

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 1 DECEMBER 2005**

#### **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 now includes reports from Cleansing Services and Trading Standards.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Environmental Health Developments and Initiatives**

##### **3.1.1 Public Health/Pollution Team**

- Anti Social Behaviour Night Noise Unit. Team. Following the successful bid to the Scottish Executive for funding on a joint bid between the three Ayrshire Authorities to provide an out of hours noise service, the project is now underway. Further information on this initiative can be obtained by contacting the Team Leader, Public Health Pollution, Mr M Rooney.
- The Team have also themselves been involved in the investigation of daytime Anti Social Noise complaints since the inception of the new legislation.
- The Team is delighted to announce that Mr T. Johnston currently employed as a Technician, has successfully completed his professional examination to become an Environmental Health Officer.
- Suspect Anthrax Case  
We recently had a case of suspected anthrax in a dairy cow which had been found dead in a field. The Council has an obligation to dispose of the carcass which was incinerated on site using a mobile incinerator. The total cost to the Council is likely to be in the thousands with a transport bill for the mobile incinerator alone of over £600. Thankfully it was a false alarm in this case but it raises questions about the timing of incineration balanced against the time taken for confirmation of results.

### 3.1.2 Health and Safety Team

- In June three officers attended a Joint Training Seminar for Environmental Health Officers and Health and Safety Executive staff on the new Work at Height Regulations.
- In July two officers carried out a series of inspections on Awareness Raising of the H.S.E.'s Working Backs Initiative whereby people with back problems are encouraged back to work with careful supervision and training.
- In August three officers attended Workshop Training on Slips and Trips Prevention, the single most common cause of preventable absence from work.
- **Smoke Free Legislation**  
Work has started on making other departments of the Council aware of the implications of this new legislation by presenting a seminar to relevant employees. Environmental Health is tasked with enforcement of the Smoking Ban from March 2006. In particular the Health and Safety Team are concerned about the adverse health effects on employees from passive smoking.

### 3.1.3 Food Team

#### **CookSafe Project**

At present we have finished year 1 and have applied for funds to commence year 2 of this FSA funded project. We have awarded three premises "EatSafe" awards with another 10/12 in the pipeline.

#### **Imported Food Sampling**

With more than a little help from our colleagues in South Ayrshire we were successful in our bid to the Food Standards Agency for funds to carry out extra sampling of imported foods. We hope to start sampling programme in the very near future.

#### **Pandemic Flu**

Colleagues from several departments attended the Emergency Planning event "Exercise Eastern Bid" at Strathclyde Police HQ on 22 September. There is a local debriefing session scheduled for November 17 to discuss our emergency plan further.

## **3.2 Cleansing Services – Review of Initiatives in Waste Recycling and Minimisation**

- 3.2.1 The introduction of the three bin system of kerbside waste recycling in East Ayrshire arose from the establishment of a target, set by the Scottish Executive, for Scottish local authorities to recycle or compost at least 25% of all municipal solid waste (MSW) arising within their authorities by 31 March 2006.
- 3.2.2 The last phase of the three bin system of kerbside recycling in East Ayrshire was implemented in October 2005 following an eighteen month roll out programme. This has resulted in over 52,000 households having access to kerbside recycling facilities.
- 3.2.3 In addition to the introduction of the kerbside recycling service, it has been necessary for the Council to consider ways in which waste can be minimised at source in order to reduce waste growth, estimated by the Scottish Executive to increase by 1.5% per annum.
- 3.2.4 As a result of the kerbside recycling service, the recycle tonnages achieved in 2004/2005 represent a total household waste recycling rate for East Ayrshire of 19.2%. This may be compared to the figure of 7.3% for the period 2003/2004. In the second quarter of 2005/2006 a recycling rate of 30% was achieved, which is in part buoyed by seasonal variations of green garden waste collected.
- 3.2.5 The Real Nappy Campaign has been undertaken as a waste minimisation initiative by Cleansing Services with the launch of East Ayrshire Real Nappy Network (EARNN) in June 2005.
- 3.2.6 EARNN offers parents the opportunity to receive a trial pack of real nappies in order that they can assess the health, economic, financial and environmental benefits of using real nappies prior to making a financial commitment to purchase a full supply.
- 3.2.7 A pilot study is also being undertaken by EARNN, with 10 sets of parents issued with a full supply of real nappies in order that a report can be compiled on the views of parents using real nappies on a daily basis and over a prolonged period of time.

## **4. Trading Standards Service Community Safety Report**

East Ayrshire Trading Standards Service have been involved in a number of projects in the last few months.

- 4.1 **Danger Detectives** – set on home safety run in conjunction with EA Environmental Health Service.

4.2 **Electric Blanket Safety Testing** – Free safety tests on electric blankets were offered to East Ayrshire Residents. 76 blankets were submitted with 37%, 28 blankets, failing to meet electrical safety standards. Vouchers to replace the blankets at a local store were offered to the owners of all failed blankets.

4.3 **Fireworks** – Two Traders Seminars were run during October to explain the new regulations regarding the storage of fireworks. These were open to all retailers within East Ayrshire. Officers from the Trading Standards Service, Strathclyde Fire Rescue and Strathclyde Police made joint visits to all premises registered to store fireworks. These visits were to check that fireworks were being stored safely and that retailers understood their obligations with regard to sale to young people.

A display warning about the dangers of fireworks was run during National Consumer Week (October 31 – November 4) at 2 local hospitals, 3 supermarkets and the Firework Display in Kay Park.

4.4 **Tyre Gauges** – Trading Standards staff have tested the accuracy of tyre pressure gauges at all retail filling stations and tyre distributors in the run up to Scottish Tyre Safety Week. The public are also being given the opportunity to have the accuracy of their own gauges tested free.

4.5 **Alcohol Off Sales** – During the summer officers from the Trading Standards Service made joint visits with Strathclyde Police to all off licences within East Ayrshire reinforcing the need to ask for proof of age when selling to people who look under 21.

## 5. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The foregoing is in line with the Environmental policy and the Community Plan.

## 6. **LEGAL/AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Nil

## 7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## 8. **CONCLUSIONS**

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

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 The Forum is invited to note the contents of this report.

William Stafford  
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/PLT/ED/EHG

16<sup>th</sup> November 2005

### **LIST OF BACK GROUND PAPERS**

Nil

Anyone wishing further information should contact John F Crawford,  
telephone 01563 576111.

**Implementation Officer** – [Eleanor.dewar@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Eleanor.dewar@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)