

REVIEW OF STATUTORY AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - UPDATE

Report By: Director of Children's Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

- 1 To consider the principles under which a Foster Care representative and a Children's Social Care Social Worker representative are to serve the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and other arrangements.

Financial Implications

- 2 None.

Background

- 3 At the previous meeting of the Committee held on 3rd October, 2005, the Committee considered a report on the Statutory and Co-opted Membership on the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. The Committee agreed that the County Secretary and Solicitor request that the Diocesan Authorities reaffirm their nomination prior to Council elections and reaffirmed the Parent Governor membership. The Committee also agreed that to reflect the wider remit of the Committee the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman consider the appropriate sectors, number and term of office of the non-voting co-opted representatives on the Committee and report to a future meeting.
- 4 In accordance with the decision the Chairman and Vice-Chairman have considered the representation in respect of the wider remit of the Committee and the following proposals are put to the Committee for consideration:

Representing the wider remit of the Committee

- 5 **Foster Care Sector** - The appointment mechanism and terms proposed for the Foster Care sector. The following terms are proposed:
 - That one representative be sought from the Foster Care sector. The Children's Services Directorate holds a register of people in this sector and it is suggested that those registered be invited to seek nomination via the Herefordshire Foster Care Forum.
 - To allow the successful representative time to 'learn the role' it is suggested that they serve for the remainder of the current term (May 2007) and the following 4 years namely to the May 2011 elections. Thereafter the term would run in accordance with the electoral cycle.

- Provided they continue to be eligible for the sector they represent any appointed representative may be re-nominated by the Forum.
 - Any casual vacancy to be filled on the basis of completing the remaining term of office excepting that should a vacancy leave a short period of unexpired term then the decision to initiate the appointment process for that vacancy to be decided after consultation with the Chairman.
 - The representative will represent their respective sector. They may however, speak on any matters within the remit of the Committee.
 - The representative will not be a Member of the Committee and will be Non-Voting.
- 6 **Children's Social Care Social worker** – the Chairman, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, has considered the availability of advice from this sector of the Children' Services Directorate. It is proposed that the Director of Children's Services nominate a Children's Social Care Social worker to attend the Committee as an advisor to assist the Committee in deliberations.

Principles for the future appointment of Co-opted representatives on this Committee

- 7 In accordance with the views expressed at the meeting on 3rd October, 2005, the Chairman and Vice Chairman have been giving consideration to the number and term of office of the existing non-voting co-opted representatives on the Committee. They are still giving consideration to the appropriate number of co-opted representatives on the Committee i.e. from the non-statutory Headteacher and Teacher sectors.
- 8 At its meeting in October the Committee were informed that the term of office for the non-voting Co-opted Headteacher representatives was at the discretion of the relevant Headteacher Association. However it was suggested that the County Secretary and Solicitor request that the Associations reconsider or reconfirm their nominations prior to Council elections. It is proposed that this suggestion be agreed.
- 9 In view of the fact that no term of office was set at the time of the appointment of the teacher representatives, it is proposed that their term of office expire on the date of the Council elections in May 2007. Thereafter, the term for any non-voting co-opted representatives be as described for Foster Care namely:
- Provided they represent their sector they may stand for reappointment
 - Term to be concurrent with that of the Council electoral cycle.
 - Any casual vacancy to be filled on the basis of completing the remaining term of office excepting that should a vacancy leave a short period of unexpired term then the decision to initiate the appointment process for that vacancy to be decided after consultation with the Chairman.
 - The representative will not be a Member of the Committee and will be Non-Voting

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

- a) the Herefordshire Foster Care Forum be invited to nominate one representative to serve on the Committee under the terms proposed;
- b) one Children's Social Care Social worker be nominated by the Director of Children's Services to act as advisor to the Committee;
- c) the term of office for the non-voting co-opted teacher representatives be set to expire at the May 2007 Council elections and thereafter the term for non-voting co-opted representatives will run concurrent with the Council's Electoral cycle; and
- d) Subject to the Associations confirming their nominations prior to Council elections the term of office for the Headteacher representatives be at the discretion of the appropriate Headteacher Association.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.