

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 3 DECEMBER 2009

ASSESSMENT MADE CLEAR

Report of the: **Monitoring Officer**

Status: **For Information**

Portfolio Holder **Cllr. Elaine Bracken**

Head of Service Mrs. Christine Nuttall – Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Recommendation: Members are requested to note this report and view the DVD entitled “Assessment made clear” for information and discussion.

Local Assessment

- 1 The Monitoring Officer has received the latest training DVD for the Standards for England. The DVD is aimed at standards committee members and local authority officers involved in the assessment of complaints.
- 2 It features dramatised case studies that will guide Members through the main stages of the local assessment process of complaints that a member may have breached the Code of Conduct.
- 3 Case studies demonstrate the criteria used to guide each decision such as whether an investigation should be conducted locally or referred to Standards for England.
- 4 The DVD can be paused after each case so that this committee can discuss it or think about what this committee would do if we were assessing the case.

Key Implications

Financial

- 5 None arising directly from this report.

Community Impact and Outcomes

- 6 It is vital that Members of the Standards Committee understand their roles and the context and constraints in which they operate when assessing allegations of Member misconduct.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

- 7 The procedure for locally based member misconduct assessment is set out in legislation and the Standards for England guidance to which local Standards Committees must have regard.

Risk Assessment Statement

8 None arising from this report.

Sources of Information: Standards for England DVD entitled Assessment made Clear

Contact Officer(s): Christine Nuttall – ext. 7245

**Christine Nuttall
Monitoring Officer**