

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Monday, 6 March 2023
Report Subject	Feedback from the National Forum for Standards Committees
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

All the local authorities in Wales (principal Councils, Fire & Rescue Authorities and National Park Authorities) agreed to establish a National Forum for Standards Committees. The first meeting of the forum took place on 27th January 2023.

The meeting elected a Chair/Vice Chair and accepted an offer from Cardiff City Council to provide Monitoring Officer support.

It considered and shared practice around the new duty on group leaders to promote ethical behaviour by their group members.

The Forum also received a presentation from Michelle Morris, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Committee note the feedback from the first meeting of the Forum.
2	That the Committee suggests items for future meetings of the Forum.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FEEDBACK FROM THE NATIONAL FORUM FOR STANDARDS COMMITTEES
1.01	As the Committee will be aware a National Forum has recently been established for Standards Committee. The National Forum is closely

	modelled on the long running forum that previously served North Wales and latterly Mid and North Wales.
1.02	The first meeting of the Forum took place on 27 th January 2023. The agenda is attached at Appendix 1. As befits a first meeting the Forum appointed a Chair (the Chair of the Standards Committee for Conwy County Borough Council) and a Vice Chair (The Chair of the Standards Committee for Cardiff City Council). Each will serve 2 years. In addition, the forum accepted an offer of monitoring officer support from Cardiff City Council. That person will advise the Chair and help to prepare reports that require legal input.
1.03	The Forum considered the duty on group leaders to promote ethical behaviour amongst the members of their group and listened to existing practice from amongst the members. Although practice varies slightly across authorities there was no significant deviation from the practice adopted at Flintshire.
1.04	The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, Michelle Morris, gave a presentation. Reception was particularly poor during the presentation and it was difficult to be clear what she was saying. The notes/slides of her presentation are attached.
1.05	The next meeting of the forum will be at the end of June. The agenda for that meeting will be set at the June meeting of the Monitoring Officers' Group. Does the Committee have any suggestions for items it would wish to see considered by the Forum?

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The support for the Forum will be provided by the WLGA and voluntarily by monitoring officers within the constituent local authorities.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Not required.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	By sharing best practice the Forum will help to raise standards across all authorities in Wales.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Agenda for the Forum Appendix 2 – Notes from Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Appendix 3 – The Forum's Terms of Reference

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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer (Governance) Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	None.