

Notes on North Wales Standards Committee Forum 24th June 2019

At Flintshire CC Offices in Mold

Present: Representatives from Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire Wrexham, Ceredigion and Powys Standards Committees. Plus Flintshire Monitoring Officer.

Apologies: N Wales Fire & Rescue

Presentation by Nick Bennett the Welsh Ombudsman, see slides.

Most complaints are from Town & Community Councils.

Health related complaints have doubled.

If complaints involve bullying then this is a HR matter.

Examples of complaints dismissed include: pen clicking, handshaking, 'unfriending' on social media.

Code complaints down, others about equality & respect. There were only 8 serious issues out of 288 (<3%)

On sanctions we cannot suspend a suspension pending a member honouring an undertaking.

Some discussion on sanctions, such as restrict access to computers, phones, people, premises, etc. is practically impossible as it would require legislation.

Police not interested (lack of resource?) in any breaches

Parish clerks should be qualified. Clerks could be shared.

Display Code of Conduct in various places and on websites.

It would be good practice to email SC members before information released to the public (Chris' point).

Talk of providing training for Town & Community Councillors such as at area fora.

Flintshire to produce a document on what good behaviour looks like.

Stephan Hays – Chair Powys County Council Standards Committee