

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	<b>Recruitment of a Co-opted Academy Parent Governor Representative</b>
Meeting date	16 June 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Committee is asked to consider whether it wants to appoint a Co-opted Academy Parent Governor to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the process for the recruitment if agreed.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee agree to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the recruitment of Co-opted Academy Parent Governor Representative from a secondary phase setting; and</b></li> <li>• <b>delegate any decision making to the Chair and Vice Chair as detailed in Paragraph 9 of this report.</b></li> </ul>
Reason for recommendations	<p>To ensure that the Committee is constituted in accordance with the local choice membership options as set out in the Constitution, which allows for an Academy Trust representative to join the Committee, but does not require it.</p> <p>Recruitment of a representative from a secondary phase setting will provide a balance to the insight provided to the Committee through Parent Governor representatives, of which primary phase and special schools are already represented.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	N/A – Overview and Scrutiny is a non-executive function
Corporate Director	Robin Watson, Interim Monitoring Officer
Report Authors	<p>Louise Smith, Senior Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer</p> <p>Lindsay Marshall, Scrutiny Specialist</p>
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Decision

## Background

1. As the functions and duties of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee include making decisions in relation to the Council's education responsibilities, the BCP Council constitution makes provision for the inclusion of two church and two Parent Governor Representatives (PGRs) as voting members in addition to the Councillor Membership. The Constitution also allows for the Committee to co-opt representative from the Academy Trusts within the local authority area, to attend meetings and provide guidance and perspective on items relating to education. Academy representation is optional and not required by legislation. The right to appoint non-voting co-opted members to local government committees is set out in the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000.
2. Following the successful appointment of two PGRs from maintained schools across BCP, the Committee is being asked to consider whether it wishes to appoint an Academy PGR.
3. The two PGRs from maintained schools represent the primary phase and special school settings and commenced their four year terms in January 2026.
4. The Committee previously had two Academy PRGs who shared the role and the allowance it attracted. They have both resigned from their positions leaving the position vacant.
5. Church representatives are chosen by the Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses and Democratic Services are in the process of contacting them to confirm their chosen nominations.
6. As the majority of schools across the BCP conurbation are Academies and not maintained schools, the Committee can benefit from, and bring equality to, its Parent Governor insight by inclusion of a representative from this category of schools. Further, it is suggested that applications are invited from PGRs from the **secondary phase** of education to enable insight to be brought from this category of schools, balancing the existing insight from primary and special school settings. **The Committee is therefore asked to consider whether it wishes to commence a recruitment process for an Academy PGR from secondary phase schools.**
7. In accordance with the constitution and relevant legislation, an Academy PGR would not be permitted to vote on any matters during Committee but would be able to contribute to discussions and support the Committee's overview and scrutiny function.
8. There is no term prescribed for Academy representatives by the Constitution, and it is therefore suggested that a representative be recruited for whichever is the shortest of:
  - The duration of their time as a Parent Governor for a secondary Academy, or
  - A maximum four year term

This is in keeping with the prescribed arrangements for maintained school PGRs.

### **Process and timescale for recruitment if agreed.**

9. As this appointment is a local choice, there is no requirement to hold a resource intensive election should there be more than one applicant for the position (as is the case for maintained school PGRs). The Committee is instead asked to delegate authority to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, supported by Democratic Services, to consider applications and appoint the most suitable candidate to the role.
10. If agreed, this process would commence immediately, and it is hoped that the successful candidate would commence their position from the start of the 2026/27 academic year.

### **Options Appraisal**

11. The options available are to:
  - a. recruit to this role from secondary schools settings only,
  - b. recruit to the role from all Academies, not limited to secondary schools,
  - c. continue with the two maintained school PRGs and church representatives and no Academy representation.
12. Option A is recommended for the reasons set out in the body of this report.

### **Summary of financial implications**

13. The PGR will receive remuneration in accordance with the relevant section of the agreed Members Allowance Scheme. The current remuneration for Co-opted Members of BCP Committees is £1,239 per annum.

### **Summary of legal implications**

14. There are no legal implications arising from this report. The options set out within this report all ensure compliance with the BCP Constitution and the Local Government Acts of 1972 and 2000.

### **Summary of human resources implications**

15. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

### **Summary of sustainability impact**

16. There will be no sustainability impact.

### **Summary of public health implications**

17. There are no public health implications.

### **Summary of equality implications**

18. This report continues arrangements in terms of co-opted membership on Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and seeks to confirm new representatives for these roles in line with the BCP Constitution. As there is no service change an equality impact assessment has not been undertaken.

19. Option A of the report is recommended because it will provide greater balance to the insight provided to the committee through parents with children in the BCP education system.

**Summary of risk assessment**

20. There are no risks arising from this report

**Background papers**

None.

**Appendices**

None.