

<u>Promoting Compliance With the Code of Conduct</u>			
Report by:	Cllr Amanda Williams		
Political Group:	Bridgend County Independents		
No. of members:	13	No. trained on Code:	13 (100%)
For the period:	14 th June 2023 to 11 th July 2024		
<u>Number, Source and Level of Complaints</u>			
	Informal	Local Resolution	PSOW
Public			2 (not investigated)
Officers			
Councillors			
<u>Steps taken to Promote Compliance (To Be Completed by Group Leader)</u>			
Include matters such as:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - demonstrating personal commitment to and attending relevant development or training around equalities and standards; - encouraging group members to attend relevant development or training around equalities and standards; - ensuring nominees to a Committee have received the recommended training for that Committee; 			
<p>The table below sets out the online training that my group members have undertaken. Many of these online courses appear to be duplications of in person training that has been provided to members. I have attended the GDPR in person training and undertaken the online one and the course content was identical. Therefore, where it appears that a member has not undertaken training in some areas, I do not believe that members should be asked to attend both where there is a duplication. For those members who have other jobs, or who have additional responsibilities, they often do not have the time to spent on duplicate training.</p> <p>In addition, the online compulsory training is not accessible for those with vision issues as the print is extremely small and some of the online tasks required to complete a course are difficult to see. This has been fed back to officers, although there has been no accessible training course provided. Until this is available then not all my group will be able to complete this training.</p> <p>I continue to ask group members if they require any further training or support and feed this back to officers when identified.</p>			

Forename	Surname	Corporate induction	DSE	ICT	GDPR	Fire safety	Safeguarding	VAWDAS V	Intro to E&D	WL Awareness
Tony	Berrow	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Freya	Bletsoe	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Steven	Bletsoe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Steven	Easterbrook	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y
David	Harrison	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Mark	John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ian	Spiller	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tim	Thomas	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Alan	Wathan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Amanda	Williams	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ian	Williams	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Martin	Williams	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Tim	Wood	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

- promoting civility and respect within group communications and meetings and in formal Council meetings;
- promoting informal resolution procedures in the Council, and working with the Standards Committee and monitoring officers to achieve local resolution;
- promoting a culture within the group which supports high standards of conduct and integrity;
- attend a meeting of the Council's Standards Committee if requested to discuss Code of Conduct issues;

We continue to have a monthly group meeting where we have an open and honest discussion as a group and I continue to have an open-door policy where any member can contact me for advice or to discuss issues as needed.

I said in my last report that civility and respect are core and that I strongly believed that this had improved greatly over the previous 12 months. I think that this has improved further and there are less occasions where I think things could have been handled differently. I have reminded my group of how to conduct themselves on social media and made suggestions on improving the tone of some emails, whilst also ignoring all of the fake profiles that are politically motivated to attack and provoke.

I have seen an increase in the fake profiles targeting councillors and some of the vexatious complainants I referred to last time continue with their social media onslaught. A number of my group do feel targeted and whilst we cannot identify any perpetrators at this time, some members have had to seek police assistance and have raised concerns about our personal safety. I will only share my examples here in that I have had my car tyre slashed, my CCTV cable cut and my security light smashed. This has been extremely distressing and making me look over my shoulder. I worry that councillors are becoming a far easier target. I'm also being told of continued complaints to community councillor's employers, which are vindictive and meant to cause personal upset and I am concerned that politics is leading to increasingly dirtier tactics and continued attempts to entrap individuals or pressure them into resigning. All of my group are also town/community councillors and whilst I have no remit here, I really do feel that the standards committee needs to take a closer look at town and community councils, particularly those with a high number of complaints against those who do this role for either no money or for a very small personal allowance.

I continue to attend a monthly group leaders meeting and a monthly meeting with the Chief Executive where we can discuss openly and frankly any concerns about behaviour and comments made and also work on building relationships

- work to implement any recommendations from the Standards Committee about improving standards;
- work together with other group leaders, within reason, to collectively support high standards of conduct within the Council.

I am more than happy to implement any recommendations put forward to me.

I have a good relationship with Cllr Ross Thomas and I believe that we work well together. I've not had the opportunity of working with the new labour leader yet and so I am unable to comment on this other than I have been left disappointed in the past by some of his comments to me and so I hope that this won't be the case going forward.