



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board: SCRUTINY BOARD (Adult Social Care)

Date: 19th July 2010

Subject: Co-opted Members

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Scrutiny Board's formal consideration for the appointment of co-opted members to the Board.

2.0 Background

2.1 For a number of years the Council's Constitution has made provision for the appointment of co-opted members to individual Scrutiny Boards. For those Scrutiny Boards where co-opted members have previously been appointed, such arrangements have tended to be reviewed on an annual basis, usually at the beginning of a new municipal year. However, the appointment of co-opted members has not been considered consistently across all Scrutiny Boards.

2.2 At the Adult Social Care meeting on the 23rd of June 2010 the Board resolved to consider co-opting a member from Leeds LINK.

3.0 Arrangements for appointing co-opted members

General arrangements

3.1 It is widely recognised that in some circumstances, in particular where there is some specialist knowledge or skill, co-opted members can significantly aid the work Scrutiny Boards. This is currently reflected in Article 6 (Scrutiny Boards) of the Council's Constitution, which outlines the options available to Scrutiny Boards in relation to appointing co-opted members. In general terms, Scrutiny Boards can appoint:

- Up to five non-voting co-opted members for a term of office that does not go beyond the next Annual Meeting of Council ; and/or,

- Up to two non-voting co-opted members for a term of office that relates to the duration of a particular and specific scrutiny inquiry.

4.0 Issue to consider when seeking to appoint co-opted members

- 4.1 In considering or seeking the appointment of co-opted members, Scrutiny Boards may find it useful to consider that co-opted members should:
- Add value to the work of the Scrutiny Board and/or specific inquiry, by having some specialist skill or knowledge
 - Be considered as representatives of wider groups of people. For example, service user representatives, voluntary or community groups etc.
 - Not be seen as a replacement to professional advice from officers;
 - Be mindful about the extent of any potential conflicts of interest;
- 4.2 Despite the lack of any national guidance, what is clear is that any process for appointing co-opted members should be open, effective and carried out in a manner which seeks to strengthen the work of Scrutiny Boards.
- 4.3 In addition, when considering the issue of co-opted members, Scrutiny Boards should also be mindful of the role of expert witnesses and seeking information / evidence from a variety of different sources to help fulfill the objectives of the work programme and/or a specific inquiry.

5.0 Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care)

- 5.1 The following non-voting co-opted appointments have been made to the Adult Social Care Board so far:
- A representative of the Alliance Service Users and Carers – Ms Joy Fisher
 - A representative of Equality Issues – Mrs Sally Morgan

Leeds Local Involvement Networks (LINK)

- 5.2 The Scrutiny Board is advised to consider the role of the Leeds Local Involvement Network (LINK). In summary, the LINK acts as the successor to the Patient and Public Involvement Forums, but with an extended remit covering social care. Run by local people and groups, the role of a LINK is to promote involvement; to find out what people like and dislike about local services; monitor the care provided by services; and use LINK powers to hold services to account.
- 5.3 Under provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the local LINK has the right to refer both health and social care matters to the relevant Scrutiny Board. In turn, this places responsibility on the appropriate Scrutiny Board to acknowledge any such referrals and keep the LINK informed about what actions, if any, will be taken.
- 5.4 Locally, in August 2008, the Shaw Trust was appointed as the host organisation to support the work of the Leeds LINK. Since that time it has been working to get a wide range of people and organisations involved in the LINK.

Leeds LINK representatives as co-opted members

- 5.5 Given the role and function of LINKs, the relationship between the Leeds LINK and the Council's Scrutiny Boards will be key. The Board may therefore wish to give

consideration to seeking nominations from Leeds LINK for representatives to act as non-voting co-opted members on the Board during 2010/11.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 In line with the options available outlined in this report, Members are asked to consider the appointment of co-opted member of the LINK to the Scrutiny Board.

7.0 Background Papers

- The Council's Constitution