



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13TH SEPTEMBER 2021

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER SOCIAL SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATIONS AND CORPORATE SERVICES

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek endorsement of the proposed candidate for appointment to the vacant co-opted Members position.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Social Services Scrutiny Committee are asked to endorse the candidate recommended by the Social Services Co-opted Member Appointments Sub-Committee.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Patricia Cook is appointed to the vacant co-opted member position (without voting rights) on the Social Services Scrutiny Committee until May 2022, subject to her acceptance of the members code of conduct.
- 3.2 That Judith Pritchard is retained as reserve co-opted member should the position become vacant in future.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Council agreed a process for the appointment of non-voting co-opted members to Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (now Social Services Scrutiny Committee) at the Annual General Meeting held on 18 May 2017. It was agreed that this process would be adopted to fill the vacant positions on the committee.
- 4.2 In the report to Social Services Scrutiny Committee on 4th February 2020 Members were advised of the resignation of one of the co-opted members and approval was sought to recruit for a replacement. Unfortunately, the Covid 19 Pandemic had a significant impact on this process and a subsequent report to Social Services Scrutiny Committee on 15th June 2021 sought new members to sit on the Social

Services Co-opted Member Appointments Sub-Committee. As a result, the following Members were appointed:

Councillor Carmen Bezzina, Vice Chair Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Mark Evans, Member of Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Charlotte Bishop, Member of Social Services Scrutiny Committee

- 4.3 Following the approval to recruit in February 2020, a letter was sent to GAVO asking that it be circulated to organisations representing users and carers in the county borough, seeking nominations for the vacant position. A total of three nominations were received. The three nominees were all shortlisted for interview by the subcommittee on 29th June and interviewed on 20th and 22nd July 2021.
- 4.4 The three candidates were nominated by the 50+ Forum and the Carers Network, and the appointments subcommittee were asked to consider their experience skills and knowledge whilst balancing against the range of skills and knowledge already represented on the scrutiny committee. After full consideration the subcommittee unanimously recommend that Patricia Cook is appointed to the vacant co-opted member position due to her long-standing experience as a carer and an understanding of social care sector.
- 4.5 The Social Services Co-opted Member Appointments Sub-Committee was also permitted to suggest unsuccessful interviewees as reserves, should future vacancies arise. In view of the very close interview result the subcommittee unanimously agreed that a recommendation is made to retain Judith Pritchard as a reserve, should a future co-opted member vacancy arise. Mrs Pritchard demonstrated a wide range of experience and understanding of Health and local community service.
- 4.6 The report to scrutiny committee on 4th February 2020 highlighted that the vacant position was due to expire in May 2022, as per the decision by Council on 24th October 2017. Council agreed that co-opted members would be on a fixed term and aligned to run concurrently with the term of office for each respective administration. It should be noted that all three existing co-opted members may be considered for appointment alongside other nominees in May 2022.

4.7 **Conclusion**

The report sets out the recommendation of the Social Services Co-opted Member Appointments Sub-Committee to appoint Patricia Cook to the vacant co-opted member vacancy and Judith Pritchard as reserve.

5. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 5.1 It is a matter for the scrutiny committee to decide if it wishes to appoint to the vacant co-opted member position.

6. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 This report does not require an Integrated Impact Assessment as it relates to a procedural matter agreed by Council on 18th May 2017.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications not contained in the report

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications not contained in the report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 There are no consultation responses not contained in the report.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

10.2 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011

Author: Catherine Forbes-Thompson, Scrutiny Manager

Consultees: Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Lisa Lane, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services
Councillor Donna Cushing, Chair Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Carmen Bezzina, Vice Chair Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Mark Evans, Member of Social Services scrutiny appointments subcommittee
Councillor Charlotte Bishop, Member of Social Services scrutiny appointments subcommittee

Background Papers: Report to Annual Council 18th May 2017 Co-opted Scrutiny Committee Members Agenda Item 16

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Co-opted Member Role Description