

MEETING	Democratic Services Committee
DATE	12th November 2024
REPORT TITLE	Learning and Development Provision for Members
PURPOSE	Provide an update of the <i>Learning and Development</i> provision to Members, and present findings of Elected member questionnaire.
RECOMMENDATION	The Committee is invited to offer any further suggestions before receiving the report
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1 Overview

- 1.1. Following on from the information presented to you in the last two Committee meetings regarding core training for Elected Members, much of the work over the last few months has been about raising awareness about the situation.

Table 1: The current situation regarding the numbers that have completed the 7 core titles is as follows:

Title	Completed	Completed as %	Not completed	Total members
Lead Safely and Personally Safety	50	73.5%	18	68
Code of conduct	50	73.5%	18	68
Well-being and Future Generations Act	27	39.7%	41	68
Safeguarding Children and Adults	33	48.5%	35	68
Your responsibility for equality	39	57.4%	29	68
About people	51	75.0%	17	68
Corporate parenting	46	67/6%	22	68

Table 2: The table below indicates the progress made numbers that have completed the training since the figures were presented to you in the February 2024 meeting.

Title	Position in Feb 2024	Current position	Increase	Number of courses held
Leading Safely and Personal Safety	44	50	6	1
Code of Conduct	39	50	11	2
Wellbeing and Future Generations Act	14	27	13	1
Safeguarding Children and Adults	33	33	0	0 (cancelled due to low numbers)
Your responsibility for equality	27	39	12	1
About people	45	51	6	2
Corporate parenting	39	46	7	1

*Safeguarding Children and Adults course scheduled for 28/11/24 with 16 registered

*Code of conduct course scheduled for 12/12/24 with 7 registered

- 1.2. These data in table 1 has been presented to the Group Leaders, and there has also been a subsequent meeting with the Group Leaders to further clarify, and contextualise, the figures.
- 1.3. The above work has resulted in a number of enquiries from Elected Members, and in some cases, involved the scheduling of additional courses. As an example, an additional course on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults has been programmed for the end of November.

1.4. The area of Safeguarding in particular has led to several recent queries regarding the relevance of the Safeguarding course to school governors. This is because Elected Members in the majority are also school governors. Confirmation has been received that the content of the two courses is different, and that there is no regard to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults element within the course to school Governors. The responsibility of members is also different from the responsibilities of Governors so the two courses do not transition, and Members who have completed the course for Governors cannot therefore be excluded from the need to attend the course for Elected Members.

1.5. The core courses are a priority, but that said, they cannot be held endlessly with only a small number attending each one. Therefore, the intention going forward, now that we are in the third election year is to have recordings of the 7 core titles available on the members' intranet. Work is taking place to ensure each of these recordings are available bi-lingually.

1.6. A live dashboard is now available so that progress can be monitored in this area, and further discussion will be required as to where these statistics should be published. A number of Councils are now moving towards publicly publishing data on core Member training.

2.0. **Questionnaire and a sub-group workshop**

2.1. You will be aware that a consultation process with you as Members has taken place over the months in the form of a Learning and Development needs questionnaire. The questionnaire was open for a period of 6 weeks over the Summer. The questionnaire is a key consultation means derived from the Self-Assessment Framework for Councillors to give Members the opportunity to set out their wishes and learning and development priorities.

2.2. The results of the questionnaire are attached as Appendix 1 for your attention. These results will help enormously in populating the training programme for the coming year and ensure we are targeting your needs and priorities.

2.3. To correspond and further enhance our understanding of the needs, a workshop was held with some members of this Committee and the findings of that workshop are subject to a separate report being presented to you by Rhodri Jones.

3.0 **Training Programme**

3.1 The training programme for the months ahead is attached as Appendix 2 for your attention but further work will be undertaken over coming weeks to adjust in order to reflect your needs and priorities as identified in the questionnaire and workshop.

The Committee is invited to consider the training arrangements, comment and approve the steps proposed.

