



Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Report to Member Management Committee

Date: 29 June 2010

Subject: COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON SCHOOL TRUSTS

Electoral Wards Affected:

All (with specific implications for Outer East Area Committee area)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Executive Summary

1. This report seeks to support Elected Member involvement on the boards of School Trusts. It recommends that the relevant Area Committee considers the appointment of an elected member representative to become a trustee. This would complement elected member involvement in local and area Children Leeds partnerships.
2. The report specifically covers proposals for the Brigshaw Federation – A Co-operative Trust which has now been established and recommends that an Elected Member from Outer East Area Committee becomes a trustee.

Background

3. As indicated in the attached appendix (appendix one), a number of schools in Leeds are currently in or considering the formation of a Schools Trust. Some of the Trusts formed to date have included the Council through the appointment of Elected Members in their role as school governors. This is not applicable to all schools so following the Leeds City Council Executive Board's support of developing new governance arrangements (January 2009) there is now an expectation on trusts to include the Council as a Trust partner and for nominations to be made for trustees.
4. Particularly where there are a cluster of schools involved, including the Council as partner provides an opportunity to ensure links to Children's Services and other council functions and allows for democratic involvement. It also provides the potential to link to the work of the Area Committees and partnership working at locality level through extended services cluster partnerships and Area Children Leeds Partnerships.

Formation of The Brigshaw Federation: A Co-operative Trust

5. The Brigshaw Trust is now being established. Discussions held during the development phase led to the suggestion to include two trustee positions for the Council in the proposed make up of the Trust Board:
 - A senior officer nominated by the Director of Children's Services to provide strategic links to Children's Services, other Council Services and partnership arrangements through the Children's Trust
 - An Elected Member to provide for democratic involvement and links to the work of the Council and the local Area Committee
6. The articles of association for the Trust have now been prepared and are appended for information (appendix two). The Trust is now seeking to confirm its proposed trustees. Member Management Committee is therefore asked to consider the appointment of an Elected Member to serve as a trustee, alongside a senior council officer from Children's Services.
7. The Trust is arranging a planning workshop for 8th July and would like all trustees to take part if possible.

Appointment Process for Elected Members

8. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. If Members are of the view that these appointments would fall into the Community and Local Engagement category then the appointments should be made by the relevant Area Committee(s).

Implications for Council Policy and Governance

13. The appointment of elected members to School Trusts would contribute to the Council's strategic functions, priorities for children's services and community leadership role. It would augment the role of Area Committees with regard to their work on children's services and the content of Area Delivery Plans and provide local democratic input to the work of the School Trusts.
14. As highlighted in the Executive Board report in December 2009 on Area and Locality Governance Arrangements for the Children's Trust, School Trust Partnerships would be able to operate as the locality Children and Young People's Partnership within a significant partnerships framework. It is planned to develop this alongside the emerging School Trust.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that the Member Management Committee agree:
 - a) that Elected Member appointments to School Trusts:
 - would be consistent with the Council's policy and strategic objectives; and
 - would add value to the Council's activities.
 - b) to categorise such appointments as being 'Community and Local Engagement' thereby agreeing that such appointments should be made by the relevant Area Committees.
 - c) that Members of the Outer East Area Committee are asked to determine an Elected Member representative to become a trustee of the Brigshaw Trust.
 - d) that a similar approach is adopted for any other requests for formal City Council involvement in School Trusts in the future

Background Papers

- Appointment to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules
- Developing and Responding to New Governance Arrangements for Schools in Leeds – Report to Executive Board, January 2009
- Area and Locality Governance Arrangements – Report to Executive Board, December 2009

Appendix 1

SCHOOL TRUSTS ESTABLISHED OR BEING DEVELOPED IN LEEDS

Schools Partnership Trust

Garforth Community College, Strawberry Fields Primary School, East Garforth Primary School, Garforth Green Lane Primary School, Ninelends Primary School. Associate schools, Micklefield CE Primary School, Aberford Primary School.

Trust partners comprising the governing bodies of the schools, Leeds Trinity University College, the Learning and Skills Council and Leeds NHS. The trust is now responsible for two academies, the South Leeds Academy and De Warenne Academy, Doncaster. Council representation through governors.

Excel Learning Trust

Boston Spa High School established a single school trust in January 2010. Trust partners LMU, Leeds United, Technogym, NHS Leeds and Children Leeds. Discussions taking place regarding Children Leeds/City Council representation.

Wetherby Trust

Wetherby High School established a single school trust in February 2010. Trust partners the University of York and British Library.

Others

The following schools were accepted as part of the Government's Supported Schools Programme and in view of this are considering Trust status:

North West

- Otley family of six schools;

North East

- West Oaks (North East SILC);

East

- Temple Moor HS, Austhorpe PS, Colton PS, Whitkirk PS and Meadowfield PS; consulting on becoming a Co-operative trust;

South

- Royds School;
- Jointly, several schools from the Morley family of schools including high schools and primary schools are considering acquiring a shared trust;

West

- Crawshaw School;
- Pudsey Grangefield.