

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10am, Tuesday 28 November 2017

Whistleblowing update

Item number	7.9
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

Executive summary

This report provides a high level overview of the operation of the Council's whistleblowing hotline for the period 1 July to 30 September 2017.

Whistleblowing update

Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the report.

Background

- 2.1 The Council launched its confidential whistleblowing hotline service, provided by independent company Safecall, on 12 May 2014.
- 2.2 This report covers the period from 1 July to 30 September 2017.

Main report

Reports to Safecall

- 3.1 During the reporting period Safecall received three new disclosures as follows:

Category	Number of disclosures
Major/significant qualifying disclosures	0
Minor/operational qualifying disclosures	0
Category to be determined	1
Non-qualifying disclosures	2

Whistleblowing Review - Action Plan Progress

- 3.2 Officers are exploring options for the monitoring and reporting of management actions that result from whistleblowing investigations. It is hoped that systems already in use for monitoring and reporting other types of management action can be adapted for this purpose.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Employees feel able to report suspected wrongdoing as early as possible in the knowledge that:
- 4.1.1 their concerns will be taken seriously and investigated appropriately;
 - 4.1.2 they will be protected from victimisation; and
 - 4.1.3 the provisions of the whistleblowing policy ensure all matters at the Council are fully transparent and officers are accountable.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The cost of the whistleblowing hotline for the three month period 1 July to 30 September 2017 was £4,725 + VAT.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The whistleblowing policy was developed and agreed to complement existing management reporting arrangements and to ensure employees have the right to raise concerns in the knowledge that they will be taken seriously, that matters will be investigated appropriately and confidentiality will be maintained.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 A range of stakeholders, including whistleblowers and trades unions, were consulted during the pilot review.
- 9.2 There was consultation with the trades unions to secure a local agreement in relation to the revised whistleblowing policy.

Background reading/external references

[Finance and Resources Committee 27 August 2015: item 7.13 - Review of Whistleblowing Arrangements](#)

[Finance and Resources Committee 23 March 2017: item 7.2 - Whistleblowing Policy](#)

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