

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10am, Tuesday 5 June 2018

Whistleblowing update

Item number

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

Council Commitments

Executive summary

This report provides a high level overview of the operation of the Council's whistleblowing service for the period 1 January to 31 March 2018.

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 January to 31 March 2018.

Main report

Reports to Safecall

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

Category	Number of disclosures
Major/significant qualifying disclosures	0
Minor/operational qualifying disclosures	4
Category to be determined	0
Non-qualifying disclosures	0

Whistleblowing Review - Action Plan Progress

- 3.2 Officers continue to explore options for the monitoring and reporting of management actions that result from whistleblowing investigations. Systems already in use by other services, for the monitoring and reporting of other types of management actions, will be evaluated for their adaptability and any associated costs.

The Monitoring Officer will bring forward a report and his recommendations in this regard in the Autumn.

Whistleblowing Policy

- 3.3 Proposed revisions to the policy were approved by the Finance and Resources Committee on 27 March 2018.

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 service for the three month period 1 January to 31 March 2018 was £4,725 (exclusive of VAT).
- 5.2 Investigation costs for the period were £3,260.50 (exclusive of 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 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 27 March 2018: item 7.4 - Whistleblowing Policy](#)

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