

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

21 June 2013

Non Statutory Co-optees

Purpose of Report

1. This report invites Members to consider non-statutory co-opted representation on the Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to advise the Council of their views.

Introduction

2. On 22 March 2013 the Members Constitution Working Group (MCWG) considered the appointment of non-statutory co-opted representation on both the Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3. The MCWG recommended that a further report on non-statutory co-opted Members on both committees be brought to the meeting of full Council following the May 2013 election and after the matter had been considered by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees. They also recommended that any re-appointments of non-statutory co-optees on both committees should be held in abeyance until then.

Background

4. There are currently 4 co-opted non-statutory members on the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Term</u>
Voluntary Sector #1	June 2009 - June 2013
Voluntary Sector #2	June 2009 - June 2013
School Representative – Secondary teacher	July 2009 – July 2013
School Representative – Primary teacher	July 2012 – end date not specified

(The role of the non-statutory co-opted representatives is set out in APPENDIX 1.)

5. The current situation of can be traced back to arrangements which existed before Executive and Overview and Scrutiny committees were introduced in

2001. On the “old” Education and Libraries Committee there were 5 statutory appointments (2 parent governors and 3 church representatives).

6. Following the introduction of Executive and Scrutiny arrangements, the new Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (as well as retaining the 5 statutory appointments) co-opted 2 voluntary sector representatives, 1 primary school representative and 1 secondary school representative, onto the Committee. This recognised the key role of overview and scrutiny committees in engaging with communities and service users.

Commentary

7. The existing arrangements have worked well. The co-optees have played a fundamental role in ensuring that the perspective of young people is brought to the debate both at formal meetings and as part of task groups.
8. The co-option of non-statutory representatives is consistent with the principles of Localism.
9. In addition to formal co-option there is the provision to appoint additional non-statutory co-optees and call expert witnesses for discrete, time limited pieces of scrutiny work.
10. Notwithstanding the above Members may wish to recommend different arrangements to the County Council.

Nomination process

11. The Committee’s recommendation, from today’s meeting, will be considered by the full County Council on 24 July 2013 and the County Council will formally decide the number and term of office of co-opted Members on this Committee.
12. The process for the nomination for voluntary sector representatives and their substitutes would be managed by the North York and York Forum. They are elected by and from voluntary organisations with an active interest in work with children and young people.
13. The Panel of North Yorkshire Teachers Association would be invited to run a nomination process for the primary and secondary school teacher representatives and their substitutes.
14. To ensure the terms of all the non-statutory appointments are the same, the representatives would serve for the term of this County Council (June/July 2013 – May 2017).

Recommendation

15. The Committee is recommended to decide on which option it wishes to recommend to the County Council. Either:
- a. to continue existing arrangements for non – statutory co-optees (2 voluntary sector and 1 Primary and 1 Secondary school teacher representative)
 - b. to adopt a different arrangement, reflecting discussion at the meeting.

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Background Documents: None

APPENDIX 1

The Role of Co-Opted Representatives

Co-opted representatives are non-voting members, but have full speaking rights and otherwise participate fully in the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Their key role is to ensure that the views of children and young people, and the sectors representing them, are heard by the Committee.

Tasks include:

- Attending and play an active part in the meetings of the Committee, in meetings of any working groups to which they are appointed by the Committee, and in seminars and training sessions provided by the County Council.
- Representing the interests and views of all the sector, not just those of their own organisation or area of interest.
- Informing other providers and organisations in the sector of issues being considered by the Committee and encourage them to respond to the issues.
- Taking information and views from the sector and providers (and the people they work with and for) to communicate directly with the Committee.
- Being available for personal contact by those organisations.
- Liaising with their sector to contribute to written briefings to be circulated in their sector.

People nominated for election would be required to:

- Agree to undertake the key tasks set out above.
- Have good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Have experience of committee working including speaking in public meetings.
- Have experience of working (unpaid or paid) with children and/or young people.
- Agree to abide by the code of conduct for County Councillors including registration and declaration of relevant personal and other interests.