

ESTABLISHING LINK ROLES FOR SCRUTINY MEMBERS TO SUPPORT EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Report By: Director of Children's Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the establishment of Scrutiny Member roles to enable a fuller understanding of the issues affecting Children and Young People in Herefordshire, thus enabling them to support the Scrutiny Committee in fulfilling its role effectively in the support of Every Child Matters (ECM).

Financial Implications

2. None

Background

3. The previous Scrutiny Committee met on 18 November 2008 and considered the establishment of these roles after a suggestion from the Chair that there was a need to ensure a fuller understanding and level of engagement in the complex and diverse service delivery across the county.
4. The Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council supported the suggestion that such roles should be established.
5. The previous discussion raised concern about the suggested name for the role as there was disconcertation about the title 'Champion', thus the title suggested has been altered to Link Member for ECM.
6. Other concerns were aired about the need to strike a balance between observing and understanding the business whilst also ensuring the confidentiality and safeguarding of our young people.
7. Suggested Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT;

- (a) **The Committee adopt the recommended format for the role and title of Link and Vice Link member for ECM.**
- (b) **The new ways of working are established with immediate effect and reviewed in one year.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.