

Children and Families Committee

3 June 2024

Appointments to Sub-Committees, Working Groups, Panels, Boards and Joint Committees

Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance

Report Reference No: CF/19/24-25

Ward(s) Affected: No specific wards

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report seeks approval from the Children and Families Committee to appoint members to the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee and to nominate a member to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Council, at its annual meeting on 15 May 2024, approved the political representation on its main committees. The appointment of certain sub-committees, working groups, panels and boards is a matter for the relevant service committees.
- 3 This report concerns those bodies which fall to be appointed by the Children and Families Committee, or by the committee in conjunction with other service committees.
- 4 Where political proportionality is applicable, the agreed conventions and methods of calculation have been applied.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children and Families Committee is recommended to:

1. Appoint the sub-committees, working groups, panels, boards and joint committees for 2024-25 as set out within the report and the member appointments to them
2. Where appropriate, agree to submit member nominations to the above bodies to the Head of Democratic Services and Governance
3. Note the terms of reference of the bodies referred to in the report

Background

A. Bodies which report to the Children and Families Committee

Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee

- 5 The Constitution provides that the lead service committee in respect of the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee will be the Children and Families Committee. The Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee will meet on a quarterly basis, report to the Children and Families Committee on at least an annual basis and review its terms of reference annually. Please see Appendix 1 for the terms of reference. The membership (12 members) of the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee is required to be formally ratified by the Children and Families Committee.
- 6 It is proposed that the Children and Families Committee agree to the appointment of Members to the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee in line with the following, and that the nominees to Committee be notified to the Head of Democratic Services and Governance:
 - 5 Conservative
 - 4 Labour
 - 2 Independent
 - 1 Non-Grouped

B. Other Bodies to which the Children and Families Committee is required to make appointments

Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board

- 7 Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board is a joint board to which this Council appoints three councillors as voting members. The lead service committee in respect of this board is the Adults and Health Committee, and the three Council nominees to the board will be formally nominated by the Adults and Health Committee, the Corporate Policy Committee, and the Children and Families Committee.
- 8 The current Terms of Reference are set out in Appendix 2 to this report for information.
- 9 It is proposed that the Children and Families Committee agree to the nomination of one Member to the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board, and that the nominee be notified to the Head of Democratic Services and Governance.
- 10 There are no specific criteria which apply to the appointment.

Consultation and Engagement

- 11 There has been consultation with Group Leaders and Administrators in relation to the political representation of these bodies.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 12 In accordance with the Constitution, the Children and Families Committee is responsible for the appointment of the bodies referred to in this report.

Other Options Considered

13

Option	Impact	Risk
Do nothing	The Council's Constitution requires these bodies to be appointed in line with the legislation referenced in this report. Not appointing to these committees would negatively affect the Council's	Failure to comply with the Council's Constitution and the legislation referenced in this report could leave the Council open to legal challenge.

	ability to make decisions in an open and transparent manner.	
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Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 14 The Committee has power to appoint informal working groups, panels or task groups with defined terms of reference and timeframes.
- 15 In addition, the Committee has power to appoint representatives to serve on outside bodies and organisations.
- 16 The Committee also has power and/or has historically been asked to nominate members to each of the sub-committees particularly where they fall within the remit of the Committee.
- 17 The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, made pursuant to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, make provisions in respect of the political group representation on a local authority's committees in relation to the overall political composition of the Council. The legislation applies to the decision-making committees and sub-committees of the Council and requires that, where proportionality applies and seats are allocated to different political groups, the authority must abide by the following principles, so far as is reasonably practicable:
- Not all of the seats can be allocated to the same political Group (i.e., there are no single group committees).
 - The majority of the seats on the body are to be allocated to a political Group with a majority membership of the authority.
 - The total number of seats on all ordinary committees and sub committees allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.
 - The number of seats on each ordinary committee allocated to each Political Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on full Council.
- 18 The proposals contained in this report meet the requirements of the legislation.

- 19 The 1990 Regulations require Political Group Leaders to notify the Proper Officer of the Groups' nominations to the bodies in question.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 20 There are no financial implications that require an amendment to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Policy

- 21 There are no direct policy implications.

An open and enabling organisation

Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision-making

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 22 There are no direct equality, diversity and inclusion implications.

Human Resources

- 23 There are no direct human resources implications.

Risk Management

- 24 Failure to comply with the Act and Regulations when appointing its committee memberships would leave the Council open to legal challenge.

Rural Communities

- 25 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 26 There are no direct implications for children and young people.

Public Health

- 27 There are no direct implications for public health.

Climate Change

28 There are no direct implications for climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed Head of Democratic Services and Governance Brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee Terms of Reference Appendix 2 – Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference
Background Papers:	None