

Report To: **Standards Committee**

Date of Meeting: **18th September 2015**

Lead Member / Officer: **Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer**

Report Author: **Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer**

Title: **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Code of Conduct Factsheets**

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 The report is about two factsheets produced by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 To inform the Committee of the production of these factsheets and seek the Committee's endorsement of the dissemination of these factsheets to Elected Members of both the County Council, and City, Town and Community Councils in Denbighshire.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That Members of the Committee note the information contained within the factsheets attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to this report, and endorse the dissemination of the factsheets to Elected Members of both the County Council, and City, Town and Community Councils in Denbighshire.

4. Report details.

- 4.1 The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (the Ombudsman) has appointed one of his investigators as the Code of Conduct Complaint Lead. In addition to her role as an investigator, as Code of Conduct Lead, she will generally oversee matters referred to the Adjudication Panel for Wales and Standards meetings. The Code of Conduct Complaint Lead will also attend the quarterly meetings of the All Wales Monitoring Officer Group.
- 4.2 As part of her new role, the Code of Conduct Complaint Lead has created two new factsheets written for Members who are subject to a Code of Conduct investigation, which are intended to give some guidance as to the processes followed during an investigation and formal interview. These fact sheets are attached as Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

- 4.3 It is suggested that copies of the fact sheets are sent to all Members of Denbighshire County Council together with a covering note. In addition an e-mail could be sent to the Clerks of all City, Town and Community Councils attaching the fact sheets and suggesting that they bring these to the attention of all of their Members. The Committee's views are sought on this approach.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

- 5.1 The report has no direct impact on the Corporate Priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

- 6.1 There are no costs directly associated with the report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

- 7.1 This report does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

- 8.1 This matter has not been reported or consulted upon elsewhere.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from the report.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 10.1 There are no risks directly associated with this report.

11. Power to make the Decision

- 11.1 There is no decision required.