

Meeting: Haringey Strategic Partnership
Date: 27 April 2009
Report Title: Whistleblowing and Confidential Reporting
Report of: Head of Audit and Risk Management

Purpose

To advise the HSP of the draft Whistle-blowing and Confidential Reporting Policy for the HSP and recommend its approval.

Legal/Financial Implications

There are no direct legal or financial implications arising out of this report.

Recommendations

That the HSP Board reviews and approves the draft HSP Whistle-blowing and Confidential Reporting Policy.

That the HSP Board approves the adoption and publication of the HSP whistleblowing and confidential reporting policy.

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Background

The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) includes the requirements to have appropriate arrangements in place which are designed to promote and ensure probity. It is therefore important to ensure that the HSP can demonstrate compliance with the CAA and best practice requirements.

A whistle-blowing and confidential reporting policy, which is specific to the HSP rather than the policies of the HSP's individual member organisations, provides the framework within which all partners should operate. A specific policy provides clarity and sets out how employees of the HSP's member

organisations, contractors, members of the public and Councillors can make their concerns known. The policy sets out how the HSP will deal with any allegations made.

The HSP is committed to reducing the potential for fraud and corruption to the lowest possible level. The draft whistleblowing and confidential reporting policy, attached as Appendix 1, is a key document in informing people of the HSPs position on fraud and corruption and its intention to deal with any issues in a firm, but responsible way.

The policy encourages individuals to report their concerns early and in confidence to enable the issue to be dealt with as effectively as possible. However, it is recognised that there could be situations where concerns are raised after the event, so the policy is written to incorporate either circumstance.

The Whistle-blowing and Confidential Reporting Policy

Individual partner organisations in the HSP have their own anti-fraud and corruption policies and procedures, including whistleblowing policies. However there has not been, to date, a whistleblowing and confidential reporting policy which is specific to the HSP and its operational functions.

The draft policy attached at Appendix 1 has been written to ensure that the information contained within it is up to date, easily understandable and accessible to the widest possible range of readers. This is has been done in line with Haringey Council's website guidelines for accessibility.

The draft policy conforms to the best practice guidance from Public Concern at Work, the independent charitable organisation which advises on whistleblowing and governance matters.

The draft policy gives guidance to Councillors, partner organisations, employees and members of the public on what the HSP wants to know about in relation to fraud and corruption and other concerns they may have, what people should do if they suspect fraud and corruption and how the HSP will deal with any concerns raised or allegations made.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft HSP whistleblowing policy