - the 'Corporate Parenting Board'.

This core group includes representation from each of the 10 Community Committees and takes particular responsibilities relating to influencing, performance monitoring, and governance of those issues and outcomes that affect looked after children.

28. In February 2015, Executive Board approved a report that proposed a number of developments to enhance the Corporate Parenting Board, including a better link to the 'Care Promise' for looked after children and more regular involvement from senior leaders and partners both within and outside of the Council. The Board considers information including fostering services, residential care, looked after children's educational attainment and their voice and influence across the city. Representatives are asked to link back to local looked after children's issues through their Community Committee and champion the importance of effectively supporting those children. This is an important role within the overall framework of support and accountability for looked after children's services. The March 2015 Ofsted report for Leeds highlighted the positive benefits and impact of the Board's work.

29. The Community Committee is asked to appoint one representative to the Corporate Parenting Board for the duration of the 2016/17 municipal year. The Committee may consider it appropriate to combine the role with that of the Committee's Children's Services 'Champion'.

30. 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 approach the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board.

31. **Children's Services Cluster Partnerships**

32. 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 Children & Families Trust Board partnership and delivery arrangements.

33. 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.

34. A "well-coordinated locality and cluster approach results in early identification and extensive work with families according to need." (Ofsted report, March 2015).

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. The Committee is invited to nominate Members to each cluster partnership within their area. The table below sets out the suggested numbers, Ward links and current representation as a basis for discussion:

CLUSTER	**NOS of ELECTED MEMBERS SUGGESTED**		**SUGGESTED WARD LINK**	**MEMBER REPS APPOINTED**
Alwoodley, Roundhay, Moortown (ARM)	3	North East (Outer) North East (Inner) North East (Inner)	1 Alwoodley 1 Roundhay 1 Moortown	D COHEN - -
EPOSS (Elmet partnership of schools and services)	2	North East (Outer) North East (Outer)	1 Harewood 1 Wetherby	M ROBINSON A LAMB

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. As such, this would potentially include matters relating to equality, diversity, cohesion or integration.

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 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

39. 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 appendix.

Recommendations

40. The Community Committee is asked to consider and confirm appointments to the following:-

(i) The Elected Member representatives to work with the Outside Bodies identified above/at Appendix 1, or agree any changes to the schedule, having regard to the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules, as summarised in this report;

(ii) Member representatives to those Community Committee Champion roles, as listed;

(iii) Member representatives to the local Children's Services Cluster Partnerships relevant to the Community Committee, as listed; and

(iv) One Member representative to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Background information

- None