

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 1ST MARCH 2006
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 three sections within Environmental Health.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This is formalisation of a previous verbal report given to this Committee by Environmental Health.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Environmental Health Developments and Initiatives

3.1.1 Public Health/Pollution Team

- Since commencing in October 2005, the Out of Hours Noise Team have dealt with 153 calls in East Ayrshire. 29 Warning Notices and 5 Fixed Penalty Notices were served, and the calls received relate primarily to amplified music, television noise and dog barking.
- The team is developing links with the Antisocial Behaviour Investigation Team and has assisted in several complaints that have been received by them.
- The Pollution Control Team have received 30 calls and served one warning Notice in the last quarter.

3.1.2 Health and Safety Team

- On 6th December 2006, the Health and Safety Team attended a presentation for Margaret Dysart on her successful completion of a Level 5 N.V.Q Course in Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, the first person in Scotland to achieve this qualification. The presentation, by Councillor O'Neill, took place in Lochside House Hotel, and was also attended by members of the training organisation who facilitated the course, J.B Management (Scotland) Ltd and by John Robertson from City

and Guilds. The congratulations of all in Environmental Health go to Margaret.

- The new legislation to ban smoking in public places takes effect from 26th March and the team has been a full partner in joint working with N.H.S Ayrshire in preparing employers for its implementation in a series of seminars held across Ayrshire in January. They have also provided guidance to Departments within this Authority and to the Licensing Board.
- One team member attended a seminar on investigation of fatalities at work and the responsibilities which that imposes on us as the Enforcement Authority. The seminar was organised by the Health and Safety Liaison Groups within the areas where fatalities had actually occurred and highlighted the importance of safe systems of work, proper maintenance of work equipment, effective management systems and other issues vital to protection of people at work.
- One team member attended a seminar on Tyre and Exhaust fitters, highlighting the issues prevalent in such premises and the types of failures which can occur if proper systems and management are not in place.
- The above are examples of the Partnership working between Local Authorities, the Health and Safety Executive, the N.H.S and businesses.

3.1.3 Food Team

European changes to food safety legislation now require all food businesses to apply food safety management procedures based on the principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) to their business.

- To assist food businesses, the Food Standards Agency (Scotland) has produced a “toolbox” of guidance materials for different types of food business. The manual, called “Cooksafe” enables catering businesses to control food safety and to build on existing good practice in line with the changes to the law.
- The Food team has held a series of targeted seminars for caterers to introduce them to the “Cooksafe” manual. This is followed by training to help them understand and adapt the manual to their own business. A project worker is available for mentoring.
- In conjunction with the Food Standards Agency the team also promotes the “Eat Safe” Award Scheme Eat which promotes excellence, to standards above those currently required by law.

- Officers carry out an assessment of:-
 - The food safety risks to consumers;
 - The effectiveness of the Food Safety Management (HACCP) systems used to control these risks; and,
 - The inspection also determines if the business is eligible for the Award.

- Several East Ayrshire businesses – Lochside House Hotel, The Ocean Star and the Chip Box were amongst the first recipients of the “Cooksafe” Award, presented at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, by the Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care, Lewis Macdonald, MSP, and the Director of the Food Standards Agency Scotland, George Paterson.

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
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WS/PLT/RRS

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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