

Code of Conduct For Investigators

Introduction

This Code of Conduct relates to the staff conduct, responsibilities and duties of Investigating Officers (IO). Its aim is to outline the principles that guide the conduct of investigators whilst carrying out their duties.

This Code does not restrict the discretion of the Investigator, but aims to define the conduct on which their discretion should be exercised. It also applies to Investigators when not at work (where their actions may reflect on their integrity or professional status with regards to their employment).

Code of Conduct

The IO will act in accordance with the approved staff Code of Conduct.

1. The Officer must be aware he or she is an employee of the Council and act as a direct representative of the Council;
2. The Officer will perform the duties and undertake the responsibilities as specified in the Role Profile and Job Description of the relevant post in a professional and responsible manner.
3. Duties must be performed with no prejudices and in a manner showing courtesy to all concerned.
4. When carrying out duties the Officer must:-
 - a) Provide the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, confidentiality, financial propriety and personal conduct
 - b) Always work within the legal and regulatory frameworks affecting the practice and working of colleagues and never encourage, assist or act in collusion with any person who may be engaged in any improper or unlawful conduct.
 - c) Act honestly and fairly and in a courteous, polite and considerate manner towards any person they come into contact with in the performance of their duties.
 - d) Never knowingly mislead any person about the extent of their powers, the nature of representation or what can be competently delivered and achieved.
 - e) Never misuse their position or any information received during the course of their duties for any improper or unlawful gain or benefit, whether for themselves or another likely to bring the Council into disrepute, confidentiality must be obtained at all times.
 - f) Declare in writing to the Monitoring Officer any conflict of interest or circumstances which may give rise to one as soon as the conflict arises.
 - g) Disclose to the Monitoring Officer as appropriate any financial, business or personal interest they may have with any person or organisation with whom their duties bring them into contact.

- h) Carry out all work in an objective and impartial manner with particular regard to Waverley, and/or those contracting their services, equality and diversity policies and relevant equality legislation.
- i) Ensure any information or evidence is obtained or accessed in accordance with relevant legislation and codes of practice, including:
 - Fraud Act 2006
 - **Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act 2013**
 - Theft Act 1968
 - Human Rights Act 1998
 - Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
 - Criminal Procedures and Investigations Act 1996
 - Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, and any related regulations
 - Data Protection Act 1998
 - Social Security Administration Act 1992
 - Social Security Fraud Act 2001
 - Race Relations Act 1976 and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Criminal Justice Act 1967 (and subsequent amendments)
 - Identity Card Act 2006
5. The Officer must perform duties in line with the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and all associated Corporate Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Strategy including related protocols, policies and plans.
6. The Officer must have due regard for their own health and safety and that of others in the course of business. The Officer will not be expected to take any action which may cause harm of a physical or mental condition to themselves or others;
7. The Officer will take all necessary precautions and follow the Council's Lone Worker Policy and the Health and Safety Policy to ensure safety when working alone and out of hours; where contact is made with a vulnerable person in the course of their duties, this must be reported to their line manager at the earliest opportunity complete with a written narrative describing the encounter.
8. The Officer must dress in a manner in line with corporate policy;
9. The Officer will be expected to maintain a high level of knowledge of relevant legislation and procedures to enable the duties to be performed at the required standard;
10. An Officer in breach of any of the above rules may be subject to the Disciplinary Procedures of the Council.