

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

The Cheshire and Wirral Councils' Joint Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 11 October 2010
Report of: Cheshire East Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title: Appointment of a Co-opted Member

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines further consideration of the appointment of a co-opted Member.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That further consideration and, if appropriate, approval be given to the procedure for the appointment of one non voting co – opted Member and one named substitute to represent the interests of service users on the Joint Committee.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Joint Committee previously requested the Chair and Spokespersons, in consultation with the Partnership Trust (CWP), to keep under review the possibility of co – option to the Committee, and it is now possible to bring forward such a proposal.

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, with a preference for a service user rather than a carer. CWP have indicated that 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 is any interest from individuals in serving on this Committee. In the event that a number of volunteers came forward, the PPI Task Force would be invited to assess the applications, so as to put forward one individual to serve as a co – opted Member of the Committee, (non voting) together with one named substitute.

10.4 As the National Code of Conduct for Members would apply to the co – optee, it would not be possible for the nominee also to be a Member of the CWP Foundation Trust Board.

10.5 This process would be conducted during the Autumn, with the formal appointment of the Co – opted Member (and named substitute) being made at the next meeting of the Committee on 10 January.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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