

MEETING::	THE COUNCIL
DATE:	21, OCTOBER, 2010
TITLE:	CO-OPTED MEMBERS ON THE CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.
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1. Councils have the right to co-opt members who are not councillors to attend committees in order to provide expertise in a particular field to assist the work of the Committee. Save for some rare exceptions, the co-opted members have no voting rights.
2. The Care Scrutiny Committee has six co-opted members representing different sectors. Representatives from the mental health voluntary sector and Age Concern assist the work of the Committee on the adults Social Services side. Representatives from the Police and from the Health Board have been appointed due to the functions of the Committee in dealing with crime and disorder. There are two representatives from the Gwynedd Tenants Association who were co-opted to contribute expertise on the housing side.
3. Now that the housing stock has been transferred only a small amount of the Committee's time is given to housing matters compared to its other responsibilities. Also by now, more emphasis is given to the crime and disorder function. In the circumstances, although the tenants contribution is valuable when discussing strategic housing matters, it is difficult to see justification in giving two co-opted seats on the Committee to the representatives of the Gwynedd Tenants Association.
4. The co-opted members dealing with crime and disorder matters were appointed in September, 2009. At the time, a seat on the Committee was secured for each member of the crime and disorder strategic partnership, either through a co-opted member or through a councillor. By now the Probation Service has become a strategic partner and in order to ensure equality, it would be fair to offer them a co-opted seat.
5. The matter was discussed at the Care Scrutiny Committee on the 28th September, 2010 when it was decided to recommend to Full Council to change the committee's co-opted membership to reflect these changes.
6. This report proposes changes to meet the Committee's present situation. It should be noted that Local Government (Wales) Measure means that it is necessary to give further attention to the constitution of the Scrutiny Committees and the representation of co-opted members on them during the next twelve months.

RECOMMENDATION.

7. It is recommended that the Council changes the representation of co-opted members on the Care Scrutiny Committee by deleting the membership of the two representatives from the Gwynedd Tenants Federation and including one member from the Probation Service instead.