

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

West Dunbartonshire Council: 16 May 2007

Subject: West Dunbartonshire Children's Panel Advisory Committee - Membership

1. Purpose

- 1.1** In accordance with Schedule 1(3) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, the Council is requested to nominate two persons to serve on the West Dunbartonshire Children's Panel Advisory Committee (CPAC).

2. Background

- 2.1** The West Dunbartonshire CPAC is a key part of Scotland's Children's Hearings System. The CPAC is formed by the local authority to advise Scottish Ministers on the appointment of individuals to the children's panel and on matters relating to administration of the panels.
- 2.2** The role of CPAC members involves working as part of a Committee in the recruitment, selection and monitoring of the children's panel members. Further information on the work of the CPAC is included in the attached Appendix.
- 2.3** Prior to commencing their role CPAC members are required to attend training provided by the Children's Panel Training Organisers, on monitoring, recruitment and interviewing.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The West Dunbartonshire CPAC has a membership of seven, five of whom are volunteers and are appointed by the First Minister and two are nominated by the Council. In the past, the Council had agreed to nominate one member for each of the two main political groupings, i.e. Labour and SNP and this Council may wish to continue with this practice. If so, Mr Hugh McLafferty MBE (previously nominated by the Labour Group) has indicated that he is willing to continue to serve on the CPAC. However, Mrs Patricia Shannon, who was previously nominated by the SNP Group, has indicated that she wishes to retire after 22 years of dedicated service to the Hearings System as a CPAC member.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 In the event that the Council fails to appoint a member to West Dunbartonshire CPAC, the duties which would normally be undertaken by this member would result in additional workload for the other members of the Committee.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The Hearings System plays a vital part of Scotland's justice system, it is therefore desirable that all places on West Dunbartonshire CPAC are filled.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Council is requested:-

- (a) to recognise and thank Mrs Shannon for her commitment to the Hearings System over the last 22 years; and
- (b) to make nominations to West Dunbartonshire CPAC in light of the comments made in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 10 May 2007

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| Appendix: | West Dunbartonshire Children's Panel Advisory Committee – Role of the CPAC member |
| Background Papers: | None |
| Wards Affected: | All |