
REPORT TO:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	4 TH JULY 2006	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	MONITORING OFFICER	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	NEIL BETTERIDGE (595895)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	INTERACTIVE DVD – GOING LOCAL: INVESTIGATIONS AND HEARINGS	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Reason for Exempt

1.1 Not applicable.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 None.

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 To provide Members of the Committee with the opportunity to view this interactive DVD, which uses a fictional case to illustrate a local investigation and hearing and highlights some of the challenges that may arise.

4.0 Detail

4.1 The Standards Board for England has produced a guidance DVD entitled "Going Local: Investigations and Hearings", which uses a fictional case to illustrate a local investigation and hearing and highlights some of the challenges that may arise. The purpose of the programme is not to examine the detail of the fictional complaint, but to identify how to carry out a fair and balanced local investigation and the best procedure for a professional and effective hearing.

4.2 The Standards Board recommends that the DVD is watched by Standards Committee Members and used as a tool for discussion. The programme features learning points which appear throughout the drama. These points identify key elements to consider when conducting an investigation and hearing and offer tips, such as how to deal with a difficult interview and what to include in a pre-hearing process.

- 4.3 The DVD has been awarded the prestigious Silver Screen Award at the International Film and Video Festival 2006. The festival is described as the world's leading competition for business, television, documentary, industrial and informational productions and attracts entries from over 30 countries. The DVD was singled out for its "uniformly high standard of quality" in the training and education category, and the award was presented on 3rd June.
- 4.4 Over half of all investigations are now carried out at a local level and the film was developed to be an essential training tool, offering guidance to Monitoring Officers and Standards Committee Members.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 None.

6.0 Corporate/Community Implications

- 6.1 None.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 None.