

**GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY**  
**ETHICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

13<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Present: Mr D B Hughes (Chair)  
Councillor P Clarke  
Mr B Wallis  
Ms G Reddington  
Together with: Mrs S A Bosson (Chief Executive)  
Mrs M Lambert (Committee and Member Services Officer)

***The meeting commenced at 5.00 p.m.***

**Action**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Smith. The Chief Executive agreed to send a letter to Mr Smith on behalf of the Committee. **CEx**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2. There were no declarations of interest.

**MINUTES**

3. We received and confirmed the minutes of the meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

**Matters Arising**

**Member Development Scheme**

We were informed that there had been no changes to Committee Membership as Members were content that Committees' membership reflected previously identified skill matches.

**Staying Ahead Review 2011**

We were advised that the restructuring of the Police Force was rolled out on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The changes were being well received by the public and police officers had become more visible in the community. The Chief Constable was currently undertaking an evaluation of the implementation of the project. Focus Groups had been held, which had been attended by Police Authority Members.

**Police Authority Inspection**

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Police Authority Inspection would be taking place week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009. The main interest for the Inspectors would be about outcomes, the community and where the Police Authority 'added value'. The Secretariat was already making preparations for the Inspection.

**Standards Committee Conference Wales**

The Chair raised a query regarding the date of the next Conference which was originally the 2<sup>nd</sup> October but was now thought to be the 15<sup>th</sup> October. The Chief Executive would confirm the date to Members. It was confirmed that all Members of the Committee could attend. If the Chief Executive was unable to attend herself then the Community Engagement Manager would act as substitute. We noted that Police Authorities had been asked to run a workshop at the event.

**CEx****Consultation on the Code of Conduct**

The Chief Executive confirmed that there had been no changes to the current Code of Conduct. Training would take place once the changes were in place. The Ombudsman had agreed to raise the Police Authority's problems around having to work to two codes of conduct on our behalf.

**MEMBER ATTENDANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2008 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2009**

4. We received and noted the Member Attendance sheet and agreed that there were no issues to raise.

Members were pleased to see this evidence of attendance. We were informed that the Police Authority was obligated to forward this information on to the five Local Authorities.

**MEMBER DEVELOPMENT INTERVIEWS 2008/2009**

5. We received a report from the Chief Executive which outlined the findings of the Member Development Scheme interviews undertaken from October 2008 to January 2009 and highlighted a number of training areas.

Members noted the completion of the second year of Member Development interviews and the areas identified for possible training and action taken to date:

- Environmental Scanning (e-mail briefing)
- Communications and Media
- Human Resources within the Force (this has been given to members of the Equality and Human Resources Committee)
- Professional Standards (briefing at the Professional Standards Committee on Misconduct Regulations)
- Risk Management and Financial Management (the Wales Audit Office, Force and Treasurer will develop a seminar)
- Performance Management
- Role of Ethical Standards (awaiting revised Code of Conduct)
- Custody Visiting (Development and Awareness day on 6<sup>th</sup> August)
- Animal Welfare Scheme
- Governance (copies of the Code of Corporate Governance have been provided to the Members)

We noted that environmental scanning referred to the collation of information

from external sources eg WLGA, APA, newspapers and information sheets. **Action**  
The Police Force has an all Wales scanning process relating to policing issues.

The main method of communication to Members was via email and because of the volume of information now being received; where a response was required this was now being flagged as a priority to Members.

### **DISPENSATION**

6. There were no applications for dispensation.

### **NEXT MEETING**

7. The next meeting would be arranged for late November. It was also agreed to set two other dates in March and July of next year. These would be forwarded to Members of the Committee in due course.

***The meeting concluded at 5.30 p.m.***