

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (EDUCATION AND YOUTH)**

SUBJECT: **CHILDREN'S SERVICES FORUM**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To seek approval to amend the membership of the Children's Services Forum.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Children's Services Forum comprises of the Cabinet Members for Education, Social Services, Housing and Corporate Management, one Member from each political group and other persons as determined by the Cabinet at its meetings of the 1 August 2006 and 13 December 2011.

2.02 The terms of reference for the Children's Services Forum are as follows:

- Ensuring that the Chief Executive and Cabinet Members are involved in setting priorities and strategic direction for vulnerable children, specifically children on the Child Protection Register and children looked after;
- Ensuring that the Chief Executive and Cabinet Members are well informed about the progress and well-being of vulnerable children for whom the Authority holds significant responsibility; and
- Overseeing the Authority's development of a robust approach to corporate parenting.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The membership of the Forum has been extended to include a secondary school headteacher and has benefitted from the knowledge, experience and input from this representative. It is the view of the forum that extending the membership to include headteacher representation from the primary sector would further inform the Forum, and afford direct links to the primary sector.

3.02 The addition of a representative from an independent professional

advocacy service has also been considered by the Forum and it has been agreed that the extension of the membership to include this would positively support the Forum in its remit.

- 3.03 Both of the representatives would have full voting rights and would be formally co-opted by the Children's Services Forum. Terms of office will be 4 years with reps being able to serve for an unlimited number of terms of office (subject to reselection).

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Cabinet considers the report and authorises the change to the membership of the Children's Services Forum to include a Primary Headteacher representative and an independent advocate.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 Representation from both the primary and secondary sectors along with an independent advocate will ensure matters will be considered from a range of perspectives.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- .01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 None as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 None.

12.00 APPENDICES

- 12.01 None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Constitution – November 2014

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