

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

The Cheshire and Wirral Councils' Joint Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 10 January 2011
Report of: Cheshire East Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title: Appointment of a Co-opted Member

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines progress concerning the appointment of a non voting co-opted Member, as agreed at the last meeting of the Joint Committee.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That approval be given to the appointment of Mr. Phil Hough (a Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust (CWP) Patient and Public Involvement representative) as a non voting co – opted Member on the Joint Committee.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Joint Committee in October approved the appointment of a non voting co – opted member to the Committee to represent patients' interests, and following a selection process conducted by CWP, it is now possible to bring forward the proposed appointment.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 N/A

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 N/A

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 None known.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 None.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

8.1 None other than as outlined in the report.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 No identified risks at this stage.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 The Joint Committee's Procedural Rules provide "that the 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."

10.2 At the meeting on 12 April 2010, the Committee considered the appointment of co – opted Members and resolved (inter alia) that "further discussions take place with officers of CWP through the Mid Point meeting concerning service users and carers representation".

10.3 Accordingly further consideration was given by the Chair and Spokespersons to the possibility of co – opting a patients' representative at the Mid Point meeting on 17 September. At that stage, Members envisaged that the appointment would be of a service user, as opposed to a carer. CWP confirmed that they would be willing to circulate the patients membership of the Foundation Trust, namely the Patients and Public Involvement (PPI) group of members, to establish whether there was any interest from individuals in serving on this Committee. In the event no service users and one carer member (Mr. Phil Hough) applied. Accordingly, the Mid Point meeting with advice from CWP has considered the application, and it is recommended that Mr. Hough should be co – opted to the Joint Committee. Mr. Hough has extensive experience of the NHS and mental health services, is a longstanding carer, and has served on many different CWP groups and committees and with the NHS Confederation. It is understood that Mr. Hough will be present at the Joint Committee's meeting.

10.4 As the National Code of Local Government Conduct applies to co – opted Members, it is not possible for the nominee also to be a Member of the CWP Foundation Trust Board, and the proposed appointment gives rise to no difficulty on this basis.

10.5 The appointment can be made for the remainder of the municipal year, and may be continued when the Joint Committee is reconstituted following the local government elections in May 2011.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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