

Report for: Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel 2025

Title: Appointment Co-opted Members on to Children's Scrutiny Panel

Report authorised by: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/ Non Key Decision: N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The report seeks to notify the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel of the appointment of one non – voting co-opted member and two Statutory Education Co-optees (voting) to the Panel. The appointment of the co-optees was taken by Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 19th June.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

To note that:

- 3.1 Amanda Bernard is appointed to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel as a non voting co-opted member for the municipal year 2025/2026.
- 3.2 That Camilla Borthwick-Fox and Christine Cordon are appointed as voting co-opted members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, participating at meetings when educational matters are being considered.
- 3.3 That Camilla Borthwick-Fox and Christine Cordon are appointed to the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel, as voting co-opted members, which has responsibility for considering educational matters

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 As required by the Council's Constitution.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 No alternative options

6. Background information

- 6.1 In relation to scrutiny, the Local Government Act 2000 made provision for the co-option of non-elected members to Overview and Scrutiny Committees in order to bring additional expertise and skills to scrutiny work and to increase public engagement with scrutiny.
- 6.2 The Panels can appoint up to 3 non- voting members and nominations can come forward from established community groups or be individuals that provide additional expertise and skills.
- 6.3 Under the LGA 2000, councils can appoint two but not more than five parent governor representatives to each of their education overview and scrutiny committees. Haringey has decided that there should be two Parent Governor representatives appointed to its scrutiny committees and this is reflected under Paragraph 4.1 of Part 4, Section G of the Council's constitution: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Review Panel whose terms of reference relate to education functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet, shall include in its membership the following representatives:
- (i) At least one Church of England diocesan representative (voting).
 - (ii) At least one Roman Catholic diocesan representative (voting).
 - (iii) 2 parent governor representatives (voting).
- 6.4 Voting representatives will be entitled to attend a meeting and vote where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Scrutiny Review Panel is considering matters that relate to relevant education functions. If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Review Panel is dealing with other matters, these representatives shall not vote on those matters though they may stay in the meeting and speak at the discretion of the Chair.
- 6.5 The statutory education co-optees will also be invited to attend the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings, when it is considering an agenda item relating to education matters as set out at paragraph 4.2 and will be provided with support and briefings to participate in these meetings when required by Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team. They will attend the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel which has responsibility for educational matters
- 6.6 The Standards Committee considered and agreed an updated protocol on non voting co-opted member appointments at their meeting in March 2025. This was in accordance with their responsibilities for maintaining high standards of conduct and considering amendments to the Constitution and recommending proposals to full Council for approval. The updated protocol is attached at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 6.7 By bringing expertise and adding a different perspective to the business of the panel, co-optees are expected to add value to scrutiny by performing the following roles:
- To bring specialist knowledge and/or skills to the Overview and Scrutiny process and to bring an element of external challenge by representing maintained schools.

- To act in a non party political manner
- To establish good relations with members, officers and co-optees.
- To abide by the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution in terms of the rules and procedures for Overview and Scrutiny.

6.8 It is expected that co-optees will:

- Attend formal meetings of the Panel, which are usually held in the evening.
- Attend additional meetings and evidence gathering sessions such as site visits.
- Prepare for meetings by reading the agenda papers and additional information to familiarise themselves with the issues being scrutinised.
- Prior to meetings consider questions they may wish to put to Cabinet Members, officers and external witnesses.
- Help the Panel to make practical suggestions for improvements to services.
- Assist in the preparation of reports and the formulation of recommendations.
- Contribute to the development of the annual work programme.
- Keep abreast of key issues for the authority and bear these in mind when scrutinising services and making recommendations for improvement.

7 Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Director of Legal & Governance, Equalities)

Finance

7.1 There is no payments for non - voting co-opted members and no financial implications.

Legal

7.2 The Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report. Section 9FA Local Government Act 2000 provides that an Overview and Scrutiny committee of a local council may include persons who are not members of the Council. Part 4 Section G (3.1) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, as set out in the Council's Consitution, applies.

Equality

7.3 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 7.4 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 7.5 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

8 Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Non – Voting Member Protocol.

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A