



# Cheshire Police Authority

## Standards Committee Annual Report 2008

### New regulations

The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 set out the framework for the operation of a locally based system for the assessment, referral, investigation and hearing of complaints of member misconduct. If anyone considers that a Member may have breached the Code of Conduct (the Code) they are entitled to make a complaint to the Police Authority's Standards Committee.

The Committee received a report at its meeting on meeting on 23 June 2008, and agreed the procedure for dealing with code of conduct complaints. The new regulations were also advertised on the Authority's website, together with further information on how to make a complaint.

### Meetings

The Standards Committee met on four occasions during the year. In June, the Committee met to consider the new complaint regulations, and met in both October and November to appoint new independent members to the Committee. The final meeting of the year in December received the annual report on governance issues. The Committee has two scheduled meetings planned for 2009:-

Thursday 11 June at 9.30am  
Thursday 10 December at 9.30am

### Membership

The Authority agreed in June that the membership of the Committee should increase to seven (4 police authority members and 3 independents), to ensure that the Committee complied with the new local assessment regulations. The independent member vacancies were advertised widely in the press during September and following the selection process, two new independent members were appointed.

The current membership of the Committee is:-

Police Authority Members	Independent Members
David Cargill	Helen Waller (a)
Emily Lam	John Wilding (b)
Brian Maher	Darren Willetts (a)
Terry Savage	Harry Mawdsley (c)

- (a) Appointed until 15 July 2013
- (b) Appointed until 15 July 2009
- (c) Appointed from 16 July 2009 to 15 July 2013

The current Chairman, John Wilding, will retire from the Committee in July 2009. The meeting in June will be required to appoint a new independent chairman

## Compliance with the Code of Conduct

The Members register of interests has been updated on a number of occasions throughout the year, and the new Members of the Authority submitted their register of interest forms on time. An annual reminder was sent to all Members in June to remind them of the need to regularly review their entry in the register, and a number of amendments were made as a result.

Members were also reminded of the need to declare the receipt of gifts and hospitality above the value of £25 which they had received in their capacity as Police Authority member. No declarations have been made.

One complaint was received against a Member which was resolved informally. The matter was reported to the Standards Committee in December which supported the action taken by the Monitoring Officer.

## Collaboration

Agreement was reached with the four other police authorities in the North West region to create a 'pool' of independent members should one of the authorities in the region require an additional or substitute independent member due to a conflict of interest or absence, for example.

Work is also ongoing with other authorities in the region to develop a common package of training on standards and ethics issues. It is hoped to deliver this training in a central location in the North West in the New

## Further Information

Further information on the Authority's Standards Committee is available on the website [www.cheshirepa.police.uk](http://www.cheshirepa.police.uk), or by contacting the office on 01244 614003

## Terms of reference

The Standards Committee is responsible to the Authority for the following functions:-

- Discharge the Authority's functions under Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000
- Consider and grant, or otherwise, dispensations in respect of Members' Interests in accordance with the relevant regulations
- Promote high standards of ethical behaviour by developing, maintaining and monitoring the Code of Conduct for Members of the Authority
- Advise the Authority on the adoption or revision of the Code of Conduct
- Ensure that Members receive advice as appropriate on the Code of Conduct
- Issue advice to Members on the treatment of personal interests and on conduct matters generally
- Ensure that the Authority maintains appropriate links with the Standards Board for England and the Commission for Local Administration in England (Ombudsman)
- Support the Chief Executive as Monitoring Officer and the Treasurer, in the performance of their duties
- To shortlist and appoint independent members to the Standards Committee.