

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

13 November 2017

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Rob Cook, Brenda Loynes and Shane Moore

Officers: Sylvia Pinkney, Head of Public Protection
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

43. Apologies for Absence

None.

44. Declarations of Interest

None.

45. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2017

Received.

46. Health and Safety Service Plan 2017/18 (*Interim Director of Public Health*)

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

To consider the Health and Safety Service Plan 2017/18, which is a requirement under Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Head of Public Protection reported that the Health and Safety Service Plan 2017/18, submitted as an appendix to the report, had been updated to reflect last year's performance. The Plan detailed the service priorities for 2017/18 and highlighted how these priorities would be addressed.

During 2016/17 the service completed health and safety interventions in a total of 212 premises. In addition, officers had undertaken a range of interventions which involved working with 50 new businesses during the year, 424 enforcement visits to assess compliance with smoke free legislation, a proportion of which were carried out in conjunction with health and safety interventions. Promotional/campaign work was ongoing in relation to the Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme and the Save our Skins Campaign.

Further detailed information was provided in relation to the performance of the service in terms of response times to complaints, visits to premises and accident notifications. It was noted that during 2016/17 no legal proceedings had been undertaken and no enforcement notices had been served. A number of local priorities had been identified for the coming year which would be addressed during contact with businesses, including food inspections and licensing visits, details of which were set out in the report. In particular, the service would target resources effectively using a range of interventions, including providing advice to businesses.

Members' attention was drawn to unregulated beauty practices by type which included eyebrow microblading, implants, ear lobe repair, examples of which were shared with the Committee.

In response to clarification sought as to whether there was any pending legislation to address unregulated beauty practices, the Head of Public Protection commented on the limited powers available to local authorities to address such practices and highlighted that they were unaware of any plans to regulate treatment of this type. It was noted that the team was currently undertaking research in relation to this issue and would continue to promote good hygiene standards to businesses with a view to improving practices, where possible.

The Head of Public Protection responded to queries raised by Members in relation to topics covered during the health and safety interventions. Clarification was provided regarding asbestos management arrangements, the processes in place for managing risks from legionella, the support and advice provided to new businesses as well as the requirements of organisations to undertake gas safety checks.

A member of the public, who was in attendance at the meeting, raised some concerns regarding the practices of some UPVC businesses who were not following the correct procedures in terms of disposal of asbestos materials, details of which were shared with the Committee. Members were advised that businesses should be aware of the correct procedures for handling and disposal of asbestos, and whilst not within the jurisdiction of

the local authority, the Council could refer any reports of such practice to the Health and Safety Executive.

In response to a query raised regarding the reasons for the variance in statistics relating to the number of reported accidents, the Head of Public Protection advised that the increase was potentially as a result of a recent awareness campaign that had been carried out to encourage accident reporting. The various other factors which may influence the figures were also outlined. It was highlighted that of the 58 accidents reported in 16/17, only 2 required investigation.

Decision

The Health and Safety Service Plan for 2017/18 was approved.

47. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 11 December 2017 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 2.30 pm.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 20 NOVEMBER 2017