

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 2008**

Present: Mr N Woodcock (Independent Member), Chairman; Mr R Stewart (Parish Member)

Councillors: N Clarkson; Mrs M Docherty; G Garrity; Mrs M B Woodburn

Apologies for absence were received from Dr S Bradley (Independent Member); Mr V Chilton (Parish Member)

Officers: M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; T Capper Democratic Services Manager

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **STA 01 Local Assessment of Complaints**

The Committee considered a proposed procedure for local assessment of complaints under the new statutory framework in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 for local determination of allegations of misconduct by local authority members.

Statutory Guidance from the Standards Board for England on how the new framework should operate was also considered, and typographical amendments to the text were noted.

**RESOLVED** – That (a) the Standards Board Guidance be noted:

(b) the publicity arrangements already implemented be noted;

(c) the Complaints Form be approved subject to addition of the ethnic monitoring form as circulated;

(d) the proposed Assessment Procedure and Assessment Criteria be approved, subject to an amendment to the Procedure to clarify that meetings of Assessment and Review Sub Committees will not be open to the public; that the Monitoring Officer will not inform subject Members of complaints prior to the Assessment Sub Committee meeting; and that the Review Sub Committee will consider the Assessment Sub Committee's decisions afresh;

(e) the Democratic Services Manager be authorised to convene ad hoc Assessment and Review Sub Committees, each of three Members, as set out in the procedure to deal with initial assessment of allegations and subsequent requests for reviews, and that hearings into alleged breaches of the Code are held by the Standards Committee itself; and

(f) the proposed revisions to the Procedure for Local Investigation and Determination of Complaints be approved.

**STA 02 Vacancy for Third Independent Member**

Members discussed the present position on the recruitment of a third independent member of the Standards Committee, which was still vacant. The position was noted.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm

Chairman

