

Report for: Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel – 18 January 2015

Item number: 7

Title: Appointment of Non Voting Co-opted Member

Report authorised by: Bernie Ryan, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

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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 formal approval of the appointment of a non voting co-opted Member to the Panel.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Helena Kania be appointed as a non voting co-opted Member of the Panel for the remainder of the 2015/16 Municipal Year;

3.2 That the appointment of non voting co-opted Members to the Panel be reviewed on an annual basis, at the first meeting of the Municipal Year.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 The Council recognises the valuable contribution that co-optees can make to the scrutiny process and, as set out in Section G (3.1) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, each scrutiny panel is entitled to appoint up to three people as non-voting co-optees.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 The Panel could decide not to appoint any non voting co-opted Members or, alternatively, could decide to appoint two or three co-optees.

6. Background information

6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 made provision for the co-option of non-elected members to Overview and Scrutiny to bring additional expertise and skills to scrutiny work and to increase public engagement with scrutiny.

- 6.2 Within the current structure of scrutiny in Haringey, there is one overarching Overview and Scrutiny Committee and four advisory panels, these being:
- Adults and Health
 - Children and Young People
 - Environment and Community Safety
 - Housing and Regeneration
- 6.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee consists of 5 non executive members and includes Haringey's statutory education representatives, who have voting rights solely on education matters.
- 6.4 Scrutiny panels are chaired by a Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The membership of each panel consists of between 3 and 7 non executive members and are politically proportional as far as possible. The membership of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel also includes the statutory education representatives of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.5 In addition, each scrutiny panel is entitled to appoint up to three non-voting co-optees to assist scrutiny with its work. The terms of reference / arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny are set out in Part 2 (Article 6), Part 3 (Section B) and Part 4 (Section 6) of the Council's Constitution. Further information can be found via the link below:
- <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-council/council-constitution>
- 6.6 By bringing a diverse spectrum of experience and adding a different perspective to many items, non voting co-optees are expected to add value to scrutiny by performing the following roles:
- To act as a non-party political voice for those who live and/or work in Haringey.
 - To bring specialist knowledge and/or skills to the Overview and Scrutiny process and to bring an element of external challenge by representing the public.
 - 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.
- 6.7 It is expected that non voting 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 scrutiny work programme.
 - Keep abreast of key issues for the authority and bear these in mind when scrutinising services and making recommendations for improvement.
- 6.8 Key aspects of the Panel's work concerns adult social care, health and social care integration, public health and scrutinising the work of the CCG and NHS.
- 6.9 Helena Kania has contributed to scrutiny, as a non-voting co-opted member, since 2003 and is considered well placed to assist the Panel in its work moving forward. Ms Kania has been Chair of Whittington Patient/Public Involvement Forum, then Chair of Haringey LINK . She is currently the Vice-Chair of Haringey Forum for Older People and has been a committee member for 3 years. In addition, she is chair of the Health and Social Care group for Haringey Forum for Older People. Helena is currently part of the carers Reference Group and a representative for them on the Adult Partnership Board. She is a patient Shadow Governor at Whittington Health; represents patients on the Clinical Quality Review Group for Haringey CCG; is part of the Haringey CCG Patient Network and has just helped set up her local surgery Patient participation Group.

7. Statutory Officers Comments

Finance and Procurement

- 7.1 Only statutory education representatives of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive an allowance, in accordance with the Members' Allowance Scheme. As a result, there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal

- 7.2 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report. Part 4 Section G (3.1) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Constitution permits the Panel to appoint up to three people as non-voting co-optees.
- 7.3 The co-optee is not entitled to vote on recommendations before the Panel. Therefore, the co-optee is not bound by the Council's Code of Conduct (in Part 5 Section A of the Constitution) that include the registration and declaration of interest. However, the co-optee should be required to comply with relevant parts of the General Obligations of the Code (in Paragraph 3) when attending the meetings and conducting the business of the Panel.

Equality

- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 The proposals outlined in this report relate to the membership of the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel. The proposals carry no direct implications for the Council's general equality duty.

7 Use of Appendices

None

8 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985