

Report to	Councillor Gill German, Lead Member for Education, Children and Families
Date	August 2022
Lead Officer	Democratic Services Manager
Report author	Steve Price
Title	Appointment to the Denbighshire Fostering Panel and the Conwy / Denbighshire Adoption Panel

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the appointment of a councillor to Denbighshire's Fostering Panel and a councillor to the Joint Adoption Panel.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. Denbighshire must appoint a local authority representative to the Fostering Panel.
- 2.2. A suitable elected member is also required by the Joint Conwy / Denbighshire Adoption Panel.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That the Lead Member is recommended to appoint one Councillor to the Denbighshire Fostering Panel;
- 3.2 That the Lead Member is recommended to appoint one Councillor to the Joint Conwy / Denbighshire Adoption Panel; and
- 3.3 Confirm that the term of the appointments will be for the term of the current Council unless a replacement appointment or appointments are made.

4. Report details

Denbighshire's Fostering Panel

- 4.1. Denbighshire County Council is obliged by law to establish and administer a Fostering Panel in accordance with specified procedures. The previous elected member on the Fostering Panel was Councillor Rhys Thomas.
- 4.2. The legal provisions governing the Fostering Panel require that its membership includes 1 elected member. That position is currently vacant and as a result the Groups on the Council have been approached for expressions of interest from their members.
- 4.3. The Fostering Panel meets approximately 12 times each year and Councillor Andrea Tomlin has expressed a wish to be appointed as the local authority member on the Panel.

Joint Conwy / Denbighshire Adoption Panel

- 4.4 The Joint Adoption Panel is administered by Conwy County Borough Council and also requires 1 elected member. Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones was the previous elected member representative on the Adoption Panel.
- 4.5 Councillors' Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Andrea Tomlin and Elfed Williams have expressed a wish to be appointed as the local authority member on the Joint Adoption Panel.

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

- 5.1. The Fostering Panel and the Joint Adoption Panel are statutory panels with a direct impact upon the well-being of children, families and foster carers.

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

- 6.1. The Fostering Panel is supported by the Council's Children's Services team and the Joint Adoption Panel is administered by Conwy County Borough Council. The appointed members will be entitled to re-claim mileage costs for travel incurred attending the Panel's meetings.

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

7.1. This appointment does not require a Well-being Impact Assessment.

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

8.1. The mandatory delegated decision officer group, the Lead Member, Councillor Gill German, group leaders and the service officers have been consulted on the contents of this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. The appointment of a member to the Fostering / Joint Adoption Panels will not create additional costs other than the re-claiming of travel costs. Any small additional costs will be contained within existing resources.

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

10.1. The Panels are statutory bodies with an obligation on the local authority to appoint 1 elected member.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1 In accordance with powers delegated to the Lead Member as per Appendix 2(b) to Section 13 of the Council's Constitution. Regulation 24(3) of the Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations.