

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

COUNCIL

Date of Meeting:	14 May 2014
Report of:	Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Subject/Title:	Appointments to Adoption Panel and Fostering Panel

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report invites Council to approve a number of appointments to Statutory Panels which do not fall within the definition of “a Committee”.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to appoint –
- (a) one Councillor to the Adoption Panel; and
 - (b) one Councillor to the Fostering Panel.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 These bodies carry out statutory functions and appointments are needed to ensure that the Council meets its obligations.

4.0 Background and Options

- 4.1 As there are some organisations which do not fall within the category of being “outside organisations”, the members of which being appointed by other means, it is appropriate for the Council to make such appointments as part of the annual Committee appointment process. The organisations are Statutory Panels which do not fall within the definition of “a Committee”:-

- Adoption Panel
- Fostering Panel

4.2 Adoption Panel

The Adoption Panel considers in detail all aspects of a plan for a “Cared For” child to be adopted and makes a recommendation as to whether or not the child should be adopted. In addition, the Panel considers the suitability of any families who apply to become adopters, and whether or not to recommend that they are suitable to adopt; and also considers the placement of any child with a particular adopter. The elected Member is a full member of the Panel. Under the performance objectives of the Panel, each member is asked to attend 75% of the meetings, which are held

monthly, and in addition is asked to attend any training events and induction events that are held at least annually, and undergo an annual appraisal.

The role of the Adoption Panel and the appointment of elected Members are governed by the Adoption Agency Regulations 2005, Adoption and Children Act 2002.

The Adoption Panel comprises of the following:-

- Chair
- Medical Advisor
- Agency Members
- Social Workers (2)
- Elected Members (1)
- Independent Members (3)
- Additional Members (2)

Councillor A Harewood served on the Adoption Panel during 2013/14 year.

4.3 Fostering Panel

The Panel considers and advises on the suitability of persons who apply to be foster carers for children who are “looked after” by the local authority. It states what its recommendations are in respect of a particular child or children and clarifies whether the prospective carers are to be approved for certain ages or categories of children.

It considers the continuing approval of foster carers following their annual carer’s review or other significant changes in their circumstances and advises on any other matters relating to the fostering service.

The Panel holds monthly meetings which are held in private. One nomination is required.

Councillor P Hoyland served on the Fostering Panel during 2013/14 year.

4.4 As with the Adoption Panel, the Fostering Panel is administered by Cheshire East Children’s Services, and as such, is not an outside organisation.

5.0 Access to Information

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

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