

Report to	Council
Date of meeting	7 th December 2021
Lead Member / Officer	Gary Williams, Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services
Report author	Gary Williams, Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services
Title	Role of Young Persons' Champion

1. What is the report about?

1.1. The report is about the proposal to create the role of Young Persons' Champion.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. To seek the Council's approval for the creation of the role of Young Person's Champion and the role description set out in Appendix 5.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. That Council approves the creation of the role of Young Persons' Champion in accordance with the role description set out in Appendix 5.

4. Report details

4.1. In November 2012 Council determined that there should be four member champions. These were:

- Older People's Champion
- Homelessness Champion
- Carers' Champion
- Learning Disabilities Champion

- 4.2. Council adopted role descriptions for these champion roles, copies of which are attached as Appendices 1-4 of this report.
- 4.3. In April 2013 Council received the recommendation of the Governance and Audit Committee, (then known as the Corporate Governance Committee) that there should be no additional stand-alone member champions and that any further 'champion' roles recommended either nationally or locally should be carried out by the relevant Lead Member.
- 4.4. On the 7th September 2021 Council considered the following notice of motion;

"That Denbighshire County Council appoint a Young Persons Champion covering all ages up to 18."
- 4.5. Council resolved that a report on the role of a Young Persons Champion be presented to Democratic Services Committee to define the role and a further report to be presented to Full Council.
- 4.6. A role description has been drafted and is attached as Appendix 5 to this report. The role description is drafted to follow the same form as the role descriptions adopted for the current champions as set out in Appendices 1-4.
- 4.7. The Democratic Services Committee was asked, at its meeting on 5th November 2021 to consider the content of this draft role description, whether the role should be carried out by the relevant Lead Member or a non-Cabinet member, and to recommend to Council whether to adopt the role description as drafted or as amended by the Committee.
- 4.8. The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that there should be a role of Young Person's Champion and that it should be carried out by a non-Cabinet member. The Committee considered the definition of young person should include persons up to the age of 25 years and that the role description should be amended to reflect this.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1. The role of the champion would be consistent with the corporate priority that Denbighshire is a place that younger people want to live and work and have the necessary skills to do so.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 There may be occasional travelling costs incurred if a member champion attends meetings or events related to their champion role. These will be contained within the existing budgets allocated for member travel.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. An assessment is not required for this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. There has been no consultation with Scrutiny. The matter has been referred to the Democratic Services Committee directly by Council. Democratic Services Committee's recommendations are reflected in paragraph 4.8 of this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. The report confirms that any modest additional costs will be contained within existing budgets allocated for member travel. There does not appear to be any wider financial considerations.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. There is a risk that there is confusion or duplication arising out of the role of member champion and the role of the relevant Lead Member if the champion is not also the Lead Member. This can be mitigated by having a clear role description and a good working relationship between the Lead Member and the Champion.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1 s111 Local Government Act 1972