

Standards and Governance Committee – 18 April 2024

Title of paper:	Whistleblowing Monitoring Update	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Malcolm R. Townroe – Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Malcolm R. Townroe – Malcolm.townroe@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Internal Audit colleagues	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	Not Applicable	
Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?		
No		
Relevant Council Plan Outcome:		
Green, Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Living Well in our Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Serving People Well	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
The report provides the annual update on whistleblowing cases drawn to the attention of the Monitoring Officer and which either remain open or have been closed off.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	That members note the contents of the report	

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 As part of the whistleblowing procedure there is a requirement to update Standards and Governance Committee on whistleblowing matters which have arisen over the last 12 months.
- 1.2 In order to preserve confidentiality precise details of individual cases are not included in the report but in overview terms there are 4 cases which have been brought to the attention of the Monitoring Officer. None of the cases referred contain any allegations of criminality.

1.3 The 4 cases under consideration can be summarised as follows:

- a) Two anonymous allegations relating to a manager's alleged failure to uphold council procedures in relation to time off in lieu and nepotism regarding recruitment. Given the nature of the complaints and the sparsity of detail provided these have been discussed with the relevant Director by the Monitoring Officer. No further action is considered necessary and the case has been closed.
- b) An allegation relating to matters around supported housing and the misuse of housing benefit. Given the nature of the allegation this is not a matter for the Council and it has been referred to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for consideration by them.
- c) A number of allegations regarding manager(s) in a service provided jointly by the City and another council. It was originally thought that this was a matter for the other council in isolation but after further consideration further action is being taken on the City side to review matters.
- d) An allegation regarding the conduct of a manager which has now been raised as part of an employment tribunal case. This remains under review in order to determine what elements, if any, might fall under the heading of whistleblowing.

2. Other options considered in making recommendations

2.1 None as the procedure requires an annual report to be brought to committee.

3. Consideration of Risk

3.1 Failure to fully and properly consider whistleblowing cases would increase risk. As a consequence, whistleblowing cases are dealt with in accordance with the adopted procedure.

4. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

4.1 None

5. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money)

Not Applicable

6. Legal colleague comments

The report is written by the Monitoring Officer

7. Other relevant comments

Not Applicable

8. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

8.1 Not Applicable

9. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

9.1 Not Applicable

10. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)

10.1 Not Applicable

11. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

11.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No - An EIA is not required because the report does not include any new proposals or any change to existing arrangements.

12. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

12.1 Not Applicable

13. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

13.1 Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

Not Applicable

14. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

14.1 None

15. Published documents referred to in this report

15.1 None