

Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care – 22nd November, 2007

Report of the Director of Law and Property

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Consider the Future Configuration of Mental Health Services in Dudley and Walsall: Membership

Purpose of Report

1. To reconsider the Dudley Membership of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the future configuration of Mental Health Services in Dudley and Walsall.

Background

2. The Select Committee, at its Special Meeting held on the 8th November, 2007, approved proposals for the establishment of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Elected Members from Walsall and Dudley Metropolitan Borough Councils to consider and formulate a response to the consultation document, "A Better Deal".
3. It was agreed further that the Joint Committee comprise five members of each Authority, with the Dudley component being two Conservative Members, two Labour Members and one Liberal Democrat Member. The Members were then appointed.
4. The legislative requirements regarding Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as set out below, provide that composition and membership must generally reflect the political make-up of the full Council. The Authorities may waive the political balance requirements but only where all members of each participating Local Authority agree to do so. Membership must, therefore, comprise three Members of the Conservative Group and two Members of the Labour Group.

Finance

5. There are no direct financial implications.

Law

6. Under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2000, Overview and Scrutiny Committees must generally reflect the political make-up of the full Council. The Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 enables Local Authorities to waive the political balance requirements if all elected Councillors within that Authority agree that it need not apply.
7. Where a Joint Committee is established, the political balance requirement applies for each participating Local Authority unless Members of all Authorities agree to waive that requirement.

Equality Impact

8. This report complies with the Council's Equality and Diversity Strategy. Any implications for children and young people will be considered in the joint response to the Consultation Paper.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Committee reconsider the composition and membership of Dudley's side of the Joint Scrutiny Committee and revise it on the basis of its comprising three Members of the Conservative Group and two Members of the Labour Group, and appoint the Dudley Members to serve, accordingly.

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