

Seventh Annual Assembly of Standards Committees

International Convention Centre, Birmingham • 13-14 October 2008



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What's on at the Assembly?

This year's Assembly will help you to deliver the goods – giving you the essential information and support you need to make local assessment work in your authority. A wide range of sessions aim to meet the needs of all delegates, from new independent chairs, to members of parish standards committees, to experienced monitoring officers.

Full programme details will be posted on this website shortly, so keep checking back for the latest information. Topics covered at the conference will include:

Standards in action – getting it right

- **Comprehensive guides to local assessments, investigations and determinations** – work through case studies to really get to grips with the process.
- **Where do I start?** Find out how to deal with **complex complaints and identify if** they provide sufficient **grounds for investigation**. **Understand** potential **conflicts of interest** and cases of national significance
- **What happens if it goes wrong?** What happens when the investigations process doesn't go to plan – and how to put it right.
- **Get up to speed** with our beginners guide to the Code of Conduct.
- **Get to grips with alternative action**. What can mediation, mentoring and training do for you and your members?
- **Plus** – sessions focusing on the unique needs of town and parish councils, blue light and park authorities.

The bigger picture – governance, ethics, leadership

- What difference has it all made? An insight into the latest research clarifying the **impact of the standards framework**.
- The knowledge and skills required to create an effective **standards committee that contributes to the good governance of your authority**. How to measure and improve your committees' performance
- Developing **effective governance** for joint **working** with partner organisations. Practical advice on Comprehensive Area Assessment and the impact of unitary authorities.
- **How do you fit in?** Looking at the relationship and shared agenda between **scrutiny, audit** and **standards committees**. How can these local authority committees work effectively together to deliver real benefits for the community?
- **Is there anybody out there?** Get practical ideas on how to raise awareness of your work and improve communications with the public.

And there's more...

Delegate feedback shows that networking is a key feature of the conference, so once again, there will be many opportunities to share experiences with colleagues, including a conference dinner, dedicated networking area and fringe events. For those delegates new to the conference or Code, there is the special Getting up to speed session. This proved extremely popular last year, and promises to make sense of the key issues and ethical framework jargon.

Book now!

This is the most important event of the year for all those working with the Code of Conduct, and demand for places is high. [Book online](#) now to ensure you are not disappointed.

It may be necessary, for reasons beyond our control, to change the content or timing of the programme, speakers or venue.