

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

22 August 2012

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: John Lauderdale, Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder

Councillors: Carl Richardson

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care
Sylvia Pinkney, Public Protection Manager
Ian Harrison, Principal Trading Standards and Licensing Officer
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE PLAN 2012/13
(Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To consider the Trading Standards Service Plan for 2012/13.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided the background to the Trading Standards Service which operated within the Public Protection Service with the key aim of consumer protection. The Service Plan included details of the previous year's performance as well as the challenges, targets and a plan of work for the forthcoming year.

It was highlighted that the high priorities for the Trading Standards Service for 2012/13 were Underage Sales; Product Safety; and Tackling Rogue Traders. The plan also identified a number of low to medium priorities for the forthcoming year. It was noted that emphasis would remain on the protection of residents of Hartlepool from those trading practices that can

threaten their health and wealth and to restrict and prevent the supply of age restricted products to children.

The Principal Trading Standards and Licensing Officer provided the Portfolio Holder with the potential implications for Trading Standards as a result of the Freedoms Bill.

Decision

The Trading Standards Service Plan for 2012/13 was approved.

2. Health and Safety Service Plan 2012/13 *(Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To consider the Health and Safety Service Plan for 2012/13.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided the background to the Health and Safety Service Plan and highlighted the differences between the Health and Safety Executive and Local Authority enforcement activities. The plan included details of last year's performance as well as the current aims and objectives of the service. The report detailed the performance of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, enforcement visits, promotional/campaign work and visits in response to complaints/service requests. In addition to this, the local priorities for 2012/13 were identified within the report.

The Public Protection Manager highlighted that the Health and Safety Service would be exploring the feasibility of applying the principles of the 'Estates Excellence Model' on a local level. This would involve partnership working with the Council's Economic Development Team as well as local businesses and other agencies.

Clarification was sought on the work being undertaken in relation to 'Noise at Work in the Entertainment Industry' and how this impacted on people working within schools. The Public Protection Manager confirmed that the regulations looked at the level of noise and the duration of that noise. However it was noted that schools would be monitored either through the Council's Health and Safety Manager or through the Health and Safety Executive.

Decision

The Health and Safety Service Plan for 2012/13 was approved.

3. Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2012/13 *(Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To consider the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2012/13.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided the background to the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan and included details of last year's performance as well as the current aims and objectives of the service. A summary of the main issues raised within the Service Plan was detailed in the report and included a comprehensive list of performance statistics covering food standards inspections, new food businesses inspections, testing of food standards samples, programmed food hygiene interventions and revisits to premises.

The Public Protection Manager informed the Portfolio Holder that the five Tees Valley Authorities were examining the feasibility of implementing a Tees Valley Elite Scheme to recognise businesses who have consistently maintained the highest hygiene rating of five stars.

Clarification was sought on whether the inspections to premises were announced or unannounced. The Public Protection Manager confirmed that generally, all inspections were unannounced and at times when the premises were trading. In relation to the possible implications of future budget cuts, the Public Protection Manager confirmed that all responsibilities within the service area would be prioritised in accordance with the level of potential risk, but as far as practicable, all required food hygiene inspections would be undertaken.

In response to a question raised, the Public Protection Manager indicated that any issues around enforcement action in relation to food premises, this would only be publicised should the premises not rectify the issues raised when re-sampling was undertaken.

Decision

The Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2012/13 was approved.

4. Quarterly Update Report for Public Protection

(Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To update the Adult and Public Health Portfolio Holder on Performance and progress across key areas of the Public Protection service.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided performance statistics for the Commercial Services, Environmental Protection and Trading Standards and Licensing sections. Each section's performance against quarter 1 of the 2012/13 work programme was detailed in the report and included reactive work in relation to complaints received.

The Portfolio Holder questioned whether the performance statistics were comparable to previous years. The Public Protection Manager confirmed there were some areas where performance had reduced such as the treatment of wasp nests but this was thought possibly to be due to the recent inclement weather.

In response to a question, the Public Protection Manager confirmed that public houses noise complaints would be included within the domestic element of noise pollution.

Decision

The content of the report and progress made across key areas of the Public Protection service was noted.

5. Hartlepool Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board – Statistics and Progress Report *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To present the Hartlepool Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board (HSVAB) statistics covering the period from 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012 and to report on the progress of the HSVAB Safeguarding Action Plan.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report identified the trends in possible cases of abuse that had been brought to the attention of the Duty Team during the period 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012. In relation to the current reporting period, it was highlighted that although 50.4% (185) of the initial alerts required no specific further action in terms of safeguarding procedures, they were managed through interventions or through the provision of more detailed information, advice or guidance.

The Hartlepool Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board (HSVAB) had recently begun work to implement the statutory guidance relating to the prevention of and the reduction in the numbers and frequency of adults who become missing from home or care. This formed part of the continuous improvement of the Safeguarding Action Plan.

The Portfolio Holder was informed that an Independent Chair had recently been appointed to the Hartlepool Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board in a voluntary capacity.

The Portfolio Holder sought clarification on the public's reaction to any cases of abuse publicised. The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care confirmed that there had been a number of high profile cases on a national level in recent years and this had raised public awareness of the type of issues faced.

In response to questions, the Assistant Director, Adult Social Care confirmed that unannounced visits were carried out within care homes and also clarified the process for working with providers when concerns or safeguarding issues arose. This would usually involve the development of an action plan for improvement which was then monitored within an agreed timescale. Should the necessary improvements not be made, the local

authority has the option to cease to make any new referrals to that care home until improvement was evidenced. Ultimately, if a care home still did not make any improvements, the local authority has the ability to cease any contractual arrangements in place with that provider. Information on local care homes was publicised on the Council's website and quality ratings were currently being developed for publication from April 2013.

The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care confirmed the representatives on the Hartlepool Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board and added that it had been agreed to include the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Adult and Public Health Services within the membership.

The Portfolio Holder questioned whether the Hartlepool Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board worked together with the Hartlepool Safeguarding Children's Board. The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care confirmed that the Boards do work together, and also work alongside the Safer Hartlepool Partnership on cross-cutting issues such as domestic violence.

Decision

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded at 11.00 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 29 August 2012