

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CO-OPTEEES

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Panel approval for the two nominations of the independent co-optee appointment sub-group.

Information and Advice

Background

2. The Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires each Police and Crime Panel to co-opt at least two independent members.
3. At its meeting on 19 October 2012, the Panel established a sub-group (consisting of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and Councillor Norris) to agree and undertake the process for appointing two independent co-optees.
4. Panel members had previously supported a proposal arising from the Nottinghamshire Leaders Group that this recruitment process should seek to appoint two independent members and should specifically target the Probation Board Trust and Nottinghamshire Magistrates. It was felt that by following this approach, the Panel would gain particular skills and areas of experience which would help meet the balanced appointment objective overall.
5. At the 19 October 2012 meeting, the Panel also agreed that the sub-group should consider seeking to achieve geographical balance by having one nominee from the City and one from the County.
6. The sub-group is due to interview shortlisted candidates on Thursday 29 November 2012. Details of the proposed nominations will be circulated via e-mail to Members on 30 November for approval at this Panel meeting.
7. Twelve applications were received from local magistrates and a single application was received from the Probation Trust Board. The sub-group shortlisted four local magistrates (two from the City and two from the County) and the Probation Trust Board nomination for interview.
8. These appointments are initially for a temporary period of six months, to give the Panel an opportunity to review its membership overall in terms of skills and experience in June 2013. Going forward, any subsequent independent co-optee appointments will be for a term of two years, in line with the Panel Arrangements.
9. At the 19 October meeting, Panel Members also recommended that this future membership review should seek to widen the scope of any future independent

member recruitment in order to capture a more diverse range of skills and experience.

10. One unsolicited application from a voluntary and community sector representative was also received. The sub-group felt that it would not be appropriate to shortlist this candidate at this stage in light of the previous agreement to focus the initial recruitment on Probation Trust Board and Magistrate nominations. However, it was agreed that this candidate's application should be placed on file ahead of any decision to seek further independent co-optees arising from the planned membership review in June 2013.
11. Should the nominations be approved today then the independent co-optees will be able to join the Panel for the remainder of the meeting, with full voting rights.

Other Options Considered

12. The process of targeted recruitment proposed by the Leaders Group will enable the Panel to initially address existing gaps in skills and experience.
13. The temporary appointments will give the Panel greater flexibility in reviewing the balance of its membership at its first annual meeting in June 2013. Possible options at that stage could include:-
 - confirming the initial temporary appointments for a further full two year term;
 - appointing other co-optees through a wider recruitment process; or
 - increasing the number of independent co-optees in total (subject to approval by the Secretary of State).

Reasons for Recommendation/s

14. To enable the appointment of independent co-optees.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the nominations put forward by the sub-group, following the interviews held on 29 November 2012, be approved.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- 1) Report to Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel 19 October 2012 – 'Independent Co-optees' and the minutes of that meeting (published).

For any enquiries about this report please contact:-

Keith Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council
keith.ford@nottscc.gov.uk

Tel: 0115 9772590