

BLOWING THE WHISTLE ON...

A criminal offence

(fraud, corruption, crime)

Illegality

Abuse or ill treatment of vulnerable
adults or children

Abuse or ill treatment of any member of
staff or service recipient

Danger to health and safety

Damage to the environment

Misconduct

Miscarriages of justice

Unauthorised use of public funds

False insurance claims against the council

Serious failure to deliver service

Deliberate non-compliance to a council policy, an official code of practice, law or regulation

Deliberate concealment of information relating to any of the above

Corporate Anti Fraud Team
Building 4, North London Business Park
Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP
Whistleblowing Hotline 020 8359 6123
E caft@barnet.gov.uk

What is whistleblowing?

Barnet Council has developed a Whistleblowing Policy based on the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. This means that if you are concerned something wrong or dangerous is happening within the council, you can raise those concerns in confidence and without fear of reprisals. It's really important that you feel able to tell us about your concerns as unless you do, we may not find out until it's too late.

What does the Whistleblowing Policy cover?

Fraud, theft, corruption and other wrongdoing are covered by the policy. The types of things you could report include:

- A criminal offence (fraud, corruption, crime)
- Illegality
- Abuse or ill treatment of vulnerable adults or children
- Abuse or ill treatment of any member of staff or service recipient
- Danger to health and safety
- Damage to the environment
- Misconduct
- Miscarriages of justice
- Unauthorised use of public funds
- False insurance claims against the council
- Serious failure to deliver service
- Deliberate non-compliance to a council policy, an official code of practice, law or regulation
- Deliberate concealment of information relating to any of the above

What do I do if I see wrongdoing?

Raise the concern with your line manager if possible. However, if you prefer to, you can contact Val Lambe, CAFT Manager, Corporate Anti Fraud Team, on the Whistleblowing Hotline - 020 8359 6123. This number will be answered at all times between 9am and 5pm. If Val is not available, a senior member

of the team will take a confidential message. You can put your concerns in writing if that is what you want - just let us know how we can contact you. ALL calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Is there anything else I need to do?

- Write down any important information and keep it safe - for example, notes of a conversation, who was there, when it happened, dates and times etc. This type of information can prove valuable as evidence later.
- Let us know if you can see a way to put things right.
- Keep calm - you are doing the right thing!

Who else could I contact to talk this over with?

You can contact the Director of Corporate Governance, Jeff Lustig, on 020 8359 2008. Alternatively, you could contact Public Concern at Work, an independent charity providing free advice for employees who want to express their concerns on 020 7404 6609. You could also contact the **Audit Commission Public Interest Disclosure Act Hotline on 0845 052 2646**.

So can I report simply anything?

The Whistleblowing Policy isn't an excuse for malicious or false allegations. Anyone raising a concern must believe it to be largely true, and should not be looking for personal gain.