

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Thursday, 2nd October 2014

PRESENT – *Councillor A Rehman (Chair), T Evans, J Gunn, M Lee, P Riley and R Whittle. Greta Carus, and Daniel Wild*

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE – *Tassadaq Hussain and Paul Fletcher.*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE- *Alan Eastwood, (Independent Person) David Fairclough, (Monitoring Officer), and Paul Conlon (Democratic Services)*

RESOLUTIONS

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor S Brookfield and J Rigby.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on 3rd July 2014

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2014 to be received and signed as a correct record.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Child Sexual Exploitation and Elected Member Awareness

The Committee were informed of the measures taken by the authority and partner agencies and organisations to proactively take to ensure effective safeguarding of vulnerable persons in the Borough. The Committee were reminded of the recent events highlighted in the media and the important role played by Members in mitigating sexual exploitation in the Borough. A number of steps had been put forward by to refresh elected Members knowledge of such issues to ensure continued success in the delivery of effective child protection services.

The Committee were informed of the consideration of the issue by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and they were taking a close interest in the issue. The Committee considered the best ways of ensuring that the issue remained under review and it's that importance continued to be stressed to Members.

RESOLVED

1. That all current elected members of the Council receive timely and appropriate refresher training on Child Sexual Exploitation and other forms of child abuse, which will inform and promote our continued

excellent partnerships with the police and other agencies which have seen very high conviction rates and that Co-opted Members be included in this, and this training be made mandatory.

2. That the induction training for new Members include this issue following elections.
3. That the Committee receives report back on the delivery of the training and attendance of Members at the training at the next meeting of the Committee in January 2015.

6 Register of Members Interests

The Committee was updated on the current return of Members declaration of interest forms. All Borough Council Members had completed their declarations and these had been published on the Councils web site. There were a small number of Parish/Town Council declarations which were outstanding and these would be chased up.

RESOLVED -

1. That the progress be noted.
2. That the Parish/Town Council members who have not yet returned their declarations be reminded of the importance of these and the need to complete the form as a matter of urgency..

7. Members Code of Conduct and Arrangements for Handling Complaints about the Code of Conduct for Members.

The Committee considered the Members Code of Conduct and Arrangements for Handling Complaints about the Code of Conduct for Members as set out in the Council's Contusion. The Committee were also give a number of examples of how other Councils dealt with the issues and how these differed to Blackburn with Darwen. The Committee discussed the issue of expectations in relation to timescales for dealing with complaints and the Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that whilst a flow chart was included on the Councils web site on how a complaint was to be progressed time scales were not at present included.

RESOLVED -

1. That the current Members Code of Conduct and arrangements for handling Complaints be noted
2. That the Monitoring Office be requested to include timescales for the handling of complaints relating to the Members Code of conduct.

8 Dates for meetings of the Standards Committee

The Committee were reminded of the dates of meetings of the Standards Committee for 2014/2015 as follows:

8th January 2015 and 19th March 2015

Items for reporting back to the Committee

Issue	Action	When
Members attendance at Child Exploitation Awareness Seminars	To be reported to the Committee	January
Register of Members interests	To be reported to the Committee	January

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....