



MINUTES OF MEETING

STANDARDS MEETING

FRIDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 2018

PRESENT: I Cathrew (In the Chair)

Councillors:

J Amos, G Richards and C Tovey

Independent Members:

D McCarthy and A L Morgan

Community Council Representative:

H Thomas

Officers:

C Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer) and S Jones (Senior Solicitor)

K Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
539	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Mr Jeff Morgan (Chair).
540	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.
541	Adjudication Panel for Wales	<p>Carys Kennedy referred members to the Sanctions Guidance received from the Adjudication Panel for Wales which sets out the approach to be taken by case, appeal and interim case tribunals in order to reach fair, proportionate and consistent decisions on the sanctions that should be applied in relation to an individual's breach of the local Code of Conduct.</p> <p>She advised members that the Sanctions Guidance came into force for cases heard by the Adjudication Panel for</p>

		<p>Wales after the 1st September 2018.</p> <p>Questions were raised by members and it was RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members note the contents of the Sanctions Guidance provided by the Adjudication Panel for Wales. • Members refer back to the Sanctions Guidance if a Hearing is required by the Local Authority.
542	Feedback on Standards Conference	<p>Simon Jones referred to the Standards Conference held in September that he attended along with Jeff Morgan and Anne Morgan.</p> <p>He referred to the Speakers at the Conference, namely Nick Bennett (Public Services Ombudsman for Wales), Claire Sharp (President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales) and Eifion Evans (Chief Executive of Ceredigion County Council).</p> <p>Simon Jones gave members an overview of the presentation that was carried out by Nick Bennett in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase in the number of complaints received. • Trends in Health Board complaints. • Complaints investigated. • Examples of complaints received and upheld. • Public trust. • The introduction of new Initiatives through the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. <p>Discussion also ensued on the Workshops held at the Conference, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media and Bullying. • Role of the Ethics and Standards Committee, Personal and Prejudicial Interests and Dispensations. • Regulation of members in other jurisdictions - lessons to be learned. • Standards Hearings. <p>Carys Kennedy advised that members had already received a link to the Ceredigion County Council website to view this information (link to Standard Conference)</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>Carys Kennedy will update members when the Monitoring Officers' Group confirm the details of the next Standards Conference.</p>
543	Updated Dispensation Form	<p>Carys Kennedy took members through the dispensation form which had been updated so that all sufficient</p>

		information is received in order that this Committee can make the appropriate decision.
544	Training and Development:	Members unable to attend were updated on the Hearing Training on the 23 rd July 2018 and the Standards Committee Hearing on the 22 nd October 2018, both held at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.
545	Next Steps for Recruitment of Independent Member	<p>Carys Kennedy advised that the closing date for applications for the vacancy of Independent Member was Friday, 9th November 2018, and that no applications had been received for this position.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further advertising through Social Media and public buildings be considered. • This will be further reviewed at the next meeting.
546	Date of next meeting	It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be Friday, 8 th March 2019 at 2.00 pm in Conference Room 2 at the Civic Centre.
547	Any other item deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.