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**Report of the Chief officer for Children and Young people's social Care**

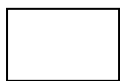
**Member Management Committee**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**Subject: Civic Fostering Panel**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**



Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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**Executive Summary**

1.1 To seek Member Management Committee approval to designate the Civic Fostering Panel as a Strategic and Key Partnership and appoint members to that Panel. Also to seek councillor nominations for the current vacancies on the existing Fostering and Adoption panels.

**2.0 Purpose Of This Report**

2.1 To seek Member Management Committee approval to designate the Civic Fostering Panel as a Strategic and Key Partnership and appoint members to that Panel.

**3.0 Background Information**

3.1 Leeds currently has 3 Fostering Panels and 3 Adoption Panels. Due to the volume of work it has been necessary to establish a fourth Fostering Panel and this will become operational in the New Year, with a February start date.

3.2 Fostering and adoption panels are governed by legislation and regulations as well as internal procedures. The Adoption Panel has a requirement of 2 elected members for each panel and the Fostering Panel has a requirement of 1 elected member. Panel members may only sit on the panel they are appointed to and substitutions are not allowed.

3.3 Members will be aware there are vacancies for elected members on existing panels. There are vacancies on the Osmondthorpe Fostering Panel and the Dewsbury Road Fostering Panel. There are also vacancies on the Skyrack Adoption Panel and the Leodis Adoption Panel. It should be noted that all the panels take business from all parts of the city and the names of the panels are either historical names or denote the location of the panel meeting.

#### **4.0 Main Issues**

4.1 Panel business requires members to read the papers before attending the meeting. Papers are relatively extensive, containing detailed information on children and families and may take approximately 1-3 hours to read. The length of the panel meetings vary but usually last between 2 -3 hours. A 75% attendance at panel over the year is a requirement of the protocol.

#### **5.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

5.1 The Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules state that where a request to make an appointment is received then determination of this will be based on one or more of the following criteria being met:

- the proposed appointment is a statutory requirement;
- the proposed appointment would be consistent with the Council's policy or strategic objectives; and/or
- the proposed appointment would add value to the Council's activities.

5.2 Where an organisation is deemed to have met one or more of these criteria, Members are requested to allocate it to one of the following categories:

- Strategic and Key Partnerships – participation contributes to the Council's strategic objectives and community leadership role
- Community and Local Engagement – not necessary to fulfil strategic or key partnership role but, nonetheless, beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from an area or ward perspective.

5.3 The appointing body for Strategic and Key Partnerships is the Member Management Committee. The appointing body for Community and Local Engagement is the appropriate Area Committee.

5.4 Members are asked to consider whether appointments should be made to this body and to agree that such appointments would fall into the Strategic and Key Partnerships category.

5.5 Members are also asked to consider making an appointment to the newly formed Civic Fostering Panel.

#### **6.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

6.1 Fostering Regulations 2002 and the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005 outline the requirements of the panels functions and membership. Regulation 24c states that in the case of a local authority fostering service, at least 1 elected member of the local authority is required. Regulation 3c of the Adoption Agencies Regulations states that in the case of a local Authority 1 member is required. The Adoption panels have always had 2 members sitting on each of the 3 panels.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 That the Civic Fostering Panel be designated as a Strategic and Key Partnership and appoint a member to that Panel.
- 7.2 That consideration is given to nominating members to the vacant panels, namely 2 Fostering Panels and 2 Adoption Panels.

## **Background Papers**

Appointments to Outside Procedure Rules

Fostering Agencies Regulations 2002

Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005