

PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT OF INTENT

1. At our last meeting, on 30 October, we considered a report on the Partnership Healthcheck Questionnaire compiled by Stockton Council and undertook a 'gap analysis' which showed up a cluster of issues around 'code of conduct' considerations, and agreed to receive a further report on this issue setting out a proposed statement of intent for the Partnership.
2. Attached as Appendix A is a statement of the 'Nolan Principles'. These are expressed in terms of 'public office' but may be considered to be equally applicable to representatives of the private, voluntary and community sectors in relation to our work as a Partnership.
3. In addition to the Nolan principles it is suggested that we adopt the following as explicit commitments in relation to the work of our Partnership (thus making explicit what we have all accepted as implicit to date).
 - a) that we will conduct our discussions in an open, civilised and constructive manner;
 - b) that members of the Partnership will disclose any interest in any item under discussion when their interest is not apparent to colleagues (i.e. it will not be necessary for the representative of any agency or organisation to declare an interest when the matter in question relates to the agency or organisation which they represent [otherwise declarations of interest would be frequent and trivial]).
 - c) each member of the partnership will be invited to complete a simple declaration form as to whether they have any involvement in organisations to which the Partnership, or individual accountable bodies on behalf of the Partnership (e.g. Stockton Council, Cleveland Police) pays money, other than such involvement as is apparent to colleagues.
4. It is RECOMMENDED that
 - a) the Partnership endorses the 'Nolan Principles';
 - b) the partnership endorses the three points set out at paragraph 3 above;
 - c) the resulting text is added the Partnership Constitution (and therefore to the induction pack for new members of the Partnership); and
 - d) the draft referred to at paragraph 3(c) above is circulated to all members of the Partnership (it is anticipated that most responses will be 'nil returns').