

# Report

Report to:	<b>South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>26 March 2024</b>
Report by:	<b>Director, Health and Social Care</b>

Subject:	<b>Appointment of Standards Officer</b>
----------	---

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ♦ advise the Integration Joint Board (IJB) of the requirement to appoint a Standards Officer

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that Iain Strachan, Head of Administration and Legal Services, South Lanarkshire Council be nominated as Standards Officer of the Integration Joint Board;
- (2) that the responsibilities of the role, as outlined at Appendix 1, be noted; and
- (3) that the nomination be submitted to the Standards Commission for approval.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. In March 2016, the IJB adopted the Model Code of Conduct for Members of Devolved Public Bodies (as amended), which was created by the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000. At that time, Members were advised that Scottish Ministers were working on a standardised Code of Conduct for IJB Members (the Code of Conduct) which would be based on the Model Code and that all IJBs would be expected to adopt it subject to any amendments or branding of their choice approved by the Scottish Government.
- 3.2. On 28 June 2016, the IJB considered and adopted the Code which sets out a framework for members in the carrying out of their duties in order to meet the principles and requirements of the Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000.
- 3.3. The Code of Conduct for members of the South Lanarkshire IJB was subsequently issued to Scottish Government for approval at the end of June 2016.

#### **4. Standards Officer**

- 4.1. The Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 (Register of Interests) Amendment Regulations 2003 requires a Standards Officer to be appointed for the IJB and sets out the statutory responsibilities for that Officer. In addition, the Standards Commission for Scotland produced guidance which outlined the role of the Officer and the duties they might be expected to discharge. The guidance is not prescriptive as the Commission recognises that the Board will wish to have input to their internal governance arrangements.
- 4.2. On 13 September 2016, the Board formally nominated Geraldine McCann, a qualified solicitor, employed by South Lanarkshire Council as the Council's Head of Administration and Legal Services and the Council's Monitoring Officer as Standards Officer and on 17 August 2021, the Board formally nominated Margaret Mary Wilson, a qualified solicitor employed by South Lanarkshire Council as a Legal Services Adviser as Depute Standards Officer. Both appointments were, subsequently, approved by the Standards Commission.
- 4.3. The Board also approved the key responsibilities of the Standards Officer and Depute Standards Officers which are outlined in Appendix 1 attached.
- 4.4. Geraldine McCann, Standards Officer has recently retired from her position within the Council and, therefore, it is necessary to nominate another Officer to undertake this role. It is proposed that Iain Strachan, a qualified solicitor, employed by South Lanarkshire Council as Head of Administration and Legal Services be nominated to undertake the role of Standards Officer and that this nomination is forwarded to the Standards Commission for approval.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

#### **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. There are no implications for Climate Change, Sustainability or the Environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

#### **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. The creation of the Standards Officer role is a statutory requirement and as such a failure to appoint a Standards Officer would be a breach of statutory duty.
- 8.2. There are no additional risk issues in terms of the information contained within this report.

#### **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function, or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. There was also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

## 10. Directions

10.1.

Direction to:	
1. No Direction required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. South Lanarkshire Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. NHS Lanarkshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Professor Soumen Sengupta**  
**Director, Health and Social Care**

26 February 2024

### Link(s) to National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer	<input type="checkbox"/>
People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonable practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who use Health and Social Care Services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Social Care Services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Social Care Services contribute to reducing health inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who use Health and Social Care Services are safe from harm	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who work in Health and Social Care Services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources are used effectively and efficiently in the provision of Health and Social Care Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### List of Background Papers

◆ None

### Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact: -

Margaret Mary Wilson, Depute Standards Officer

Phone: 01698 454501

E-mail: [margaretmary.wilson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:margaretmary.wilson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

**The South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board  
Standards Officer  
Key Responsibilities.**

1. The Standards Officer is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is given or made available to Board Members on the Ethical Standards Framework, the Model Code of Conduct and any associated guidance issued by the Standards Commission.
2. The Standards Officer shall provide advice and support to Members on the interpretation and application of the Code of Conduct.
3. The Standards Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that the Integration Joint Board keeps and maintains a Register of Members Interests. The Standards Officer shall arrange for a reminder to be sent to all Members to update their Registers of Interests at least once per year.
4. The Standards Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that a Register of Gifts and Hospitality is established and maintained. The Standards Officer shall arrange for a reminder to be issued to all Members at least once per year to update the Register of Gifts and Hospitality.
5. The Standards Officer shall ensure that the Board has a method for obtaining and recording declarations of interest at the start of its meetings.
6. The Standards Officer may have an investigatory role if local resolution is attempted in respect of complaints or concerns about a member's conduct.
7. The standards Officer shall ensure that the Board's senior officers are aware of the requirements of the Members Code of Conduct.
8. The Standards Officer may be required to report to the Board on any matters relating to the Ethical Standards Framework that may require a review. Any concerns about compliance with the Code shall be reported to the Chief Officer.
9. The Standards Officer shall be the main point of contact for the Standards Commission and shall liaise with the Standards Commission whenever necessary in all matters relating to the Ethical Standards Framework including complaints.
10. The Standards Officer shall keep up to date with all relevant developments of the Ethical Standards Framework including trying to attend any events arranged by the Commission and reviewing the Professional Briefings and Case Decisions in order to appropriately advise Members.
11. The Standards Officer shall coordinate on behalf of the Board responses to any consultations issued by the Standards Commission in respect of the Code of Conduct or Guidance.