

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
DATE: 12th JULY 2022
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: WHISTLEBLOWING ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with information about whistleblowing for 2021-22.

Recommended That: Members

- [1] review the Policy and Procedure; and
- [2] note the contents of the Report.

Background

2. "Whistleblowing" is the term used to describe the raising of a concern by a worker who considers that there has been wrongdoing or malpractice by his employer or fellow workers and where it is in the public interest to do so.
3. The legislation, initially introduced in 1998, is designed to reduce malpractice in organisations and to ensure individuals can report malpractice without fear of reprisals. Provided they satisfy certain conditions in the way they report the wrongdoing the law protects workers from dismissal or detriment.

Information

The Authority's Policy and Procedure on Whistleblowing

4. The Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure was last reviewed by officers in August 2021. Since that review a number of changes have been made to the list of individuals that whistleblowers are encouraged to contact. Apart from those changes, the Policy and Procedure appears to remain fit for purpose.
5. As the Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure has not been reviewed by Members since 2019, a copy has been attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Members are asked to review it and provide any suggested changes/improvements.

Whistleblowing Complaints

6. The Authority has not been contacted by Safecall in 2021-22.

Financial Implications

7. There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

8. The Policy and Procedure seeks to ensure compliance with the legislation and mitigate risks to the Authority's reputation.

Equality & Diversity Implications

9. The Policy and Procedure minimise the risk of reprisals against those raising concerns and allow possible concerns about discriminatory practices to be raised internally and dealt with appropriately without recourse to litigation.

Environmental Implications

10. There are no environmental implications.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE