

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10am, Tuesday 19 March 2019

Whistleblowing update

Item number	7.12
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

1. Recommendations

1.1 To note whistleblowing activity for the period 1 October to 31 December 2018.

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Whistleblowing update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides a high-level overview of the operation of the Council's whistleblowing service for the period 1 October – 31 December 2018.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's whistleblowing service (including a confidential reporting line) is contracted to an independent external organisation, currently Safecall Limited.
- 3.2 The Council's Whistleblowing policy (section 4.3.2) requires that quarterly summary reports on whistleblowing activity are presented to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

4. Main report

4.1 Disclosures

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

Category	Number of disclosures
Major/significant disclosures	0
Minor/operational disclosures	3
Category still to be determined	1
Non-qualifying disclosures	0

4.2 Annual review of the whistleblowing policy

The annual review of the whistleblowing policy will be considered by the Finance

and Resources Committee on 23 May 2019. Officers are proposing one minor addition to the wording of 8.4.3 on disclosure to third parties, to include specific reference to disclosure to regulatory and professional bodies.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 There are no proposals contained within this report, the information provided is for noting only.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The cost of the whistleblowing service for the three-month period 1 October to 31 December 2018 was £4,725 (exclusive of VAT).
- 6.2 Investigation costs this quarter totalled £3,107.60 (exclusive of VAT).

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The whistleblowing policy was developed and agreed to complement management reporting arrangements and to ensure all matters at the Council are fully transparent and officers are accountable.
- 7.2 The aim of the policy and the appointment of an independent service provider is to empower employees to report suspected wrongdoing as early as possible in the knowledge that their concerns will be taken seriously and investigated appropriately; that they will be protected from victimisation and other forms of detriment; and that their confidentiality will be maintained.
- 7.3 The whistleblowing policy, and subsequent reviews, have been consulted on with the trades unions to secure a local agreement.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Finance and Resources Committee 27 March 2018: item 7.4 Whistleblowing Policy](#)

9. Appendices
