

Item No 11	Classification: Open	Date: July 25 2007	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Appointment of Non-Voting, Co-opted Members and Invitations to Attend Meetings	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		None	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee agree the number of non-voting co-opted members they wish to appoint for 2007/2008 and the organisations who will be asked to appoint representatives.
2. The Committee consider which organisations they may wish to invite to future meetings, either to comment on particular reports or provide an update to the Committee on their work.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Corporate Parenting Panel, at their meeting held on 10 May 2007, considered the proposed terms of reference for this Committee, that were subsequently agreed at the Council Assembly meeting held on 27 June 2007.
4. The terms of reference include a provision for this Committee to appoint non-voting co-opted members and the Panel agreed that such appointments should be made to ensure Members receive a range of views from organisations who support Children Looked After (CLA) and can assist in facilitating consultation with CLA to ensure the Committee are aware of their views and experiences.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The Corporate Parenting Panel previously considered inviting to their meetings representatives from Southwark Primary Care Trust, Young Southwark, headteacher representatives, Speakerbox, CAMHS and Carelink. However, with the exception of a standing invitation to Speakerbox, no formal arrangements were introduced.
6. It is suggested that Southwark Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Young Southwark (the children's trust) appoint non-voting, co-opted members to the Committee. The PCT is a major partner in the children's trust and a representative could provide a valuable perspective on matters being considered by the Committee. Young Southwark includes representatives from voluntary and community groups and the Committee are asked to consider if a representative from this sector would be appropriate.
7. The "Care Matters" White Paper introduces wider consultation arrangements for children in care and the Committee will consider a report, at their meeting in

September, on participation and consultation arrangements. It is suggested that the role of Speakerbox be considered as part of that report.

8. The Committee may wish to receive reports, at future meetings, from specific groups or organisations on their activities or they may wish representatives to attend meetings to address issues within reports. The Committee may wish to identify priorities from the White Paper and use these to shape the groups they wish to invite to contribute to future meetings. It is suggested that a headteachers' representative, Carelink and the Foster Carers Association be invited to future meetings.

Community Impact Statement

9. The appointment of non-voting members and the involvement of other groups in the work of the Committee will enhance the involvement of wider community views in the work of the Committee.

Resource implications

10. There are no additional resource implications to this report.

Consultation

11. No consultation has been undertaken.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

12. If the Committee did not make a decision at this meeting on the appointment of non-voting members this would delay such appointments, if agreed, being made and would have a detrimental impact on the work of the Committee. The Committee will consider their work plan elsewhere on this agenda and the decision to invite other organisations to attend meetings is linked to that discussion.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

13. This report was not available within five clear working days of the Committee meeting as officers wished to ensure the recommendations were in line with the priorities identified from the White Paper.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Minutes of meeting of Corporate Parenting Committee, 10 May 2007	Childrens Services	Laura McGinlay 020 7525 0404
Minutes of meeting of Council Assembly, 27 June 2007	Constitutional Team	Richard Blakeley 020 7525 7232

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director: Specialist Children's Services and Safeguarding	
Report Author	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director: Specialist Children's Services and Safeguarding	
Version	Final	
Dated	July 20 2007	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal and Democratic Services	No	No
Director of Finance	No	No
Executive Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team		July 20 2007