

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: The Cheshire and Wirral Councils' Joint Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting:	26 January 2010
Report of:	Cheshire East Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	Procedural Matters – Co-option and the name of the Joint Committee

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the opportunity to discuss whether to co-opt onto the Joint Committee and gives further consideration to the name of the Joint Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 a) that one non-voting co-opted Member (with a named substitute) be appointed to the Joint Committee, to represent the three LINKs in the area, drawn from the LINKs' Mental Health Sub Group, to serve until 30 April 2011;
- b) that, as appropriate, one further representative from the local LINK be invited to attend the Joint Committee for consideration of specific business; and
- c) that the name remain as The Cheshire and Wirral Councils' Joint Scrutiny Committee and consideration be given to the proposed description of the Joint Committee's role.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The appointment of a co-opted Member(s) from the Local Involvement Network (LINK) may assist the Joint Scrutiny Committee in its work. By amending the information on the agenda and the relevant part of the 3 Local Authority websites, this will provide further clarity about the role and responsibilities of the Joint Committee.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

**6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change
- Health**

6.1 None

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 None

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 None

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 None identified

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 The Joint Committee's Procedural Rules make the following provision for co-option:

"The Joint Committee may choose to co-opt other appropriate individuals, in a non-voting capacity, to the Committee or for the duration of a particular review or scrutiny."

11.2 At the Mid Point meeting on 14 December 2009, Members reviewed the position of the Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) which cover the three PCT's in the Joint Committee's area. It was understood that there was likely to be a Sub Group established by the 3 LINKs to focus particularly on Mental Health and related matters. Accordingly Members felt that it would now be appropriate to co-opt one LINK representative (plus one named substitute) on to the Joint Committee, in a non voting capacity, drawn from the LINKs' Mental Health Sub Group. In addition, it was envisaged that, as appropriate, a further representative from the relevant LINK could be invited to attend the Joint Committee, for the consideration of specific items of business.

11.3 The Joint Committee is asked to approve these arrangements, on the basis that the appointment of the Co-opted Member (and substitute) would be made until 30 April 2011.

- 11.4 At the last meeting of the Committee, the question of changing the name of the Joint Committee was raised, so as to reflect its role and responsibilities more clearly to the public. This was considered further at the Mid Point meeting in December, when the possibilities for changing the title were reviewed. On balance, Members felt it better to avoid further changes to the name, but that a brief statement describing the role of the Committee might be included appropriately on the Agenda front sheet for each meeting, and also shown prominently on the constituent Councils' Websites. The proposed text of the statement is:

"The role of the Joint Committee is to scrutinise and review the work of the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, which provides Mental Health Services for children, adults and older people, Learning Disability Services, and Drug and Alcohol Services across the whole of Cheshire and Wirral."

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 12.1 Co-option can help the Joint Committee in its work particularly as it establishes its role and can also assist in the development of liaison arrangements with the relevant Local Involvement Network(s).

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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