

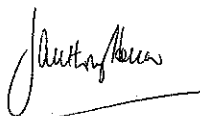
AGENDA

DAY ONE | MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2004

CRACK THE CODE

"There is growing support for raising standards of behaviour, but is everyone clear about the application of the Code? What are the areas of difficulty? How can the Code be improved? Our conference will confront these issues and many more.

I hope you find this programme offers a good platform on which together, with council leaders, chief executives, standards committee members and monitoring officers, we can make real progress and crack the Code."



Sir Anthony Holland Chair
The Standards Board for England

9.30 – 11.00

REGISTRATION

A light breakfast will be available.

11.00 – 11.10

WELCOME

HALL 1

Sir Anthony Holland, Chair, The Standards Board for England

11.10 – 11.25

REPORTING BACK

HALL 1

David Prince, Chief Executive, The Standards Board for England

A review of developments over the year, including an update on the introduction of local investigations.

11.25 – 11.55

OPEN TO CHANGE

HALL 1

Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, Minister for Local and Regional Government

The minister expresses the Government's commitment to the ethical agenda and a review of the Code.

11.55 – 12.20

GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT

HALL 1

Sir Alistair Graham, Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life

Sir Alistair shares some of the evidence received in the course of the Committee's inquiry.

12.20 – 12.45

DEVELOPING THE CODE: AN INTRODUCTION**HALL 1**

Patricia Hughes, Deputy Chair, The Standards Board for England

Key issues to consider:

12.45 – 14.00

LUNCH**HALL 3**

14.00 – 15.00

WORKSHOP SESSION 1

Delegates will attend either one of the nine *Developing the Code* workshops or the feature workshop, *Not enough leaders?*

Delegates should refer to the reverse of their conference name badge to find out which session they are pre-allocated to attend and its location.

Those who attend a *Developing the Code* workshop during workshop session 1 will attend the feature workshop, *Not enough leaders?* during workshop session 2. Those who attend *Not enough leaders?* during workshop session 1 will attend a *Developing the Code* workshop during workshop session 2.

DEVELOPING THE CODE**VARIOUS**

Delegates discuss possible revisions to the Code.

Nine workshops, each with a maximum of 50 delegates.

Please note that delegates attending one of these nine workshops will find the location of their pre-allocated workshop listed on the reverse of their conference name badge.

NOT ENOUGH LEADERS?**HALL 1**

A look at the role of chief executives and council leaders in promoting an ethical environment and getting the culture of an authority right.

Feature workshop, maximum attendance of 500.

Chair: **David Prince**, Chief Executive, The Standards Board for England

Speakers: **Paul Croft**, President, SOLACE

Dr Barry Quirk, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lewisham

Mayor Martin Winter, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

15.00 – 15.15

COMFORT BREAK

AGENDA: DAY ONE | MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2004**15.15 – 16.15****WORKSHOP SESSION 2** 

Delegates will attend either one of the nine *Developing the Code* workshops or the feature workshop, *Not enough leaders?*

Delegates should refer to the reverse of their conference name badge to find out which session they are pre-allocated to attend and its location.

Those who attended a *Developing the Code* workshop during workshop session 1 will attend the feature workshop, *Not enough leaders?* during workshop session 2. Those who attended *Not enough leaders?* during workshop session 1 will attend a *Developing the Code* workshop during workshop session 2.

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Chair: **David Prince**, Chief Executive, The Standards Board for England

Speakers: **Paul Croft**, President, SOLACE

Dr Barry Quirk, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lewisham

Mayor Martin Winter, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

16.15 – 16.45**COMFORT BREAK**

Refreshments available.

16.45 – 17.45

WORKSHOP SESSION 3**WORKSHOP OPTIONS**• **THE BIGGER PICTURE****HALL 1**

Consideration of the broader issues about misconduct that concern the authority as a whole, rather than just particular individuals.

Feature workshop, maximum attendance of 500.

Chair: **Roger Lovegrove**, Independent Chair of Standards Committee, London Borough of Haringey

Speakers: **Ted Cantle**, Associate Director, Improvement and Development Agency
Councillor Mike Storey, Leader, Liverpool City Council

Other workshops are designed for a maximum of 50 delegates.

- BULLYING
- CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL DECISIONS
- IS GOOD ENOUGH GOOD ENOUGH?
- MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE
- OPEN HOUSE Q & A
- PLANNING AND THE CODE
- THE LOCAL EXPERIENCE
- WHAT DO MONITORING OFFICERS NEED?

17.45 – 18.45

FRINGE EVENT (OPTIONAL)**HALL 9**

Building on the Code: quality status for town and parish councils

Hosted by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

19.30 – LATE

DRINKS RECEPTION**CONFERENCE DINNER**

Sir **Ronnie Flanagan** GBE, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, will address delegates after dinner.

Dress code is smart or smart-casual. A cash bar will be available.

AGENDA

DAY TWO | TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2004

8.15 – 9.00

REFRESHMENTS

Tea and coffee will be available. Delegates attending for today only will need to register at Enquiries.

9.00 – 10.00

WORKSHOP SESSION 4

WORKSHOP OPTIONS

- **BEST FRIEND OR BIG BROTHER?**

HALL 1

The role of The Standards Board for England and the Code in the local government improvement agenda.

Feature workshop, maximum attendance of 500.

Chair: **Councillor Peter Chalke**, Board Member, The Standards Board for England

Speakers: **Sir Brian Briscoe**, Chief Executive, Local Government Association
John O'Brien, Director of Local Government Practice,
 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
David Prince, Chief Executive, The Standards Board for England

Other workshops are designed for a maximum of 50 delegates.

- AT THE SHARP END
- BAD, BUT NOT BAD ENOUGH
- CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL DECISIONS
- LEARNING FROM OUTCOMES
- MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE
- OPEN HOUSE Q & A
- PLANNING AND THE CODE
- SHINE YOUR LIGHT
- THE LOCAL EXPERIENCE

10.00 – 10.15

COMFORT BREAK

10.15 – 11.15

WORKSHOP SESSION 5**WORKSHOP OPTIONS**• **UP TO STANDARD?****HALL 1**

The Audit Commission's expectations of standards committees in the context of comprehensive performance assessments.

Feature workshop, maximum attendance of 500.

Chair: **Margaret Pratt**, Board Member, The Standards Board for England

Speaker: **Steve Bundred**, Chief Executive, Audit Commission

Other workshops are designed for a maximum of 50 delegates.

- AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE
- BAD, BUT NOT BAD ENOUGH
- BULLYING
- IS GOOD ENOUGH GOOD ENOUGH?
- LEARNING FROM OUTCOMES
- MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE
- OPEN HOUSE Q & A
- WHAT DO MONITORING OFFICERS NEED?

11.15 – 11.45

COMFORT BREAK

Refreshments available.

11.45 – 12.45

MORE THAN MAKING THE TRAINS RUN ON TIME?**HALL 1**

This year's big debate asks, 'Is the ethical agenda a distraction from providing good services?'

Chair: **Roger Taylor**, Board Member, The Standards Board for England

Speakers: **David Clark**, Director General, SOLACE

Rt Hon Baroness Scott of Needham Market, Member, Suffolk County Council

David Walker, Editor, *Public* (a Guardian publication)

12.45 – 14.00

LUNCH

AGENDA: DAY TWO | TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2004

14.00 – 15.00

WORKSHOP SESSION 6**WORKSHOP OPTIONS**• **CAMPAIGNERS AS COUNCILLORS****HALL 1**

Does the Code conflict with members presenting their views and representing their constituents?

Feature workshop, maximum attendance of 500.

Chair: **Councillor Celia Cameron**, Board Member, The Standards Board for England

Speakers: **David Abrahams**, Principal Legal Advisor, The Standards Board for England
Mary Mitson-Woods, Chief Executive, Suffolk Association of Local Councils

Other workshops are designed for a maximum of 50 delegates.

- AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE
- AT THE SHARP END
- BAD, BUT NOT BAD ENOUGH
- BULLYING
- CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL DECISIONS
- LEARNING FROM OUTCOMES
- OPEN HOUSE Q & A
- SHINE YOUR LIGHT
- THE LOCAL EXPERIENCE

15.00 – 15.15

COMFORT BREAK

15.15 – 16.10

DEVELOPING THE CODE: YOUR FEEDBACK**HALL 1**

Patricia Hughes, Deputy Chair, The Standards Board for England

Summary of feedback gained from delegates through workshops, with an opportunity for questions and answers.

16.10 – 16.15

FINAL THOUGHTS**HALL 1**

Sir Anthony Holland, Chair, The Standards Board for England

16.15

CLOSE

Refreshments available.

WORKSHOPS

SPEAKERS | LOCATIONS

There are two types of workshops available. Feature workshops have a maximum capacity of 500 delegates and will provide a platform for debating key issues. Smaller workshops, held with no more than 50 delegates, will offer the opportunity for discussion in a less formal setting.

Those workshops indicated with a ★ are feature workshops.

AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE **HALL 10B**

An opportunity for independent members to get together to debate issues of current interest to them.

Speakers: **Anne Rehill**, Senior Policy Advisor, The Standards Board for England
Peter Rowland, Independent Member of Standards Committee,
South Shropshire District Council

AT THE SHARP END **HALL 7B**

Being reported to The Standards Board for England for allegedly breaching the Code is never going to be pleasant, but how can we improve the experience?

Speakers: **Lisa Klein**, Senior Ethical Standards Officer, The Standards Board for England
Marilyn McCarron, Monitoring Officer, Oswestry Borough Council

BAD, BUT NOT BAD ENOUGH **HALL 11A**

A discussion on what can be done about poor behaviour that does not warrant a full investigation.

Speakers: **Belinda Shaw**, Investigations Manager, The Standards Board for England
Peter Smith, Independent Chair of Standards Committee,
South Lakeland District Council
Ann Williams, Investigator, The Standards Board for England

★ **BEST FRIEND OR BIG BROTHER?** **FEATURE WORKSHOP HALL 1**

An exploration of the role of The Standards Board for England and the Code in the local government improvement agenda.

Chair: **Councillor Peter Chalke**, Board Member, The Standards Board for England

Speakers: **Sir Brian Briscoe**, Chief Executive, Local Government Association
John O'Brien, Director of Local Government Practice,
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
David Prince, Chief Executive, The Standards Board for England

BULLYING **HALL 8B**

This session will use role-play to explore the different types of bullying and the role of the Code in combating such behaviour.

Speakers: **Councillor Jo Byron**, Member of Standards Committee,
South Gloucestershire Council
Mairi McLean, Chief Executive, Waveney District Council

★ **CAMPAIGNERS AS COUNCILLORS** **FEATURE WORKSHOP HALL 1**

Does the Code conflict with members presenting their views and representing their constituents?

Chair: **Councillor Celia Cameron**, Board Member, The Standards Board for England

Speakers: **David Abrahams**, Principal Legal Advisor, The Standards Board for England
Mary Mitson-Woods, Chief Executive, Suffolk Association of Local Councils

WORKSHOPS: SPEAKERS | LOCATIONS**CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL DECISIONS****HALL 9**

How can standards committees ensure their authorities, and local communities, have confidence in their independence and ability to make fair and appropriate determinations?

Speakers: **Councillor Shirley Flint**, Chair of Standards Committee,
North Kesteven District Council
To be confirmed, Legal Advisor, The Standards Board for England

DEVELOPING THE CODE**VARIOUS**

Delegates discuss possible revisions to the Code.

All delegates will attend a *Developing the Code* workshop either during workshop session 1 or workshop session 2. Workshops will be held in various halls. The time and location of a delegate's workshop are pre-allocated and will be listed on the reverse of their conference name badge.

Chairs: These workshops will be chaired by senior representatives from
The Standards Board for England.

IS GOOD ENOUGH GOOD ENOUGH?**HALL 7A**

What level of investigation is necessary for non-major cases, both locally and nationally?

Speakers: **John Pitt**, Monitoring Officer, Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Jennifer Rogers, Ethical Standards Officer, The Standards Board for England

LEARNING FROM OUTCOMES**HALL 8A**

What are the implications of the adjudications that have taken place so far?

Speakers: **Dr David Hine**, Lecturer in Politics, Oxford University
Storm Westmaas, Principal Legal Advisor, The Standards Board for England

MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE**HALL 11B**

Does the Code hinder a member's right to communicate with their community and is the obligation to report breaches of the Code onerous?

Speakers: **Anne Rehill**, Senior Policy Advisor/**Claire Lefort**, Principal Legal Advisor,
The Standards Board for England
Mike Wilkinson, Chair of Standards Committee, Leeds City Council

★ **NOT ENOUGH LEADERS?****FEATURE WORKSHOP HALL 1**

A look at the role of chief executives and council leaders in promoting an ethical environment and getting the culture of an authority right.

All delegates will attend a *Not enough leaders?* feature workshop either during workshop session 1 or workshop session 2. Delegates should refer to the reverse of their conference name badge to find out the time of the session they are pre-allocated to attend.

Chair: **David Prince**, Chief Executive, The Standards Board for England

Speakers: **Paul Croft**, President, SOLACE
Dr Barry Quirk, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lewisham
Mayor Martin Winter, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

OPEN HOUSE Q & A**HALL 10A**

Open house for delegates to put questions to The Standards Board for England.

Chair: **Rick Owen**, Investigator, The Standards Board for England

Panel: **Chris Boothman**, Head of Legal Services, The Standards Board for England
Paul Hoey, Head of Policy and Guidance, The Standards Board for England
Steve Kingston/Nick Marcar, Ethical Standards Officer,
The Standards Board for England

PLANNING AND THE CODE**HALL 10B**

A look at the topical issues relating to planning and the Code.

Speakers: **David Abrahams**, Principal Legal Advisor, The Standards Board for England
Nigel Roberts, Monitoring Officer, Gloucestershire County Council

SHINE YOUR LIGHT**HALL 7A**

What does an excellent standards committee look like?

Chair: **Paul Sabapathy**, Board Member, The Standards Board for England

Speakers: **Siobhan Coldwell**, Performance Specialist, Audit Commission
Dr Gary Hickey, Research Advisor, The Standards Board for England

★ **THE BIGGER PICTURE****FEATURE WORKSHOP HALL 1**

Consideration of the broader issues about misconduct that concern the authority as a whole, rather than just particular individuals.

Chair: **Roger Lovegrove**, Independent Chair of Standards Committee,
London Borough of Haringey

Speakers: **Ted Cattle**, Associate Director, Improvement and Development Agency
Councillor Mike Storey, Leader, Liverpool City Council

THE LOCAL EXPERIENCE**HALL 6**

Many authorities now have experience of local determinations, but how are they working in practice? What are the issues and outcomes that have emerged? This session will include case studies and will also consider the introduction of local investigations.

Speakers: **Claire Lefort**, Principal Legal Advisor, The Standards Board for England
Ian Rickard, Monitoring Officer, Mid Suffolk District Council

★ **UP TO STANDARD?****FEATURE WORKSHOP HALL 1**

The Audit Commission's expectations of standards committees in the context of comprehensive performance assessments.

Chair: **Margaret Pratt**, Board Member, The Standards Board for England

Speaker: **Steve Bundred**, Chief Executive, Audit Commission

WHAT DO MONITORING OFFICERS NEED?**HALL 7B**

Based on research commissioned by The Standards Board for England and involvement from the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors.

Chair: **Dr Gary Hickey**, Research Advisor, The Standards Board for England

Speakers: **Mike Kendall**, Past President, ACSeS, and County Secretary,
West Sussex County Council
Professor Alan Lawton, Teesside Business School, University of Teesside