

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10am, Tuesday 17 September 2019

Whistleblowing update

Item number
Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

1.1 To note whistleblowing activity for the period 1 April – 30 June 2019.

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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 April – 30 June 2019.

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 three new disclosures as follows:

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

- 4.2 The current contract with Safecall Limited for the provision of whistleblowing services will end on 11 May 2020. Governance and Procurement have begun the

process of reviewing the current contract, costs and requirements to procure a new contract for whistleblowing services starting on the 12 May 2020.

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 April to 30 June 2019 was £4,725 (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 23 May 2019: item 7.20 Whistleblowing Policy](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None.