

**Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer**

**Member Management Committee**

**Date: 22 May 2008**

**Subject: Local Authority Appointment To The Parent Partnership Service Advisory Board.**

<p><b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b></p>	<p><b>Specific Implications For:</b></p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To agree a nomination to be a member of the Parent Partnership Advisory Board.

**2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Parent Partnership Service have established an advisory board. The Parent Partnership Services is arms length to Education Leeds and provides impartial advice and support to parents. The board is in line with recommendations from the exemplification of minimum standards 2008 which includes all standards set out in chapter 2 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2001 . An elected member, with a particular interest in Special Educational Needs (SEN) is invited to join this no-statutory, advisory body which has no delegated powers.
- 2.2 The Parent Partnership Service works with parents of all children with SEN to provide information, publicity, training, advice and support, to foster networking and collaboration and to inform and influence local SEN policy and practice. The advisory board would work in a consultative capacity and as a critical friend and would challenge the Parent Partnership on issues such as best value and staffing.
- 2.3 The DCSF exemplification of the Parent Partnership Services minimum standards describes good practise for a management group below.

*The PPS Steering/Management Group has published terms of reference, including responsibility for ensuring the impartiality of the PPS. The Steering/Management Group has delegated responsibility to manage the PPS. Where the service is provided by a charity they can co-opt parents, other voluntary organisations to a parent partnership management group. The Steering/Management Group has broad representation, including a majority of parents and an independent*

*Chair. The Steering/Management Group monitor the effectiveness and impartiality of the service in accordance with national guidance and report regularly to the local authority including the Children's Information Service.<sup>1</sup>*

### **3.0 MAIN ISSUES**

- 3.1 The constitution allows for up to two elected members to have a place on the advisory board, where the majority of members are parents
- 3.2 The board has one representative from each of Early Years, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Children and Young Peoples Social Care, Health, Extended Services, Psychology and Assessment Services, SILC principals, Reemap, Family and Schools Together plus 9 parents and 1 foster carer.
- 3.3 Representatives from the community sector have been requested through Reemap, Leeds Voice and the Preschool Learning Alliance.
- 3.3 The Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules state that where a request to make an appointment is received then determination of this will be based on one or more of the following criteria being met:
- the proposed appointment is a statutory requirement;
  - the proposed appointment would be consistent with the Council's policy or strategic objectives; and/or
  - the proposed appointment would add value to the Council's activities.
- 3.4 Where an organisation is deemed to have met one or more of these criteria, Members are requested to allocate it to one of the following categories:
- Strategic and Key Partnerships – participation contributes to the Council's strategic objectives and community leadership role
  - Community and Local Engagement – not necessary to fulfil strategic or key partnership role but, nonetheless, beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from an area or ward perspective.
- 3.5 The appointing body for Strategic and Key Partnerships is the Member Management Committee. The appointing body for Community and Local Engagement is the appropriate Area Committee.
- 3.6 Members are asked to consider whether an appointment should be made to this body and to agree that an appointment would fall into the Strategic and Key category.

### **4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1 The member appointment referred to in 3.1 to 3.6 are in accordance with the Council's Constitution and as detailed in the Appointments to Outside Body Procedure Rules. Members will also be advised of the need to update their entry in the Members register of interests.

### **5.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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<sup>1</sup> Parent Partnership Service – Increasing Parental Confidence. DCFS Ref:00959-2007 DOM-EN

5.1 There are no specific legal or resource implications in relation to this appointment.

**6.0 RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 Members are asked to nominate up to two representative to the Parent Partnership Advisory Board.