

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION SCHEDULE



Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2006

at 11.00 am

in Committee Room "C"

Councillor Hill, Cabinet Member responsible for Children's Services will consider the following items.

1. **KEY DECISIONS**

1.1 None

2. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

2.1 Local Authority Support to Foster Carers – *Director of Children's Services*

2.2 Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – *Director of Children's Services*

3 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

3.1 None

4. **REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS**

4.1 None

## EXEMPT ITEMS

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5. **KEY DECISION**

5.1 None

6. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

6.1 None

7. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

7.1 None

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

Report To Portfolio Holder

**23 January 2006**



**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT TO FOSTER CARERS

---

### **SUMMARY**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose ways in which Hartlepool Borough Council, in its role as corporate parents, can best support the vitally important role foster carers undertake in the delivery of services to looked after children and young people. This report presents two specific proposals, for consideration by the Portfolio Holder as to how the local authority can use its resources to best support foster carers in this role.

1.2 The proposals contained within this report are:

(a) to use foster carers as a source of recruitment by offering £100 to existing carers who introduce a person who is subsequently approved as a foster carer.

(b) that an annual fund of £500 be created from existing budgets to cover the expense incurred by foster carers who receive visits from people previously looked after by the local authority.

#### **2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

2.1 The report highlights the national shortage of foster carers and stresses the need for the local authority to adopt different recruitment and retention techniques in order to attract and retain an adequate stock of foster carers in Hartlepool. This report contains two proposals that are designed to assist the local authority in meeting this challenge. Comparison with other local authorities has been included to inform the decision making process.

### **3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER**

- 3.1 Foster carers play a crucial role in assisting the local authority in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of looked after children. This report contains proposals that impact on the allocation of the Council's resources in supporting foster carers in this role and, therefore, the content of this report is relevant to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

### **4.0 TYPE OF DECISION**

- 4.1 Non-Key Decision.

### **5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

- 5.1 Portfolio Holder

### **6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

- 6.1 For the Portfolio Holder to decide on the proposal that £100 be paid to existing foster carers who introduce a person who is subsequently approved by Panel as a foster carer.
- 6.2 For the Portfolio Holder to decide whether a budget of £500 be created from existing funds to cover the expense incurred by foster carers who receive visits from people previously in the care of the local authority.

**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT TO FOSTER CARERS

---

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose ways in which Hartlepool Borough Council, in its role as corporate parents, can best support the vitally important role foster carers undertake in the delivery of services to looked after children and young people. This report presents two specific proposals, for consideration by the Portfolio Holder as to how the local authority can use its resources to best support foster carers in this role.

1.2 The proposals are:

(a) to use foster carers as a source of recruitment by offering £100 to existing carers who introduce a person who is subsequently approved as a foster carer.

(b) that an annual fund of £500 be created from existing budgets to cover the expense incurred by foster carers who receive visits from people previously in the care of the local authority.

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Corporate Parent Forum debated these proposals on 29 November 2005 and fully endorsed them both. There was universal support for the broad concept of both proposals and the proposed sums. The Corporate Parent Forum believed the implementation of these proposals would be useful methods in attracting and retaining carers and recommended that these proposals be presented to the Portfolio Holder for consideration.

2.2 *Fostering Network*, a large national focus group who campaign on issues related to fostering, estimate that there is a national shortage of approximately 10,000 foster carers. This means that local authorities are competing against each other, and partner agencies within the independent sector, to recruit and retain a sufficient number of foster carers. This increased demand for foster carers means the local authority must plan and implement a range of recruitment and retention techniques to ensure that there is a sufficient stock of local foster carers to meet the diverse needs of Hartlepool's looked after children.

The proposals contained within this report would aid the local authority in meeting this ongoing challenge.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

#### 3.1 *Proposal to pay existing carers £100 for every new carer they introduce:*

A small one off advertisement in the local press to attract new foster carers costs in excess of £400 and offers no guarantee that any new carers would be successfully recruited as a result. This proposal represents reasonable value for money as the £100 fee would only be payable when the new carer has been formally approved by Panel. There are no speculative or start up costs involved as this new initiative would be promoted internally via existing mechanisms. It is difficult to project the precise costs of implementing this proposal, however, it is anticipated that all associated costs could be funded from within existing revenue budgets by reducing the need for advertisement.

Many other local authorities have chosen to implement this initiative, although there is widespread variation on the actual amounts payable. The table below illustrates some examples of what other local authorities are doing:

Local Authority	Payment to existing carer
Caerphilly	£50 for an enquiry and £250 on formal approval by Panel
Cambridgeshire	£150 when new carer receives first placement
Chester	£250 on formal approval by Panel
Hampshire	£50 on completion of preparation training and a further £150 on approval by Panel
Newport	£100 on formal approval by Panel

A foster carer would nominate a prospective carer to their link worker, who would make a formal written note of the date of this nomination in the foster carers file.

A sum of £100 is being proposed for implementation in Hartlepool as the Corporate Parent Forum thought this provided a sufficient incentive to existing carers without being prohibitively expensive to a small unitary authority.

3.2 *Proposal to create dedicated resources to cover the costs incurred by foster carers from people who were previously in the care of the local authority*

It is not uncommon for adults to visit their parents (often unannounced) and enjoy the hospitality their parents provide; similarly, it is often the case that adults visit their previous foster carers to catch-up, reminisce and enjoy each others company. The significant difference is that foster carers often have very large “extended families”.

It is proposed that financial provision is made to assist foster carers in this supporting role. So that no foster carer should be prevented from receiving visits from people previously in their care due to lack of finance. It is proposed that a budget of £500 be created from existing funds for foster carers to access to cover the costs incurred by visits from children who visit them and that the Head of Business Unit (Young Persons Service) would oversee this budget. It is envisaged that demands on this budget would be heaviest over the Christmas and New Year period as this is traditionally a time when families get together. This would act as a pilot scheme and this would be reviewed at the end of this financial year.

This scheme promotes positive contact between care-leavers and their previous carers and can be funded from existing budgets, however it is difficult to predict the levels of take up.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 That the Portfolio Holder decides that the local authorities existing foster carers be paid £100 for every new foster carer they introduce, who is subsequently approved by Panel.
- 4.2 That the Portfolio Holder decides that a fund of £500 be created from existing budgets to cover the expense incurred by foster carers who receive visits from children previously in the care of the local authority.

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

Report To Portfolio Holder

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006



**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY  
REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL  
GOVERNING BODIES

---

### **SUMMARY**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee, in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative Governors, to serve on school governing bodies where vacancies currently and will exist in February 2006 following the expiry of terms of office and the reconstitution of one Governing Body under the School Governance Constitution (England) Regulations 2003, on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006.

#### **2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

- 2.1 The report summarises the process for inviting applications for representative governors and the criteria for their selection.

#### **3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER**

- 3.1 It is the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder to decide the appointment of Local Authority representative school governors following advice from the General Purposes Sub Committee.

#### **4.0 TYPE OF DECISION**

- 4.1 Non-key decision.

#### **5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

- 5.1 Portfolio Holder's meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006.

**6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

- 6.1 Approval by the Portfolio Holder of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee, in respect of the appointment of representative Governors to serve on school governing bodies where vacancies exist.



**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY  
REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL  
GOVERNING BODIES

---

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee, in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative Governors, to serve on school governing bodies where vacancies currently and will exist in February 2006 following the expiry of terms of office and the reconstitution of one Governing Body under the School Governance Constitution (England) Regulations 2003, on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Applications are invited from members of the general public, elected members and those governors whose term of office is about to expire or have expired who are interested in serving or wish to continue serving as a Local Authority representative governor on school governing bodies.
- 2.2 The following criteria were agreed by the Borough Council for the recruitment of Local Education Authority representative governors in 2000.
- 2.3 Local Authority governors should be able to show:
- Demonstrable interest in and commitment to education;
  - A desire to support the school concerned;
  - A commitment to attend regular meetings of the governing body (and committees as appropriate) and school functions generally;
  - Good communication/interpersonal skills;
  - Ability to work as part of a team;
  - A clearly expressed willingness to participate in the governor training programme.
- 2.4 A schedule setting out details of vacancies together with applications received in respect of the vacancies was considered by members of the General Purposes Sub Committee at their meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2005 (**Appendix 1**).

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services approve recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school Governing Bodies. A schedule outlining recommendations of the General Purposes Sub Committee is attached at **Appendix 1**.



# **VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES**

**Contact Officer: Ann Turner  
Tel. 523766**

**Children's Services Department**

**VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES**

<b>SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS</b>	<b>VACANCIES</b>	<b>POSSIBLE INTEREST</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT</b>
<b>Barnard Grove Primary:</b>			
Mrs. D. Stonehouse	1 Vacancy	No interest expressed	Deferred
Mr. J.M. Kay			
<b>Brierton Community School:</b>	Governing Body to reconstitute under		
Councillor Ms. M. James	School Government (Constitution)	Mr. H. D. Smith	Mr. H. D. Smith
Mrs. A. Lilley	(England) Regulations 2003		
	1 Vacancy		
<b>Brougham Primary School:</b>	1 Vacancy Vice		
Mrs. J. Thompson	Mr. A. Walker's term of office expired	Mr. A. Walker	Mr. A. Walker
Mr. R. Atkinson	11.10.05		
<b>Catcote School:</b>			
Mrs. I. Hodgman	2 vacancies Vice	Mrs. I. Hodgman Dr. M. Banim Form awaited	Mrs I. Hodgman
Dr. M. Banim	Mrs. I. Hodgman and Dr. M. Banim		Dr. Banim (subject to receipt of form)
Mr. J. Proud	terms of office expire 27.2.06		
<b>Dyke House School:</b>			
Councillor J. Lauderdale	1 Vacancy	No interest expressed	Deferred
Mrs. M. Sneddon			
<b>Eldon Grove Primary School:</b>	1 Vacancy Vice		
Mrs. P. Vaughan	Mr. J. Barr	Mr. J. Barr	Mr. J. Barr
Mrs. P. Hamilton	Term of office expires 27.2.06		
Mr. J. Barr			

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
<b>High Tunstall School:</b>			
Councillor G. Morris	Vacancy Vice	Mr. P. Hamilton Mrs. L. Totty	Mr. P. Hamilton
Mr. R. G. McGovern	Councillor Jackson		
Reverend Dr. A. Craig	Removed non attendance		
<b>Jesmond Road Primary School:</b>			
Councillor Mrs. J. Shaw	1 Vacancy	Mr. M. Ward	Mr. M. Ward
Mrs. D. Adamson	Vice – Mr. R. Addison resigned		
Mr. M. J. Sparks			
<b>Lynnfield Primary School:</b>			
Councillor C. Richardson	1 Vacancy	Councillor V. Tumilty	Councillor V. Tumilty
Mrs. L. Peek			
<b>Manor College of Technology:</b>			
Councillor A. Preece	1 Vacancy	Mrs. E. Blakey	Mrs. E. Blakey
Mrs. J. Hamilton	Vice Mrs. E. Blakey term of office expired		
Mr. F. Reid	11.10.05		
<b>Owton Manor Primary School:</b>			
Mrs. J. Thompson	Vacancy-Vice	Mr. J. Vale	Mr. J. Vale
Councillor Mrs. P. Rayner	Mr. J. Reid		
Councillor Professor G. Wistow	Resigned		
<b>Rossmere Primary School:</b>			
Mrs. D. Stonehouse	Vacancy	No interest expressed	Deferred
Mrs. M. Smith	Vice Mrs. L. Hodgson		
	Resigned		
<b>Seaton Carew Nursery School:</b>			
	2 Vacancies	Mrs. R. Blackwood	Mrs. R. Blackwood
	Vice Mr. S. Hindhaugh - resigned		
	Mrs. R. Blackwood - resigned		

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	POSSIBLE INTEREST	RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
<b>Springwell School:</b>			
Mrs. E. Parkinson	Vacancy Vice	No interest expressed	Deferred
	Mr. C. Rowntree		
	Declined appointment		
<b>St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School:</b>			
	Vacancy Vice	No interest expressed	Deferred
	Mrs. D. Adamson		
	Term of office expired		
<b>St. Helen's Primary School:</b>			
Mrs. J. Armstrong	Vacancy Vice	Ms. S. Sotheran	Ms. S. Sotheran
Miss C. Lamb	Mrs. C. Rounsley term of office		
Councillor D. Allison	Expired 11.10.05		
<b>Stranton Primary School:</b>			
Mr. R. P. Gleeson	Vacancy Vice	Mr. B. Hanna	Mr. B. Hanna
Councillor J. Lauderdale	Mr. B. Hanna term of office expires		
Mr. B. Hanna	27.2.06		
<b>Ward Jackson Primary School:</b>			
Mr. M. Ruddock	Vacancy Vice	No interest expressed	Deferred
	Councillor R. Payne (removed non-Attendance)		