

## **Co-opted Members**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report asks the Corporate Parenting Sub Board whether it wishes to co-opt representatives from organisations working with children looked after to the Board.
- 1.2 The Council's constitution states under OS5 that 'Each overview and scrutiny board shall be entitled to recommend to Council the appointment of non-voting co-optees, provided that the number of Councillors on the Board shall be greater than the number of co-optees.'
- 1.3 The sub-board are asked to consider whether they would like to co-opt a representative from the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and a representative from the Derby City Council Foster Carers Association and/or anyone else.
- 1.4 A report will then be taken to Council if the sub-board resolves to recommend a co-optee/s.
- 1.5 To help to develop a more multi-disciplinary approach to the Board's work it is suggested that the Board has a number of 'advisors' who attend Board meetings regularly to ensure a number of different perspectives are considered when exploring the Work Programme. It is suggested that officers from Health, education, Housing and Legal attend the meetings to contribute their perspectives to the Boards work.
- 1.6 The advisors will not be formally co-opted onto the Board and won't have voting rights.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To determine who (if anyone) the sub-board wishes to co-opt to the sub-board.
- 2.2 To approve the appointment of advisors to the Board and to consider whether there are any other Council departments or partners who could add value to the Board's work.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is highlighted as good practice by the National Children's Bureau to 'have at least

one member of your CiCC sit on the Corporate Parenting Board as a regular member.'

- 3.2 The Derby City Foster Carers Association will have a different approach and outlook to members on the Board and this may prove valuable to the Board.
- 3.3 The Board could gain useful insight from different perspectives through the appointment of Board advisors.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Corporate Parenting Sub Board has worked hard to develop close links to the CiCC in Derby. At the end of the last municipal year a member of the CiCC attended a sub board and made extremely useful and valuable contribution.
- 4.2 It is recommended that a Member of the CICC is invited to sit on the sub board as a regular member in recent guidance from the National Children's Bureau. This will help Members to hear a looked after child's views on the issues being discussed.
- 4.3 The Derby Foster Carers Association has recently been re-established in the City. If a member of this association was invited to be co-opted onto the sub-board it is felt that they would add value to the sub-board's scrutiny work as they have a unique insight into the views of both foster carers and the children they care for.
- 4.4 Members have already invited the Virtual Head for Children Looked After to attend every meeting to provide views and advice from an education perspective and the Director for Commissioning (who is jointly funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group) has also been invited to attend regularly to add the views of colleagues from health. The Director of Legal and democratic services has a background in Children Looked After work and is interested in attending the Board. It is suggested an officer from Housing is also invited to attend Board meetings. As officers of the Council it is not suggested that they are co-opted onto the sub-board as at times they may be subject to the sub-boards scrutiny.
- 4.5 Rule OS5 in the Council Constitution states that 'Each overview and scrutiny board shall be entitled to recommend to Council the appointment of non-voting co-optees, provided that the number of Councillors on the Board shall be greater than the number of co-optees.'
- 4.6 If Members wish to co-opt anyone on to the sub-board the Overview and Scrutiny Officer will then write a report for the next Council meeting asking for these appointments to be confirmed and approved.

## **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 N/A

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b>	N/A
<b>Financial officer</b>	N/A
<b>Human Resources officer</b>	N/A
<b>Estates/Property officer</b>	N/A
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	N/A
<b>Other(s)</b>	Phil O'Brien, Statutory Scrutiny Officer

  

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Ellen Bird 01332 643646 ellen.bird@derby.gov.uk
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

1.1 N/A

**Legal**

2.1 The Council's constitution states under OS5 that 'Each overview and scrutiny board shall be entitled to recommend to Council the appointment of non-voting co-optees, provided that the number of Councillors on the Board shall be greater than the number of co-optees.'

**Personnel**

3.1 N/A

**Equalities Impact**

4.1 N/A

**Health and Safety**

5.1 N/A

**Environmental Sustainability**

6.1 N/A

**Property and Asset Management**

7.1 N/A

**Risk Management**

8.1 N/A

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

9.1 Effective and strong scrutiny supports all of the Council's corporate objectives and

priorities for change.