



Meeting of East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Integration Joint Board
Held on	29 November 2017
Agenda Item	14
Title	Appointment of Standards Officer
<p>Summary</p> <p>A report regarding the key responsibilities and appointment of a Standards Officer for the IJB</p>	
Presented by	Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager
<p>Action Required</p> <p>The Integration Joint Board is asked to nominate for approval by the Standards Commission Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager, East Renfrewshire Council as the Standards Officer for the IJB.</p>	
<p>Implications checklist – check box if applicable and include detail in report</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Efficiency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal <input type="checkbox"/> Equalities <input type="checkbox"/> Risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staffing <input type="checkbox"/> Property/Capital <input type="checkbox"/> Directions </p>	

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

29 November 2017

Report by Chief Officer

APPOINTMENT OF STANDARDS OFFICER

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To recommend that the Integration Joint Board nominates for approval by the Standards Commission a Standards Officer to comply with the requirements of the Ethical Standards legislation.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the IJB nominates for approval by the Standards Commission Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager, East Renfrewshire Council as the Standards Officer for the IJB.

BACKGROUND

3. The Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000 (Register of Interests) Regulations 2003 require devolved public bodies to have a Standards Officer. The Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Act (Consequential Amendments and Savings) Order 2015 has determined that Integration Joint Boards are devolved public bodies for the purposes of the Ethical Standards legislation and accordingly the IJB needs to make arrangements to have a Standards Officer.

REPORT

4. The Standards Commission has provided guidance on the role of the Standards Officer. The guidance highlights the duties and responsibilities of the Standards Officer, including:-

- ensuring that appropriate training as required is given to Board Members on the Ethical Standards Framework and the Code of Conduct;
- contributing to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by providing advice and support to members on the interpretation and application of the Code of Conduct;
- ensuring the IJB keeps a Register of Interests (including a register of Gifts and Hospitality); that the Register is maintained and that a reminder to update entries on the Register of Interests is issued to Members at least once a year;
- ensuring that Members are aware of the duty to report any change in their circumstances within one month;
- ensuring that the IJB has in place a consistent approach to obtaining and recording declarations of interest at the start of its meetings;

- potentially having an investigatory role if local resolution is appropriate in respect of complaints or concerns made about a Member's conduct.
- ensuring that officers are aware of / familiar with the requirements of the Member's Code of Conduct;
- reporting to the Board, when necessary, on matters relating to the Ethical Standards Framework that may require review;
- acting as the principal liaison with the Standards Commission; and
- acting as the principal liaison with the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland and assisting, where required, in connection with the investigation of a complaint against a member of the IJB.

5. The approval process for Standards Officers is that the Chief Officer must notify the Standards Commission of the IJB's nomination for the post. As part of that notification, the Chief Officer is to provide the following information:-

- A summary of the Standards Officer's key responsibilities;
- The name of the nominated individual;
- Whether the nominated individual is an existing Monitoring or Standards Officer; and
- The steps you have taken to assure themselves of the individual's suitability.

6. It is proposed that Eamonn Daly, the Democratic Services Manager for East Renfrewshire Council be nominated as the Standards Officer for the IJB. Mr Daly has been acting as the Clerk to the Board since its establishment and performed a similar role for the former Community Health and Care Partnership Committee. He has been responsible for all the governance arrangements for the IJB and was involved in the development of the Scheme of Establishment, the Code of Conduct and the Standing Orders for the Board.

7. Since the establishment of the Board he has been responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Register of Members Interests and has from time to time as required offered advice to members of the Board on matters relating to the declaration of interests at meetings.

8. In effect, as Mr Daly has to date already been performing many of the duties associated with the role of Standards Officer it is proposed that he be formally nominated for the role.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

9. There are no financial or efficiency implications as a result of this report.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

10. Consultation has taken place with Caroline Innes the Council's Deputy Chief Executive. Mrs Innes is the Council's Monitoring Officer that role having similar responsibilities in relation to councillors as the Standards Officer has for members of the IJB.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS.

11. There are no implications in terms of staffing, property, IT, equalities or sustainability.
12. The legal implications are that failure to appoint a Standards Officer breaches the requirement as prescribed in the legislation.

CONCLUSIONS

13. The Board has to comply with the requirements of the 2003 Regulations to appoint a Standards Officer. Mr Daly has been performing this role on an ad-hoc basis for the Chief Officer since the inception of the Board and formalising the appointment will ensure that the Board does not remain in breach of the requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. That the IJB nominates for approval by the Standards Commission Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager, East Renfrewshire Council as the Standards Officer for the IJB.

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

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1 November 2017

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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