

Cyngor Gwynedd Council

21 October 2009

STANDARDS CONFERENCE Wales 09

Report by Sam W. Soysa,
Independent Member of the Standards Committee

Purpose of Report

1. To briefly highlight the insights and benefits gained by attending the "Standards Conference **Wales 09**".

Introduction

1. The "Standards Conference **Wales 09**" was held on the 15 October 09 and hosted by the Cardiff City Council. This keynote Conference was held in Cardiff for the benefit of ALL Standards & Ethics Committees in Wales.
2. Copy of the Conference Agenda is attached for the record.

Insights/Benefits Gained To Assist My Standards Committee Work

1. The content of all the keynote speakers' talks were felt to be very relevant to work on the Standards Committee and Public Service ethics in general.
2. The following Workshops were attended, and found to be very informative and will be useful and beneficial to conducting future work on our Standards Committee:
 - **Working Across Boundaries – Implementing The English Code In the Welsh Context**: [Police Authorities / Standards Committee].
 - **Developing Best Practice**: [Cardiff Standards & Ethics Committee].
3. If two key points were learnt it was :
 - That, Corporate Plans and their impact on Public Services are seen to be based on the twin "pillars" of the Public's perception of : ***the Standards & Ethical Values, of the relevant Authority.***
 - That the Key "triggers" for an effective Standards Committee are:
 - Adopting the right amount of "visibility", and
 - Being pro-active – by supporting elected members (facilitating training & development in Ethics and Standards development), raising issues of concern and assisting to inculcate a sense of direct and personal responsibility amongst members of the relevant Authority.
4. It must be concluded that the conference was found to be most beneficial in terms of professional exposure to current best practice and training scenarios in Standards and Ethics in local Government Authorities.

Recommendation

1. It is requested that this brief Report be noted for future Standards Committee purposes.