

Statement from the Chief Executive about the Bribery Act 2010

The Bribery Act came into force on 1 July 2011. The purpose of the Act is to prevent bribery and corruption in both the public and private sectors.

Bribery can be defined as the offering; promising, giving, accepting or soliciting of an advantage as an inducement for an action which is illegal or a breach of trust. The Act has six principles, one of which is that there is top level commitment in the organisation to prevent and detect bribery. The Governing Body takes this seriously-and the CCG operates a zero tolerance policy against fraud, bribery and corruption.

NHS Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG employs a fraud specialist to provide a comprehensive programme to counteract fraud, bribery and corruption. The fraud specialist reports to the Chief Finance Officer and the CCG's Audit and Risk Committee.

It is important that everyone working for, or on behalf of, the CCG is aware of the law as well as the standards of behaviour expected of them. These are set out in the Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy and the Standards of Business Conduct and Managing Conflicts of Interest Policy as well as a range of other CCG policies.

As an NHS organisation we follow good NHS business practice and have robust controls in place to counter bribery and fraud. As a CCG we cannot be complacent and it is important that all our employees, contractors and agents comply with CCG policies and procedures, particularly with regard to procurement and sponsorship.

On behalf of the CCG I confirm our commitment to ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in relation to the prevention of bribery and corruption and that the risk of CCG exposure to acts of bribery is mitigated.

We ask all who are involved with the work of the CCG – as employees, agents, trading partners, stakeholders and patients – to help us counter fraud, bribery and corruption, and encourage them to contact us as soon as possible if they have any concerns or suspicions.

If you have any concerns or suspicions, please contact the CCG's fraud specialist Colin Edwards on 07881 954851 or Colin.edwards1@nhs.net, or the CCG's Responsible Officer Roshan Patel, Chief Finance Officer. All information received will be handled-in confidence.

Maggie Maclsaac
Chief Executive