

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 27 MARCH 2007

CHILDREN'S PANEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC) – AMENDMENTS TO APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of amendments by the Scottish Executive to the Appointment Procedure for Scottish Executive appointments to the Children's Panel Advisory Committee, and to seek approval for the same amendments to be made to the Local Authority Appointment Procedure.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Each Local Authority has a duty under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to form a CPAC, to consider the volume of work which might be expected to fall to East Ayrshire Children's Panel, the number of Members appointed to the Panel, to ensure the smooth running of the Panel, and also to help evaluate the extent to which training for Panel Members will be needed.
- 2.2** The CPAC consists of five Members, three of whom are appointed by the Scottish Executive, and two by the Council.
- 2.3** All appointments to the CPAC are for a period of three years. At the end of an appointment period, the appointment is advertised and all interested parties, including the CPAC Member seeking re-appointment, are invited to attend an interview, following which nominations (with a recommendation for appointment) are offered for consideration. Both Scottish Executive appointments and the Local Authority appointments are considered using this method.

3. AMENDMENTS TO SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

- 3.1** The Scottish Executive has introduced amendments to the Appointment Procedure for Scottish Executive Appointees to CPACs to align the Children's Hearing System with the current Policy of the Public Appointments System. These amendments are as follows:-

- in order to be eligible for re-appointment from 1 January 2007, CPAC Members must have successfully completed the training package for CPACs provided by the Children's Panel Training Unit and the Scottish Executive has confirmed that it has a similar expectation on Local Authority appointees, as with Scottish Executive appointees, to undertake all CPAC duties including an expectation to complete the training;
- with immediate effect, if a CPAC Member had successfully completed a first term of three years, they will be offered a further three year term of appointment and if they are willing to accept, no other nominations

will need to be submitted. If they do not wish a further period of appointment, then the vacancy will be advertised and at least two candidates offered for consideration. It will be the responsibility of the CPAC to establish whether a CPAC Member has successfully completed their first term of appointment; and

- after a second term of appointment, it is necessary to advertise for a CPAC Member in order to refresh, and if the Member seeking re-appointment wishes to be considered for re-appointment, they will be interviewed with the other candidates. Any extension to a second term of appointment will only be made where an appropriate case is made and only then on a year by year basis.

4. POLICY/FINANCIAL/COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS - Nil

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** In terms of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, the Council is obliged to form a Children's Panel Advisory Committee.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1** The amendments to the procedure for Scottish Executive appointees to CPACs, aligns the Children's Hearing System with the current policy of the Public Appointments System.

- 6.2** East Ayrshire CPAC currently applies the expectation that all CPAC Members undertake all CPAC duties, and it has been the practice that appointments and re-appointments of both Scottish Executive and Local Authority appointments are dealt with in the same way, and amending the Local Authority Appointments Procedure with the amendments as detailed in paragraph 3, would enable this practice to continue.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1** The Committee is asked to:-

- (i) note the amendments to the Scottish Executive Appointment Procedure for Scottish Executive Appointments to the CPAC;
- (ii) agree to alter the Local Authority Appointment Procedure for Local Authority appointments to the CPAC in accordance with the amendments as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report; and
- (iii) note the contents of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

LY/DL
12 March 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Local Authority Appointments Procedure.
2. Amendment to the Scottish Executive Procedure.
3. Revised Scottish Executive Appointments Procedure.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers should contact Lynn Young, Administrative Officer on Tel: (01563) 576283. Any person wishing further information should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on Tel (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager