

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Standards Committee
2.	Date:	12th June 2014
3.	Title:	Update from the Monitoring Officer on the Confidential Reporting Code
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

To update the Committee on the contents of the Confidential Reporting Code and referrals for the year 2013/2014.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee notes the content of the report.

7. Proposals and Details

The Standards Committee has the responsibility for overseeing the operation of the Council's Confidential Reporting Code (commonly known as the Whistleblowing Procedure). The Code, which is attached at appendix A, is reviewed annually. This has been done and it is considered that the Code is fit for purpose.

The Code has also been reviewed in accordance with the British Standards PAS 1998:2008 Whistleblowing Arrangements Code of Practice, and found to be generally compliant. The area where the Council's Code deviates from the British Standard is that it does not provide access to a helpline for confidential enquiries. However the Code does enable advice to be sought from the Chair of the Standards Committee, the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Director of Human Resources. In addition, if the complainant is not satisfied with the actions taken by the Council the matter can be referred externally, to a number of bodies including KPMG, the Council's external auditors. These are considered to be appropriate safeguards which reflect the requirements of the British Standard.

One referral has been received under the Confidential Reporting Code which was dealt with by the Monitoring Officer. The allegation was of financial mismanagement at a school and was investigated by the Council's Internal Audit team. The allegations of fraudulent mismanage were not substantiated.

8. Finance

None

9. Risks and Uncertainties

A robust and fit for purpose Confidential Reporting Code is essential to assure Members, Officers and the public that the Council has appropriate procedures for considering whistleblowing allegations in a confidential and appropriate manner

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

None

11. Background Papers and Consultation

None

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