

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**24 NOVEMBER 2010**

### **STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND – BULLETIN 48**

Report from: Deborah Upton, Monitoring Officer

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#### **Summary**

Standards for England publishes a Bulletin approximately every 3 months, this gives up to date news and information about developments in ethical issues that affect local government. This report advises the Committee

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

- 1.1 This Committee has responsibility to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by all Councillors and co-opted members including the church and parent governor representatives who serve on the Children and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 In order to fulfil this role effectively the Committee needs to be up to date with latest SfE guidance and associated issues.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Standards for England's main task is to ensure that standards of ethical conduct are maintained across authorities in England. One of Standards for England's key functions is to provide guidance for authorities when implementing the Code of Conduct with the aim of helping members, monitoring officers and Standards Committees to successfully interpret the Code of Conduct.
- 2.2 A range of guidance and toolkits can be found on the Standards for England website ([www.standardsforengland.gov.uk](http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk)). Regular information bulletins are also published on the website.

#### **3. The Future of Standards for England and the Standards Framework**

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the Government's "Programme for Government" of 20 May 2010 contained the commitment to "abolish the Standards Board regime". This Bulletin gives members indicative timescales as to when the changes are to take place and what services Standards for England will be providing within those timescales.

3.2 The Monitoring Officer will keep Members informed of all developments in respect of these changes.

#### **4. Risk Management**

4.1 Risk management is an integral part of good governance. The Council has a responsibility to identify and manage threats and risks to achieve its strategic objectives and enhance the value of services it provides to the community. This report aims to ensure that the Standards Committee is kept apprised of current legislation, guidance and best practice and to minimise the risk of Medway's procedures and practice relating to the Member Code of Conduct becoming out of date.

#### **5. Financial and legal implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 The Standards Committee and standards system and procedures are requirements of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by subsequent legislation, most recently by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

#### **6. Recommendations**

6.1 The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the Standards for England Bulletin 48.

#### **Lead officer contact**

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#### **Background papers**

Standards for England - Bulletin 48 – August 2010