

OPEN AGENDA

Copy No:

No: 24/2018

Memorandum for Executive Council

SUBJECT

Welfare of Children (Amendment) Regulations 2018

Memorandum by the Chair of the Social and Community
Development Committee Cllr Anthony Green

ADVICE SOUGHT 1. Council are asked to consider and recommend for enactment the Welfare of Children (Amendment) Regulations 2018 attached at Annex A.

BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS 2. The Welfare of Children (Amendment) Regulations 2018 amend regulations made under section 166 of the Welfare of Children Ordinance 2008. Section 166 gives the Governor in Council general powers to make regulations for carrying the Ordinance into effect.

3. Currently, one of the Elected Members of the Legislative Council is appointed to the role of Children's Champion. There is no statutory basis for that appointment.

4. The person appointed Children's Champion is a member of the Safeguarding Children Board and has a role pursuant to r.19 of the Welfare of Children (Children's Residential Home) Regulations in scrutinizing the action of the Safeguarding Directorate when restrictions are placed by the communications to or by a child who is living in the children's home.

5. These regulations provide a statutory basis for the appointment of the Children's Champion and ensure that there is always someone fulfilling that role. The role of the Children's Champion is covered in Annex B.

6. There is also an amendment to ensure that the Safeguarding Children Board should always have nominees from children's social services and from the Health department as members.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no additional financial implications from enacting these Regulations.

ECONOMIC

8. There are no economic implications from enacting these

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IMPLICATIONS

Regulations.

PUBLIC/SOCIAL IMPACT

9. The Regulations provide a formal basis for the arrangements which are currently operating. This is likely to foster community confidence that the child's interests are protected when living in the children's home.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

10. The Regulations do not have implications for the environment.

PREVIOUS CONSULTATION / COMMITTEE INPUT

11. The SCDC first considered the Regulations on 10.01.18 and recommended them for consideration by ExCo as soon as possible. Following consultation with the Safeguarding Children Board, the Regulations were again considered by SCDC on 11.04.18 and approved with minor amendments.

PUBLIC REACTION

12. Positive or no public reaction is anticipated.

PUBLICITY

13. The decision should be included in the ExCo Report and associated broadcast.

SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OPEN AGENDA ITEM

14. These Regulations underpin the implementation one of the recommendations of the Wass Inquiry Report.
15. This item is recommended for the open agenda.

AG

Corporate Services
The Castle
Jamestown

07.05.18