
Paper A - Appointment of co-opted member to Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families

Lead Member: Councillor Leigh Redman – Chair of Scrutiny Committee – Children and Families

Division and Local Member: All

Lead Officers: Jamie Jackson – Service Manager for Scrutiny

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the Scrutiny Committee for Children and Families recommendation to Council arising from their ballot to appoint the Schools Forum representative to sit as a co-opted member on the Committee that took place in July 2023.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **The Council is recommended to approve the appointment of Joanne Simons as a co-opted member on the Scrutiny Committee - Children and Families.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The membership of the Scrutiny Committee for Children and Families includes a number of co-opted members who have voting rights on education matters, as follows - 2 church representatives (1 vacancy), 2 co-opted parent governor representatives (both vacant), 2 school governor representatives and 1 representative from the Schools Forum. A number of these vacancies have remained open despite several attempts to fill them. The Scrutiny Committee for Children and Families is currently the only scrutiny committee with co-opted members.

In June 2023 we approached the Schools Forum to appoint a representative to sit as a co-opted member on the Committee. All members of the Schools Forum were invited to express an interest and we received 2 nominations. A ballot of the voting members on the Schools

Forum took place, which closed on 21 July 2023 and Joanne Simons received the most votes. The total votes cast were – Joanne Simons 4 votes and Susan Brewer 2 votes.

Joanne Simons is currently Headteacher at South Somerset Partnership School - the Pupil Referral Unit which covers the Yeovil / Chard / Langport area. She has been a member of Schools Forum for many years and, until recently, was Chairperson of the Higher Needs Subgroup (now Higher Needs Advisory Group).

4. Background Papers

5.1 These are set out on the Council website.