



STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON TUESDAY 29TH MARCH 2011 AT 10 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. L.C. Davies - Chairman
Mr. D.R.G. Parry - Vice Chairman

Councillors J. B. Criddle and H. David

Mrs. M. Evans, Mrs. D. Holdroyd and Professor S. M. Griffiths

Together with:

G. Williams (Deputy Monitoring Officer), S. Richards (Corporate Support Officer), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Also in attendance for agenda item number 4:

D. Street (Assistant Director, Adult Services), J. Morgans (Customer Services and Performance Co-ordinator)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L.R. Rees, Community Councillors I. Racz and P. Blight.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

2. MINUTES - 25TH JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2011 (minute nos. 1 - 3, on page nos. 1 - 2), be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. COMPLAINTS TO THE OMBUDSMAN

The report on complaints made to the Ombudsman which had been rejected by him as not accepted for formal investigation or that he was satisfied with the action taken, those complaints which remained at the enquiry stage or were awaiting determination and those complaints which were not upheld or upheld in part, were noted.

It was reported that paragraph 5 (a) should read 2009 and not 2001 as detail in the report. With regards to paragraph 4 (a)(0002) and in noting that the complaint received in February 2008 is still at enquiry stage or waiting determination it was requested that an update be given at the next meeting.

4. REPORTS FROM PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES

Consideration was given to the report of the Monitoring Officer with that of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales regarding a maladministration complaint made against Caerphilly County Borough Council.

A detailed discussion took place on the report which had been issued under Section 21 of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005. Members noted that the Ombudsman has partially upheld several aspects of the complaint and made several procedural recommendations aimed at improving the council's protection of vulnerable adults process.

Members noted the findings of the Ombudsman and his recommendations as set out in the report and that several aspects of Mr. and Mrs A. complaint were not upheld.

The Assistant Director (Adult Services) and Customer Services and Performance Co-ordinator were present to respond to the questions asked, explain the actions taken and to advise on the action taken to ensure that internal procedures were improved to avoid a recurrence of similar issues in the future.

RESOLVED that the Ombudsman report including his recommendations be accepted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5. Standards Committee Annual Report 2010

It was requested that as in previous years an annual report detailing the summary of activities be prepared for consideration by the Committee prior to its presentation to Council.

6. Standards Committee Conference - Llandrindod Wells - 5th October 2011

It was reported that the conference for this year would be held on Llandrindod Wells on 5th October 2011. An agenda/timetable has yet to be forthcoming but it would be circulated to the Committee members in due course. It was requested that details of the 2010 conference be included within the annual report.

7. Councillor G.D. Simmonds

It was noted that Councillor G.D. Simmonds had not appealed against his suspension (for a period of 2 months for each complaint, to run concurrently, i.e. total period of suspension 2 months) therefore he is suspended from being a Member of Caerphilly County Borough Council between 22nd February and 21st April 2011.

The meeting closed at 10.55am

CHAIRMAN