

9. Code of Conduct

9.1 As agreed the meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership on 4 December 2007, we will operate according to the Principles of Ethical Standards in Public Life set out in the Nolan Report.

(a) Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

(b) Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligations to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

(c) Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

(d) Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

(e) Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

(f) Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

(g) Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

9.2 In addition to the Nolan Principles we have also agreed to adopt the following points as explicit commitments:-

- 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).
- 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.