

STANDARDS COMMITTEE 18/03/19

Present:-

Elected Members:- Councillors Anne Lloyd Jones, Beth Lawton and Dewi Roberts.

Independent Members:- Mr Aled Jones, Miss Margaret Jones (Vice-chair chairing) and Mr David Wareing.

Community Committee Member:- Mr Richard Parry Hughes

Also in Attendance: Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Siôn Huws (Senior Solicitor) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support Officer).

Since four elected members and three independent members were present at the beginning of the meeting, Councillor Dewi Roberts agreed to observe only, in order to ensure a quorum.

Best wishes were extended to Richard Parry Hughes and Miss Margaret Jones following recent surgery.

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Dr Einir Young (Chair).

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

3. URGENT ITEMS

No urgent matters were raised.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 21 January, 2019 as a true record.

5. PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES - DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN

Submitted – the report of the Monitoring Officer inviting observations on the Ombudsman's consultation on their Draft Corporate Plan.

Referring to DPA 4 on page 8 of the report, it was noted that up to 12 months was a long and anxious time for the complainant and the person subject to an investigated Code of Conduct complaint. At the same time, it was recognised that the Ombudsman's office was under a great deal of pressure, especially considering the nature and number of health complaints referred to them.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

6. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MEMBERS

Submitted, for information, the report of the Monitoring Officer presenting information about the Ombudsman's decisions on formal complaints against members.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:-

- In light of the Ombudsman's decision not to investigate a number of complaints due to the lack of evidence, the importance of advising people to keep a detailed record of what had happened and when it had occurred was important, in order to present this as evidence to support the case.
- It was necessary to develop the message regarding what is expected from members in terms of conduct.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am and concluded at 11.20 am

CHAIRMAN