

## PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

1 APRIL 2014

Present: County Councillor Marshall (Chairperson);  
County Councillors Manzoor Ahmed, Boyle, Goddard, Howells,  
Hudson, McGarry, Murphy, Simmons and Benjamin Thomas

Apology: County Councillor Morgan

### PP70 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 4 March 2014 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chairperson.

### PP71 : HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED – That the application to have the Jaguar S Type approved as a Prestige Vehicle with a 10 year age restriction be approved.

### PP72 : EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AN ADDITIONAL FOOD SAFETY INTERVENTION IN FOOD BUSINESSES IN CARDIFF

The Committee received a report outlining the development and evaluation of proposed food safety interventions project under joint working arrangements between the Health Improvement and Food Safety Teams within the Consumer Protection Services. The project was funded by the Food Standards Agency. Members were advised that the aim of the project was to assess the effectiveness of the additional food safety intervention: 'Food Safety Training Toolkit' as a means of improving hygiene practices in poorly performing businesses in the City.

The Food Law Code of Practice (Wales) recognises that interventions are key to improving compliance with food law by food business operators. These interventions are usually in the form of inspections carried out by local authorities, at a frequency determined by the food hygiene risk rating. In the main inspections involve an assessment of the hazards and risks at the business, their compliance and identification of follow-up action appropriate.

In Cardiff 35 small medium enterprises (SMEs) food businesses handling raw and ready to eat foods with a food hygiene rating less than 3 were identified to participate in a pilot study between May and September 2012. The main study comprised 35 kebab businesses with a food hygiene rating of below 2

between October 2012 and February 2013. Businesses were independently measured before and after the intervention and their level of food safety knowledge and practices were evaluated. Marked improvements in knowledge and practices were observed in the 4 food safety areas assessed and the level of knowledge after the intervention reflected the standard in practices and procedures.

The Committee was advised that the weakest areas of knowledge prior to intervention were cross contamination and hand washing. Following intervention these areas observed the greatest improvement. Officers formed the view that the success of this approach was based on the fact that businesses were empowered to develop their own control over their food practices, with education key to raising consciousness of food hygiene issues. It was also recognised that the improvements were as a result of the practical application of training intervention.

Members were advised that a review of the findings of the study was currently being produced. The final version is intended to be used by local authority officers and has been submitted to the All Wales Food Safety Panel and the All Wales Communicable Disease Technical Panels for consideration and wider use throughout Wales.

The Chairperson welcomed Bethan Jones, Operational Manager, Public Protection and Housing and Sarah Jones, Team Leader, Health Improvement Team, to the meeting. Members of the Committee were invited to ask questions or comment on the information received.

Members asked officers to explain the length of time between the initial intervention and the first follow-up visit. Officers stated that approximately 2 months elapsed between visits. It was considered that this length of time would ensure that any change in behaviour at the businesses visited, as a result of recommendations or guidance provided officers, would have 'bedded in'. Sarah Jones advised that officers had witnessed sustained improvements in food hygiene practices at these premises. Furthermore, the Food Hygiene Rating System was now mandatory and premises where issues are identified are 'tagged'.

**RESOLVED - That**

1. The Committee notes the contents of the report and the benefit this intervention can have in improving compliance levels in poor performing businesses;

2. Endorse the intention to develop a programme for 2014/15 which includes alternative interventions particularly focussed on low scoring businesses.

### PP73 : SAFE TATTOOING

The Committee received a report outlining the key element and main findings of a public health initiative - 'Before you Ink – Think' – led by the Health Improvement and Health and Safety Enforcement Teams of the Consumer Protection Service. The aim of the initiative was to encourage safe tattooing in Cardiff by supporting young people in making informed decisions and working with registered tattooists to ensure regulatory compliance and good standards of infection control within their premises.

The report set out the main risks associated with tattooing, including the risks posed by illegal, unregistered tattooists, who often operate from unregistered premises and lack the skills, knowledge and equipment to practice hygienic tattooing, which is essential in minimising the risk of infection to their clients. Members were advised that young people are particularly vulnerable to illegal tattooists as they often offer cheap rates, short waiting times and will sell their services to people under the age of 18, which is the legal minimum age. Enforcement of illegal tattooists (or 'scratchers') is difficult because of the nature of the illicit activity and reliance on intelligence including witnesses, to enable effective investigation and prosecution.

In order to enable young people to make informed decisions about having a tattoo the Health Improvement Team produced a promotional video with the help of registered tattoo artists, the victims of poor quality tattooing and health professionals. The video was funded by the Chartered Institute of Public Health and was now freely available to all young people via YouTube and the Council Website. Every high school in the City was offered the opportunity to have the video promoted during the Autumn 2013 term.

A total of 551 young people from 5 Cardiff High Schools participated in the initiative. Of these 42% stated that they were considering having a tattoo and 5% reported already having a tattoo.

A forum was also held specifically for registered tattoo artists in County Hall in July 2013. The purpose of the forum was to help tattooists comply with byelaws and improve infection control. There was also an open discussion on registration and licensing, the forthcoming inspection programme and scratchers. The forum was well attended and the subject of a lively debate. The forum agreed the following conclusions:

- Unannounced enforcement visits would be more effective.
- Registration was ineffective in controlling and managing infection control risks – licensing should be considered.
- The Tattooing Hygiene Rating System was considered appropriate as a means of improving standards.
- There was general support for the education and health promotion programme adopted by the Consumer Protection Service.

The Committee was invited to view the video produced as part of the campaign. At the conclusion of the video, the Chairperson invited comments from Members.

Officers were asked to estimate how many ‘scratchers’ were operating in the City. It was estimated that hundreds of illegal tattooists were operating in the City however it was difficult to identify them. Illegal tattooing had been identified as a particular problem in South East Wales. There were 31 registered tattooists in Cardiff.

Members asked whether a hygiene rating system, similar to that used at food premises, would assist in raising standards in the industry. Officers stated that a voluntary Charter Institute of Environmental Health scheme had been raised at the forum. However, it was considered not be a priority at the moment. There were 2 local authorities in Wales operating the hygiene rating system. Officers considered that informing and the empowerment of customers in the promotion of good standards of hygiene would result in raised standards within businesses.

The Chairperson expressed disappointment that only 5 high schools in the City had participated in the campaign. Officers advised that all schools headteachers were contacted and invited to take part. Members suggested that the Chair of Governors in future be also contacted and further requested that information on the ‘Before You Ink – Think’ promotional campaign be distributed to all Councillors.

RESOLVED – That

1. The initiative continues during 2014/15 with promotion in schools and further unannounced inspection visits to tattoo studios;
2. The report be submitted to the Chief Environmental Health Officer for Welsh Government for consideration
3. Information on the ‘Before You Ink – Think’ campaign be distributed

to all Councillors.

#### PP74 : SKIN PIERCING REGISTRATIONS

The Committee noted that action taken by the Head of Regulatory and Supporting Services in respect of the following application:

1. Mr N A Lewis, Claires Accessories  
Personal registration

#### PP75 : STREET AND HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The Committee noted that action taken by the Head of Regulatory and Supporting Services in respect of the following applications:

1. Meningitis Research Foundation  
Street Collection Permit  
08/03/14
2. Meningitis Research Foundation  
Street Collection Permit  
05/04/14
3. Meningitis Research Foundation  
Street Collection Permit  
19/04/14
4. Meningitis Research Foundation  
Street Collection Permit  
11/05/14
5. Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund  
Street Collection Permit  
28/06/14
6. Comic Relief  
Street Collection Permit  
13/03/14
7. Rescued Racers  
Street Collection Permit  
26/07/14

8. East African Playgrounds  
Street Collection Permit  
21/04/14
9. Meningitis Research Foundation  
Street Collection Permit  
14/04/14
10. Meningitis Research Foundation  
Street Collection Permit  
27/04/14
11. Cancer Research UK  
Street Collection Permit  
06/06/14
12. Unicef UK  
Street Collection Permit  
23/03/14
13. Salvation Army  
Street Collection Permit  
29/11/14
14. Cancer Research Wales  
Street Collection Permit  
31/08/14
15. Childrens Society  
Street Collection Permit  
23/04/14
16. Society for the Protection of Unborn Children  
Street Collection Permit  
04/07/14
17. Dorothy House Hospice Care  
House to House Collection Permit  
19/04/14

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Chairperson