

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM – 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**  
**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMPOSITE REPORT**  
**REVIEW OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES**

**Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Forum Members of developments and initiatives undertaken by the various sections within Protective Services.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This is formalisation of a previous verbal report given to this Committee by Environmental Health, and it now includes reports from the three teams within Environmental Health, as well as reports from Cleansing and Trading Standards.

**3.**

**3.1 Environmental Health Developments and Initiatives.**

**3.1.1 Public Health/Pollution Team.**

- A further 330 service requests have been made to the Out of Hours Noise Team in the past three months from residents of East Ayrshire. A number of warning Notices and Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued as a result, and the first reports have been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to non-payment of Fixed penalty Notices
- Members of the team have attended courses in measurement of Environmental Noise and Antisocial Noise, and await the results of examinations in these disciplines. Success will enhance the Team's ability to deliver effective responses to complaints of antisocial noise received during normal working hours, and also to widen availability of services in respect of general noise nuisance work.
- Officers have been involved in noise assessment work in respect of the new Whitelee Windfarm which encroaches into East Ayrshire south of Eaglesham. Regular meetings take place between representatives of the three affected local authorities and Scottish Power, the developer, to ensure noise impacts will be kept to a minimum.
- Some preparatory work has also been initiated in response to the new Private Water Supply (Scotland) Regulations, 2006 which will require local authorities to identify, classify and sample private water supplies in its area.

### 3.1.2 Health and Safety Team.

- The Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act, 2005 came into effect on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, making it illegal to smoke in all public, enclosed spaces. This followed widespread publicity to engender both awareness and compliance with what is, arguably, the most important piece of Public Health legislation in decades. Funding was provided by the Scottish Executive to employ two Enforcement Officers for two years – they are now in post. The Team has carried out hundreds of visits, offering advice, checking for compliance, and investigating the many complaints we have received. Complaints can be made to this office at 01563 554023 or to the Scottish Executives National Compliance Line at 0845 130 7250.
- Eleanor Dewar was part of a sub committee of East Ayrshire's Women's Forum who organised an Open Day in the Grand Hall in Kilmarnock on 9<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate International Women's Day. The event was very well supported by almost fifty organisations and had hundreds of visitors.
- Eleanor is also part of the Team who participate in the Danger Detectives experiential learning exercise which all East Ayrshire's Primary six children undergo, and, with Les Aitchison from Trading Standards visited a number of the schools in March to carry out evaluation exercises with the children.
- Training undertaken by members of the Team in the last quarter includes the following: Implementing the Smoking Ban; "Fit 3", a system of priority targeted inspections in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive; Electronic reporting to the Procurator Fiscal; and Barbour Index training.
- The routine work, including the risk rated inspection programme, investigation of complaints, accidents etc., carries on as normal.

### 3.1.3 Food Team.

- National Food Safety week this year will be from 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June when the Food Team carries out a range of activities in the Community including the following:
  1. A poster competition involving the Local Primary schools - the winner will be announced during Food Safety Week.
  2. Officers will also visit selected primary schools with a handwashing display promoting proper personal hygiene. This involves the use of harmless tracer dust which, although invisible to the naked eye, shows up under U.V. light, and by spreading it around, emphasises how easy it is for "germs" to be passed throughout a community. This display is also used to demonstrate proper handwashing techniques.
  3. The mobile display, complete with balloons, leaflets and free handouts will be visiting several of the major supermarkets throughout the week to promote our message to the general public.

- The Food Team is still involved, mainly through our project worker Stephen McNamara, in Cooksave, promoting the implementation of Food Safety Management Systems in catering businesses. We are now in the second year of this funded project and some 400 caterers have been involved in attending seminars, training courses etc.
- Programmed inspections of food premises on a risk rated frequency, and the sampling programme (where hundreds of food samples are analysed each year for composition, labelling, and microbiological quality) still forms the bulk of the Team's work.

### 3.2 Cleansing Services.

### 3.3. Trading Standards Service.

The Trading Standards Service has undertaken work in the following areas in the last few months:

- Car Safety Project.  
Officers from the Trading Standards Service and the Scottish Motor Vehicle Testing Unit visited 10 car Traders throughout the area to assess the safety of vehicles for sale on forecourts. 47% of the cars examined were found to be unroadworthy which included faults such as bald tyres, faulty lighting and inoperative seat belts. Traders were issued with a notice in respect of each failed car and revisited a week later to ensure that appropriate remedial action had been taken.
- Novelty Lighter  
The Service participated in a project with other authorities in the West of Scotland to assess the availability and safety of novelty lighters. The results of the project were that 80% of lighters were sold without any warnings or instructions on use and 22% were found to be unsafe. Retailers when approached removed the lighters from sale. The European Commission has since announced their intention to ban the sale of lighters that are not child-resistant. None of the lighters purchased as part the project would satisfy this requirement.

## 4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The foregoing is in line with the Environmental Policy and the Community Plan.

## 5. **LEGAL/AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Nil .

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Funding for all of the foregoing is in line with existing budgets.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 The foregoing are some of the initiatives currently underway in Protective Services.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 The Forum is invited to note the contents of this Report.

William Stafford

**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

DATE: MAY 2006

REFERENCE

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Anyone wishing further information on any of the above should contact John F Crawford, on 01563 576111.

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