

**West Yorkshire Regional Standards Conference  
9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 hosted by City of Bradford District Council**

58 delegates (including 14 Councillors, 8 parish/town councillors, 12 independent Members)

**A summary of evaluation responses:**

**How did you rate the event overall?**

15 delegates-excellent  
18 delegates-good

**Was it beneficial to meet with delegates from the other West Yorkshire Authorities?**

21 delegates- excellent  
12 delegates-good

**Venue**

22 delegates-excellent  
10 delegates-Good  
1 delegate-Satisfactory

**Most useful part of the event?**

“debate and discussion, exchange of views and greater understanding of prejudicial interests”

“news about what the Standards Board is doing/can do”

Case studies generated discussion

Meeting Counterparts and discussing different local arrangements (may have been useful to work with different tables at some point to share more ideas)

Networking and sharing knowledge

Exchange views around assessment

Local assessment case studies

Group evaluation of questions and answers

Meeting other independent Members from other authorities-exchanging experiences

Section on declarations

“It was the success it was because all the constituent parts came together to make the whole”

To pass on problems with guidance etc

Learning from the other people who have a lot of experience

Discussions on certain aspects of the code

“I have gained a lot of experience in attending this conference and gained confidence in dealing with the various issues relating to Standards”

The 5 Monitoring Officers had a great deal to offer.

Hearing different views especially from elected Members

A local event of local Members better than a national event

**As a result of attending this event will you do anything differently?**

Be more aware of where the code applies

Understanding the threshold and more confidence in the approach

Consider the “other action” more carefully

Review Standards Committee work programme taking into account priorities such as communication, member engagement and threshold assessment

Provide more and detailed information on the responsibilities, roles, and positions etc of the Independent Members

Ensuring improved balance...

Better idea of advice for Councillors on declarations

Try to ensure/remain up to date with SBE publications

Review threshold test

“as I’ve only been on the Standards Committee for 1 month this event has been very useful in giving me a good overall picture of what Standards is all about and I have learned at first hand examples of good practice”

Renewed energy and commitment

### **What would you like covered on future events/workshops?**

More diverse/complex case studies

More sharing experiences

More discussions on Standards/How to set the bar

More updates on the assessment process and the work of the Monitoring Officers

Role plays of local assessment, more discussion of more general Standards issues such as Code of Conduct, dispensations, ethical governance in Partnerships etc

That the Standards Board has listened to us!

Outcomes of SBE considerations, some more actual case studies based on real cases, a forum for Independent Members to meet

Anything topical and interesting

What to do when “other action” is refused or ineffective

More development of later stages determination etc

Examination/analysis next stages of process

A day long case study, taking an actual but anonymous case from the original complaint to the final outcome

Improved awareness of Code of Conduct

More of the same...

Look at actual local cases (confidential...) and outcomes in order to look at comparative standards

### **Other Comments**

Thank you for a well organised and helpful event and would like to do again

Very professional, enjoyed the day

Found today more useful and informative than the National Conference and would like it every 6 months

When mixing groups take into account experiences of other Members (in my group 4 of the 6 were newly appointed) Should be held on an annual basis

Local Government Standards need publicity

Input from all Monitoring Officers and Chairs was valuable

Could we having roving Microphones in Q and A sessions?

More statistics-how many complaints dealt with and how many Proved/not proved

What the various panel's roles are such as, assessment panel, review sub committee, what are the set ups in different authorities