

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
DATE: 4TH JULY 2018
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY AND PROCEDURE
ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with information about whistleblowing for 2017-18.

Recommended That:

[1] the contents of the Report be noted.

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 Authority has a Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure which was last reviewed in July 2016 when changes were made to reflect the recommendations made in the Government's Guidance for Employers and Code of Practice for Whistleblowing. This can currently be found in the Code of Conduct for Employees which is available on the intranet.
5. The Policy and Procedure has been reviewed and no changes are required apart from some amendments to the list of the names and contact details of officers within and outside the Authority to whom concerns can be reported. This list has been reviewed and updated and the revised list is now attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

6. The list has been updated as follows:
- Several of the officers on the contact list have relocated to the Police HQ at Clemonds Hey and their contact details have been updated.
 - Both the Head of Finance and the Section 151 Officer are now named on the list, following the separation of the roles.
 - The person responsible for our external audit at Grant Thornton has changed.

Whistleblowing Complaints

7. The Authority has been contacted by Safecall four times in 2017-18. Officers will provide further information at the meeting in private session.

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

9. The policy and procedure ensure compliance with the legislation and mitigate risks to the Authority's reputation.

Equality & Diversity Implications

10. 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

11. There are no environmental implications.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE