

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008**

**STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND ANNUAL REVIEW – 2007/08**

**REPORT OF INTERIM HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a summary of the Standards Board for England annual review report for 2007/08.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the contents of this report are noted.

**3. SUMMARY**

The Standards Board for England have released a report providing a review for their work for the period 2007/08. The review outlines the work of the Standards Board in moving to a strategic role in light of the introduction of local assessment of complaints. The report also provides statistical information with regard to the work undertaken by the Standards Board during the year.

**4. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None

**5. INFORMATION**

- 5.1 The Standards Board for England have released a report setting out a review of their work during the period 2007/08. The report provides information with regard to changes in their role. The Standards Board has adopted strategic responsibilities as a result of the introduction of the local assessment of complaints under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. A brief summary of some of the points raised in the review are set out below as follows: -

- In terms of key indicators, BMG Research shows that overall satisfaction with Standards Board for England has increased from 29% in 2004 to 38% in 2007.

- Change that the Standards Board for England also relate to key personnel. The Standards Board has a new Chief Executive Glenys Stacey, who was previously the Chief Executive of Animal Health, Criminal Cases Review Commission and the Greater Manchester Magistrates Court Committee. In addition to a new Chief Executive, the Board has also appointed a new Chair, Doctor Robert Chilton, who is also a Non-Executive Director of the Waste Resources Action programme, a Board Member for the Office of the Information Commissioner, Chair of the major London housing association the East Thames Group, and Deputy Chair of ICSTIS (the premium phone rate regulator).
- In relation to complaints, from April 2007 to March 2008 the Standards Board received 3,547 allegations, 66% of allegations were from members of the public, 14% of all allegations received were referred for investigation and ten days were taken in each case to decide whether to refer a complaint for investigation. Attached at Appendix 1 is an extract from the review report outlining the outcomes for those matters referred for investigation and determination.

In terms of the year ahead the Standards Board states as follows: -

“The task now for the next twelve months is to ensure that standards committees and monitoring officers are confident in their roles and that the system is operated efficiently at the local level. We will provide guidance and information on the management of cases locally. We will offer a light touch when it comes to monitoring. And we will look to highlight good practice wherever we see it”.

## **5.2 Equality and Diversity**

No implications identified

## **5.3 Environment Impact**

No implications

## **5.4 Legal Comments**

The legal comment is contained within the main body of this report

## **5.5 Links to Corporate Priorities**

Ensuring that the Standards Committee is aware of current issues and developments in ethical standards matters helps to ensure the Council achieves its priority of being an efficient, effective and customer focused Council.

## **5.6 Opportunities and Risks**

The opportunities and risks associated with this decision have been identified and assessed. Arrangements will be put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified.

#### **5.7 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

#### **6. Ward Implications**

District wide implications.

#### **7. Background Papers**

Standards Board for England Annual Review 2007-08.

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