

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: The Cheshire and Wirral Councils' Joint Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting:	12 April 2010
Report of:	Cheshire East Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	Procedural Matters

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To consider procedural matters relating to co-option, meeting venues and arrangements for the appointment of Chair, Vice Chair and Spokesperson for 2010 – 2011.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That

- 1) further consideration be given to the options for the involvement of the Local Involvement Networks (LINK) in the Joint Committee's meetings;
- 2) further discussions take place with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) through the Mid Point meeting concerning Service User and Carer representation;
- 3) the venues for the Joint Committee's meetings in the forthcoming year be agreed, with a start time of 2.30pm; and
- 4) the position concerning the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair, and the notification of Spokesperson for the forthcoming year be noted.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The involvement of co-opted members may assist the Committee with its work; and agreeing meeting start times, venues and the appointment of Chair, Vice Chair and Spokesperson at an early stage in the year will help with the smooth running of the Committee.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 Not applicable

**6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change
- Health**

6.1 None

**7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough
Treasurer)**

7.1 None

**8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough
Treasurer)**

8.1 None

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 None

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 None identified

11.0 Background and Options

Co – option:

11.1 The Joint Committee’s Procedural Rules make the following provision for co-option:

“The Joint Committee may choose to co-opt other appropriate individuals, in a non-voting capacity, to the Committee or for the duration of a particular review or scrutiny.”

11.2 At the last meeting of the Joint Committee, Members reviewed the position of the Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) which cover the three PCT’s in the Joint Committee’s area. It had been understood that the three LINKs had formed a Cheshire and Wirral Sub Group to focus particularly on Mental Health and related matters. Accordingly the Committee resolved to co-opt one LINK representative (plus one named substitute) on to the Joint Committee, in a non voting capacity, drawn from the LINKs’ Mental Health Sub Group. In addition, the Committee decided that further consideration be given to the possibility of offering further co – opted places to representatives of the LINKs, and to representation from Service Users and/or Carers.

11.3 These issues were discussed at the Mid Point meeting on 17 March, where it was reported that, contrary to the previous expectation, there was no prospect of a joint LINKs Mental Health Sub Group being formed for some

time. Members therefore reviewed the overall position, taking into account the respective roles of the Committee and the LINKs, and the input which might be required of the LINKs to contribute to the Committee's business.

11.4 The conclusion reached at the Mid Point was that formal co-option from each of the three LINKs was not required, but that, as appropriate, a representative from the relevant LINK should be invited to attend the Joint Committee, for the consideration of specific items of business. Members also recognised that the Joint Committee meetings were held in public, so that LINK representatives were able to attend the meetings and to observe the business in any event. It was envisaged that a LINK representative would be co-opted to any "Task and Finish" Reviews, where this was appropriate.

11.5 With regard to the involvement of Service Users and/or Carers, it is understood that CWP is currently seeking to identify designated representatives of these interests from amongst the Trust's own membership, to participate more fully in the Trust's business meetings. It may well be that these individuals would be well placed to contribute also to meetings of the Joint Committee, and it is suggested that further discussions take place with CWP on these appointments, with a view to decisions being made at the July meeting of this Committee.

11.6 It is assumed that any appointment of Co-opted Members (and substitutes) would be made until 30 April 2011.

Future Meeting Arrangements:

11.7 The dates for next year's meetings have already been agreed as 12 July and 4 October 2010, and 10 January and 4 April 2011. At the Mid Point meeting it was proposed that the Joint Committee should continue to meet at 2.30pm, and that the meetings should rotate across all three local authority areas. Accordingly there remains a need to settle the meeting venues for 2010 – 2011. It is proposed that meetings are held in the Cheshire East and Wirral areas when days are light (July and April) and more centrally in the autumn and winter, as follows:

- 12 July - Town Hall, Macclesfield;
- 4 October - Chester/Ellesmere Port;
- 10 January – Winsford Lifestyle Centre;
- 4 April – Committee Room 1, Wallasey Town Hall.

Appointment of Chair, Vice Chair and Spokesperson:

11.8 The Joint Committee's Procedural Rules provide that the Chair and Vice Chair shall be appointed annually from the elected Members of the Committee, and that the Chair shall be held by one Authority and the Vice Chair by another. The Authority which does not hold either of these positions shall appoint a Spokesperson from amongst its Members and notify the Secretary accordingly. The appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair needs to

be made at the 12 July meeting, this being the first of the 2010 – 11 municipal year.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 To help establish the Joint Scrutiny Committee and its role.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Mike Flynn
Designation: Cheshire East Scrutiny Team
Tel No: 01270 686464
Email: mike.flynn@cheshireeast.gov.uk