

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
2 JUNE 2009**

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PANEL
(Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services)**

1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to invite Members of the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel to consider the possible co-option of a representative of Adult Social Care to its membership.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

2.1 That the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel consider whether to recommend to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission that:

- (a) the Bracknell Voluntary Sector Forum be invited to nominate a representative of Adult Social Care for co-option to the Panel to fill the existing vacancy; or**
- (b) a co-opted representative of Adult Social Care be not included in the Panel's membership in the future.**

2.2 In the event that the Panel agrees to recommend the co-option of an Adult Social Care representative, the following terms be recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission:

- (a) the length of the term of office of the co-option be one year rotating on an annual basis to allow the full range of Adult Social Care organisations to be represented over time; and**
- (b) the co-option be on a non-voting basis.**

3 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 3.1** The Local Government Act 2000 expressly permits non-councillors to be co-opted to Overview and Scrutiny Committees and their sub-committees but the co-optees cannot vote unless expressly permitted to do so by a scheme approved by the Council.

Borough Treasurer

- 3.2** Co-optees appointed by the Council are eligible to claim travel allowance for in-Borough approved duties (including travel expenses when attending meetings) and travel and subsistence allowance for out-of-Borough approved duties in accordance with the Council's Allowances Scheme. It is anticipated that the cost to the Council of the additional co-optee will be small and can be met from within existing budgets. There will be resource implications as officer time will be required to support the appointment of the representative including the cost of any elections required. Again it is expected that this will be contained within existing staff resources.

Equalities Impact Assessment

3.3 None.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

3.4 None.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 During 2008/09, the former Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission that two teacher and two social care representatives be co-opted to that Panel for a term of four years each in a non-voting capacity, in addition to the statutory requirement of two Parent Governor and two Church representatives. There is no statutory requirement to do this and the purpose was to reflect the Panel's expanded remit to include both Children's and Adults' Social Care in addition to education. It was considered appropriate to amend the externally drawn membership of the Panel to balance overall representation and reflect the scope of the restructured Panel's work by giving social care representatives an opportunity to express their views on related matters. The intention was to co-opt one representative of Children's Social Care and one of Adults' Social Care. The recommended co-option was subsequently adopted by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.
- 4.2 The report to the former Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel suggested that the social care representatives be sought via the new Bracknell Forest Local Involvement Network (LINK), an organisation concerned with health and social care. However, it was subsequently recognised that a representative of the LINK may be inappropriate as conflicts of interest may occur owing to the LINK's separate statutory remit of holding the Council to account over health and social care matters. As a subsequent re-structuring of the Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel was anticipated, the Social Care co-options were postponed pending the outcome of the re-structure. The Council agreed a re-structuring of that Panel at its Annual Meeting held on 6 May 2009 to form this Panel and the new Children's Services & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
- 4.3 The membership of this Panel agreed by Annual Council includes a social care representative for which there is currently a vacancy for a term of four years. The Panel is invited to consider whether it wishes to co-opt a representative to fill this vacancy or carry the vacancy in 2009/10. Although there are a significant number of organisations representing facets of Adult Social Care, there does not appear to be an 'umbrella' organisation representing all aspects and therefore, should the Panel wish to fill the vacancy, careful consideration needs to be given to the organisations from which a co-optee may be drawn (e.g. Rethink, Be Heard, Mencap etc, Carers UK, Age Concern, Alzheimer's Association) and the length of the term of co-option. Owing to the variation of organisations, annual co-options may be appropriate to ensure that the full range of Adult Social Care organisations are represented over time. Given the diverse range of organisations, it would be appropriate to seek a nomination from the Bracknell Voluntary Sector Forum, on a rotating annual basis.

Background Papers

Reports and minutes of the meetings of the former Social Care and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Overview and Scrutiny Commission held on 2 and 17 July 2008, respectively.

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