



Meeting **GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Date **Wednesday 29 November 2023 (commencing at 10.30am)**

membership

COUNCILLORS

Philip Owen (Chairman)
John Lee (Vice-Chairman)

Richard Butler
Samantha Deakin
Errol Henry JP
Andy Meakin
Michael Payne - **Apologies**

Sue Saddington
Helen-Ann Smith - **Apologies**
Nigel Turner
Roger Upton

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Jim Creamer substituted for Councillor Michael Payne

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rob Briggs - Children and Families

Richard Elston - Chief Executives

Keith Ford

Andrew Howarth

Simon Lacey

Marjorie Toward

Nigel Stevenson

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 July 2023, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Michael Payne (Other County Council Business)
- Councillor Helen-Ann Smith (Other Reasons)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

4. UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN DECISIONS (AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER 2023)

During discussions, Members requested:

- actual numerical figures (rather than percentages) in relation to assessments undertaken within and outside of the statutory timescales;
- a six-monthly update report on Education Health and Care Plan Assessments to the next meeting of the Committee;
- further anonymised details of case reference 23002721 which the Ombudsman was not able to investigate due to ongoing legal proceedings.

RESOLVED: 2023/42

That the findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman be noted and the lessons learned and actions taken in response to the findings be welcomed.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT TERM 1 PROGRESS REPORT AND TERM 3 PLAN 2023-24

RESOLVED: 2023/43

That the outcome of the Internal Audit Work carried out in Term 1 2023-24 be noted and the planned coverage of Internal Audit's work in Term 3 of 2023-24 be progressed to help deliver assurance to the Committee in priority areas.

6. FOLLOW-UP OF INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

During discussions, Members requested clarification of which Members had attended the recent training for Councillors and Officers who are appointed as directors of companies.

RESOLVED: 2023/44

- 1) That the contents of the reports and the progress that has been made against the Internal Audit recommendations be noted.
- 2) That a further progress report and an update on those actions outstanding be included in the next six-monthly review.

7. GOVERNANCE UPDATE

RESOLVED: 2023/45

That the actions taken to update the governance issues raised in the Committee report be noted.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: 2023/46

That the work programme be updated to include the six-monthly update report on Education Health and Care Plan Assessments requested earlier in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10:55am

CHAIRMAN