



Further Education College Clerk Development and Training Programme Resource Pack

Module 2: Values and Ethical Framework Executive Summary

The **purpose** of this module is to explain the standard expectations of governors. The AOC Governors' Council (GC) is presently developing and consulting on a new values-based model for further education. Colleges are exempt charities and are classed as part of the private sector. However, as they spend a large amount of public funds, college boards have to adopt public sector principles. The governing body, as custodian of the college, should strive to maintain high standards, act with integrity and behave ethically at all times.

Section 1 explores the seven principles of public life originally identified by the Nolan Committee (1995) – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership - which continue to underpin ethical codes and standards in the public sector.

Section 2 explains the key principles and codes of conduct that have been adopted by most public bodies, and how to ensure that standards are embedded and arrangements consistently implemented.

Section 3 gives guidance for developing whistleblowing and anti-bribery policies.

Section 4 explores the issues of equality.

Section 5 covers the human rights aspects of governance, including the legal responsibilities for ensuring the individual freedoms set out in the Human Rights Act and specific responsibilities for academic freedom and freedom of speech.

Commissioned and funded by the Education and Training Foundation

September 2014