

Council

24 January 2024

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
Stephanie Davis, Democratic Services officer

Summary

This report recommends that the Council agrees the appointment of a headteacher representative, a named substitute for the same position. A teacher representative, a named substitute for the same position, to the Council's Children and Young people Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1. Recommendations

1.1. Full Council is recommended to agree the following appointments to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a) Leanna Rodgers be appointed as the headteacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
- b) Victoria Aspin be appointed as the named substitute for the headteacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
- c) Alice Pledger to be appointed to the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
- d) Bruno Lionnet to be appointed as the named substitute for the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.

2. Budget and policy framework

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

3. Background

Headteacher and Teacher position

3.1. 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.

- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. Full Council also agreed a selection criteria to be used when more than one application was received, which is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.5. The Headteacher position on the Committee is currently filled by Carl Guerin-Hassett, Headteacher of the Hundred of Hoo Academy (an all through academy spanning both primary and secondary school pupils). His term ends on 22 January 2024.
- 3.6. The Teacher position on the Committee is currently filled by Victoria Aspin, Teacher at Abbey Court School (a community special school for pupils aged 3-19 with severe and profound learning difficulties). Her term ends on 22 January 2024
- 3.7. All Medway Schools were sent information, inviting teachers to submit expressions of interest by Friday 24 November 2023. Democratic Services received a total of two expressions of interest for each of the posts by the deadline.
- 3.8. 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 Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Opposition Spokesperson, considered each of the applications against the criteria attached at Appendix A.
- 3.9. The outcome of these considerations resulted in the following recommendations being unanimously agreed on:

- 3.9.1. That Leanna Rodgers from Thames View Primary School be recommended to be appointed to the headteacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
 - 3.9.2. That Victoria Aspin from Abbey Court School be recommended to be appointed as the named substitute for the headteacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
 - 3.9.3. That Alice Pledger from Fort Pitt Grammar School be recommended to be appointed to the teacher for a two year term.
 - 3.9.4. That Bruno Lionnet from Chatham Grammar School be recommended to be appointed to the teacher position on the Committee for a two year term.
- 3.10. Leanna Rodgers has extensive experience as a teacher for over 20 years, a deputy for 3 years and a headteacher for 6 years. She has been an active SENCO since 2016 and is a keen advocate for inclusion. She was a previous member on the Children's Safeguarding Board in Bexley.
 - 3.11. Victoria Aspin has extensive teaching experience and provided outreach support to a number of Medway primary schools. She has since progressed to the position of headteacher at Abbey Court School. She gained extensive experience on the Committee as the teacher representative for the past two years.
 - 3.12. Alice Pledger is in her fourth year as a qualified teacher and is a current head of year. She works extensively to overcome academic and behavioral difficulties with children and provides support and advice to parents and carers. She has gained valuable insight into some of the issues faced by children in their homes.
 - 3.13. Bruno Lionnet has been teaching for over 20 years and has worked across independent, grammar, comprehensive and academy schools. In his current position, he has been working to increase the profile of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). He established a department at a previous school he worked at and raised awareness of women in STEM.
 - 3.14. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered these recommendations at its meeting on 11 January 2024 and have recommended the two nominees and substitutes to Full Council for formal appointment to the Committee for a two year term.

4. Risk management

- 4.1. Risk management is an integral part of good governance. The Council has a responsibility to identify and manage threats and risks to achieve its strategic objectives and enhance the value of services it provides to the community.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Failure to adopt appoint to the headteacher and 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.	D1V

For risk rating, please refer to the following table:

Likelihood	Impact:
A Very likely B Likely C Unlikely D Rare	I Catastrophic II Major III Moderate IV Minor

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 Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson 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) Labour and Co-operative Councillors serving on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to meet this requirement.

Lead officer contact

Stephanie Davis, Democratic Services Officer,
Tel: 01634332503 Email: stephanie.davis@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix A – selection criteria for teacher representatives

Background papers

None