

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday, 25th September, 2006, at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 4 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

The Bishop of Dudley (Independent Chairman)
Councillors Ms Craigie, Mrs Dunn, Fraser-Macnamara, Male, Ms
Partridge and Tyler; Miss L. Smith

OFFICERS

The Director of Law and Property and Mr. J Jablonski (Directorate of Law
and Property)

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the
Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at
this meeting.

10 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 22nd
June, 2006, be approved as a correct record and signed.

11 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING POLICY

A report of the Monitoring Officer was submitted on the latest survey
undertaken during the Spring of 2006 on the operation of the Council's
Confidential Reporting Policy.

The results of that survey, in response to the asking of a number of
standard questions, was set out in the report submitted indicating
proposed updates to paragraphs 7.1 and 7.5 of the Policy.

Paragraph 5 of the report submitted set out revised wording in respect of
paragraph 7.1 which would allow a complainant raising a complaint about
a Manager either to raise the issue with a more Senior Manager within
the same Directorate or, as now, to pursue it externally with the Chief
Executive, Director of Law and Property, Director of Finance or Internal
Audit.

During consideration of this matter it was suggested that the report to be considered on this matter next year include reference to the route taken by any complainant arising from the proposed amendment and that the fifth bullet point of paragraph 8.5 of the Policy include reference to the availability of confidential welfare counselling for complainants.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, arising from the monitoring of the operation of the Council's Confidential Reporting Policy, be noted and that approval be given to the following updating of paragraphs 7.1, 7.5 and the fifth bullet point of paragraph 8.5 of the Policy:-

7.1 "As a first step you should normally raise concerns with your immediate manager (or in the case of schools, the Head Teacher), their superior or their Director. This depends, however, on the seriousness and sensitivity of the issues involved and who is suspected of malpractice. For example, if you believe that management is involved you should approach their manager, or their manager's manager or the Director. Alternatively you could approach the Chief Executive, Director of Law and Property, Director of Finance or Internal Audit. In the case of schools, staff should normally refer the matter to the Head Teacher or where appropriate to the Director of Children's Services, or appropriate Assistant Director direct".

7.5 to be updated to reflect Linda Sanders's new title of Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services,

8.5

- supplying you with information on staff support mechanisms including confidential welfare counselling, and

and to the referral of the report to the Cabinet.

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GRAHAM COMMITTEE – SURVEY OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONDUCT IN PUBLIC LIFE 2006

The Monitoring Officer reported that a copy of the report of the Graham Committee, on a Survey of Public Attitudes towards Conduct in Public Life 2006, had been placed in the Members Room and that he would be reporting on this matter to the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 6.20 p.m.

CHAIRMAN