

CRACK THE CODE

Third Annual Assembly of Standards Committees
13-14 SEPTEMBER 2004, ICC, BIRMINGHAM

ADVANCE PROGRAMME • ISSUE 1

AGENDA

DAY ONE | MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2004

CRACK THE CODE

"There is growing support for raising standards of behaviour, but is everyone clear about the application of the Code? What are the areas of difficulty? How can the Code be improved? Our conference will confront these issues and many more.

I hope you find this programme offers a good platform on which together, with council leaders, chief executives, standards committee members and monitoring officers, we can make real progress and crack the Code."



Sir Anthony Holland Chair
The Standards Board for England

9.30 – 11.00

REGISTRATION

Refreshments available

11.00 – 11.20

WELCOME

Sir Anthony Holland, Chair, The Standards Board for England

11.20 – 11.35

REPORTING BACK

David Prince, Chief Executive, The Standards Board for England

A review of developments over the year, including the introduction of local investigations.

11.35 – 12.05

OPEN TO CHANGE

Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, Minister for Local Government and the Regions

The minister expresses the Government's commitment to the ethical agenda and a review of the Code.

12.05 – 12.30

DEVELOPING THE CODE

Patricia Hughes, Deputy Chair, The Standards Board for England

Key issues to consider.

12.30 – 14.00

LUNCH

14.00 – 15.00

WORKSHOP SESSION 1



Delegates will participate in one of the workshops listed below:

DEVELOPING THE CODE

Delegates come together to discuss possible revisions to the Code.

Nine workshops, each with a maximum of 50 delegates.

NOT ENOUGH LEADERS?

A look at the role of chief executives and council leaders in promoting an ethical environment and getting the culture of an authority right.

Feature workshop, maximum attendance of 500.

15.00 – 15.15

COMFORT BREAK

15.15 – 16.15

WORKSHOP SESSION 2



Delegates will participate in one of the workshops listed below, which they did not attend during workshop session 1:

DEVELOPING THE CODE

Delegates come together to discuss possible revisions to the Code. Nine workshops, each with a maximum of 50 delegates.

NOT ENOUGH LEADERS?

A look at the role of chief executives and council leaders in promoting an ethical environment and getting the culture of an authority right.

Feature workshop, maximum attendance of 500.

16.15 – 16.45

COMFORT BREAK

Refreshments available

16.45 – 17.45

WORKSHOP SESSION 3



WORKSHOP OPTIONS

• **THE BIGGER PICTURE**

Delegates debate broader issues about misconduct that concern the authority as a whole, rather than just particular individuals.

Feature workshop, maximum attendance of 500.

Other workshops are designed for a maximum of 50 delegates.

- **ACROSS THE BORDER**
- **BULLYING**
- **CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL DECISIONS**
- **IS GOOD ENOUGH GOOD ENOUGH?**
- **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE**
- **OPEN HOUSE Q & A**
- **PLANNING AND THE CODE**
- **THE LOCAL EXPERIENCE**
- **WHAT DO MONITORING OFFICERS NEED?**

17.45 – 18.45

FRINGE EVENTS (OPTIONAL)

19.30 – LATE

DRINKS RECEPTION

CONFERENCE DINNER

AGENDA

DAY TWO | TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2004

8.15 – 9.00

REFRESHMENTS

9.00 – 10.00

WORKSHOP SESSION 4



WORKSHOP OPTIONS

- **BEST FRIEND OR BIG BROTHER?**

The role of The Standards Board for England and the Code in the local government improvement agenda.

Feature workshop, maximum attendance of 500.

Other workshops are designed for a maximum of 50 delegates.

- AT THE SHARP END
- BAD, BUT NOT BAD ENOUGH
- CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL DECISIONS
- LEARNING FROM OUTCOMES
- MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE
- OPEN HOUSE Q & A
- PLANNING AND THE CODE
- SHINE YOUR LIGHT
- THE LOCAL EXPERIENCE

10.00 – 10.15

COMFORT BREAK

10.15 – 11.15

WORKSHOP SESSION 5



WORKSHOP OPTIONS

- **UP TO STANDARD?**

The Audit Commission's expectations of standards committees in the context of comprehensive performance assessments.

Feature workshop, maximum attendance of 500.

Other workshops are designed for a maximum of 50 delegates.

- ACROSS THE BORDER
- AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE
- BAD, BUT NOT BAD ENOUGH
- BULLYING
- IS GOOD ENOUGH GOOD ENOUGH?
- LEARNING FROM OUTCOMES
- MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE
- OPEN HOUSE Q & A
- WHAT DO MONITORING OFFICERS NEED?

11.15 – 11.45

COMFORT BREAK

Refreshments available

11.45 – 12.45

MORE THAN MAKING THE TRAINS RUN ON TIME?

This year's big debate asks, 'Is the ethical agenda a distraction from providing good services?'

12.45 – 14.00

LUNCH

14.00 – 15.00

WORKSHOP SESSION 6



WORKSHOP OPTIONS

- **CAMPAIGNERS AS COUNCILLORS**

Does the Code conflict with members presenting their views and representing their constituents?

Feature workshop, maximum attendance of 500.

Other workshops are designed for a maximum of 50 delegates.

- AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE
- AT THE SHARP END
- BAD, BUT NOT BAD ENOUGH
- BULLYING
- CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL DECISIONS
- LEARNING FROM OUTCOMES
- OPEN HOUSE Q & A
- SHINE YOUR LIGHT
- THE LOCAL EXPERIENCE

15.00 – 15.15

COMFORT BREAK

15.15 – 16.10

DEVELOPING THE CODE

Patricia Hughes, Deputy Chair, The Standards Board for England

Summary of feedback gained from delegates through workshops, with an opportunity for questions and answers.

16.10 – 16.15

FINAL THOUGHTS

Sir Anthony Holland, Chair, The Standards Board for England

16.15

CLOSE

Refreshments available

WORKSHOPS

There are two types of workshops available. Feature workshops have a maximum capacity of 500 delegates and will provide a platform for debating key issues. Smaller workshops, held with no more than 50 delegates, will offer the opportunity for discussion in a less formal setting.

Those workshops indicated with a ★ are feature workshops.

ACROSS THE BORDER

Local authorities in Scotland also have a body in place that oversees ethical conduct among members. It shares its experiences.

AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE

An opportunity for independent members to get together to debate issues of current interest to them.

AT THE SHARP END

Being reported to The Standards Board for England for allegedly breaching the Code is never going to be pleasant, but how can we improve the experience?

BAD, BUT NOT BAD ENOUGH

A discussion on what can be done about poor behaviour that does not warrant a full investigation.

★ BEST FRIEND OR BIG BROTHER?

FEATURE WORKSHOP

An exploration of the role of The Standards Board for England and the Code in the local government improvement agenda.

BULLYING

This session will use role-play to explore the different types of bullying and the role of the Code in combating such behaviour.

★ CAMPAIGNERS AS COUNCILLORS

FEATURE WORKSHOP

Does the Code conflict with members presenting their views and representing their constituents?

CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL DECISIONS

How can standards committees ensure their authorities, and local communities, have confidence in their independence and ability to make fair and appropriate determinations?

★ DEVELOPING THE CODE

FEATURE WORKSHOP

Delegates come together to discuss possible revisions to the Code.

All delegates will participate in this workshop either during workshop session 1 or workshop session 2.

IS GOOD ENOUGH GOOD ENOUGH?

What level of investigation is necessary for non-major cases, both locally and nationally?

LEARNING FROM OUTCOMES

What are the implications of the adjudications that have taken place so far?

MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE

Does the Code hinder a member's right to communicate with their community and is the obligation to report breaches of the Code onerous?

★ **NOT ENOUGH LEADERS?**

FEATURE WORKSHOP

A look at the role of chief executives and council leaders in promoting an ethical environment and getting the culture of an authority right.

All delegates will participate in this workshop either during workshop session 1 or workshop session 2.

OPEN HOUSE Q & A

Open house for delegates to put questions to The Standards Board for England. Representatives from legal, policy and guidance and an ethical standards officer will be on the panel.

PLANNING AND THE CODE

A look at the topical issues relating to planning and the Code.

SHINE YOUR LIGHT

What does an excellent standards committee look like?

★ **THE BIGGER PICTURE**

FEATURE WORKSHOP

Delegates debate broader issues about misconduct that concern the authority as a whole, rather than just particular individuals.

THE LOCAL EXPERIENCE

Many authorities now have experience of local investigations and determinations, but how are they working in practice? What are the issues and outcomes that have emerged? This session will include case studies.

★ **UP TO STANDARD?**

FEATURE WORKSHOP

The Audit Commission's expectations of standards committees in the context of comprehensive performance assessments.

WHAT DO MONITORING OFFICERS NEED?

Based on research commissioned by The Standards Board for England and involvement from the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors.

HOW TO GET THERE

The ICC is located in the centre of Birmingham. You can travel there in a number of ways:

BY TRAIN

Services to Birmingham New Street Station travel from locations all over the country. Services to Birmingham Snow Hill Station run in the local area. Please telephone National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50 for further information.

BY CAR

Birmingham is easily accessible via a network of motorways.

BY BUS

Shuttle buses will operate between Birmingham New Street Station, the hotels listed on the hotel reservation form, and the ICC during the morning of 13 September and at the close of conference on 14 September.

TAXI

The venue is a short taxi ride from Birmingham New Street and Birmingham Snow Hill stations.

CAR PARKING

There are five public multi-storey car parks close to the ICC.

A location map and a shuttle bus schedule will be sent to delegates in a final mailing, shortly before the conference. The map will indicate the motorways, train stations and car parks.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any enquiries regarding the conference, please contact:

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Alternatively, visit www.standardsboard.co.uk/events