

COUUNCIL

20 JANUARY 2022

APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report from: Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance

Author: Wayne Hemingway, Head of Democratic Services
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This report recommends that the Council agrees the appointment of a teacher representative, a named substitute for the same position and a Church of England Diocese – Rochester Diocesan Board of Education representative, to the Council's Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1. Budget and policy framework

- 1.1. The appointment of these positions to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a matter for Full Council.

2. Background

Teacher position

- 2.1. Following consultation with stakeholders in 2001 the Council agreed to create seats for one non-voting head teacher and one non-voting teacher on the Committee, nominated by the Medway teacher and headteacher associations at that time. Since then, headteacher and teacher members have continued to actively contribute to the work of the Committee and provide valued additional expertise and experience.
- 2.2. In December 2015 the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the arrangements for co-opting a headteacher and teacher to serve on the Committee and made a recommendation to Full Council for these positions to remain on the Committee.
- 2.3. On 21 January 2016, Full Council agreed that the Committee membership should continue to comprise of two seats in total for headteacher/teacher members, each for a two year term. It also agreed that, where practicable,

one place should be for a primary school and one for a secondary school. Depending on the expressions of interest received, the Council would then decide to, for example, designate one seat for a Medway local authority maintained school and one for an academy in Medway. The headteacher and teacher co-opted members are appointed (rather than elected) as individuals who are invited to contribute their professional knowledge and perspective to the work of the Committee.

- 2.4. Full Council also agreed a selection criteria to be used when more than one application was received, which is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.5. The Headteacher position on the Committee is currently filled by Carl Guerin-Hassett, Headteacher of Hundred of Hoo Academy (an all through academy spanning both primary and secondary school pupils).
- 2.6. The position on the committee for a Medway teacher is currently vacant and all Medway Schools were sent information, inviting teachers to submit expressions of interest by Friday 19 November 2021. Democratic Services received a total of five expressions of interest by the deadline.
- 2.7. As there were more expressions of interest than vacant positions the Director of People, along with the Assistant Director, Education and SEND and in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson, considered each of the applications against the criteria attached at Appendix A.
- 2.8. The outcome of these considerations resulted in the following recommendations being unanimously agreed on:
 - 2.8.1. That Vicky Aspin from Abbey Court School be recommended to be appointed to the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
 - 2.8.2. That Hannah Roberts from Warren Wood Primary Academy be recommended to be appointed as the named substitute for the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
- 2.9. Vicky Aspin has extensive teaching experience and provides outreach support to a number of Medway primary schools. She is also a Specialist Leader of Education for the Medway Teaching Schools Alliance (MTSA) and has been since 2012, with specialisms in SEND and behaviour.
- 2.10. Hannah Roberts also has good experience of teaching and that experience spans both primary and secondary education. Hannah has a keen focus on narrowing the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils. She is the English and Curriculum Lead at her school and as such has supported local schools within the same academy trust with teaching English. During her time at secondary she had experience good success from raising the attainment of Pupils in English.

- 2.11. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered these recommendations at its meeting on 6 January 2022 and have recommended the two nominees to Full Council for formal appointment to the Committee for a two year term.

Church of England – Rochester Diocesan Board of Education representative

- 2.12. In respect of Overview and Scrutiny Committees which deal with education functions there is a legal requirement to appoint at least one voting co-optee nominated by the Diocesan Board for Education if the area contains at least one Church of England - maintained school and at least one voting co-optee nominated by the Bishop for the Diocese if the area contains at least one Roman Catholic- maintained school. There is also a legal requirement to appoint between two and five voting parent governor representatives elected by the parent governors of maintained schools. These voting co-optees are entitled to vote on any question relating to education functions which are the responsibility of Medway Council’s Cabinet and which fall to be considered by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.13. The position relating to the Church of England Diocesan Board of Education recently became vacant following the predecessor standing down after serving as the diocese representative for three years. The Board subsequently informed the Council of their request to fill the vacancy with Lenny Williams (Headteacher at Rainham St Margaret’s Junior School).
- 2.14. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this recommendation at its meeting on 6 January and have recommended the nominee to Full Council for formal appointment.

3. Advice and analysis

- 3.1 Members are advised to consider the nominees for the positions on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to make the appointments as recommended by the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 January 2022.

4. Risk management

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Failure to adopt appoint to the teacher vacancy	There is a risk that the Committee will not have access to the views, perspective, and experience of teachers from one particular type of school	To agree to co-opt the recommended appointees to the committee.	D3

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Failure to appoint to the Church of England - Rochester Diocesan Board of Education vacancy	This would cause the Council to not fulfil the requirements set out in Section 7 of Schedule A1 to the Local Government Act 2000.	To appoint the recommended nominee to the position	C3

5. Consultation

- 5.1. In accordance with the agreed process relating to the appointment of Headteachers and teachers, the nominations have been agreed, initially in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson and subsequently with the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a whole.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Co-opted members on the Committee could generate claims for dependent carer's allowances under the members allowances scheme and these costs would be met from within the existing members allowance budget.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1. Section 9FA of the Local Government Act 2000 provides for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to include co-optees who are not members of the Council. People who are co-opted to Overview and Scrutiny Committees under this provision are not entitled to vote unless the Council has made a scheme to allow voting (under Section 11 of Schedule A1 to the Local Government Act 2000). Medway Council has not made such a scheme.
- 7.2. In respect of Overview and Scrutiny Committees which deal with education functions Section 7 of Schedule A1 to the Local Government Act 2000 requires the appointment of at least one voting co-optee nominated by the Diocesan Board for Education if the area contains at least one Church of England - maintained school and at least one voting co-optee nominated by the Bishop for the Diocese if the area contains at least one Roman Catholic-maintained school.
- 7.3. The majority on any Committee where there are non-elected members with voting rights should be preserved by appointing additional councillor members where necessary in order to comply with the requirements in Sections 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. In Medway there are 8 (plus 3) Conservative Councillors serving on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to meet this requirement.

8. Recommendations

8.1. Full Council is recommended to agree the following appointments:

- a) Vicky Aspin be appointed as the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
- b) Hannah Roberts be appointed as the named substitute for the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
- c) Lenny Williams be appointed as the Church of England Diocese representative (representing the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education).

Lead officer contact

Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

Tel: (01634) 332104

Email: teri.reynolds@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – selection criteria for teacher representatives

Background papers

None