

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

01 September 2015

Report of the Director of Public Health

**IMPLEMENTATION OF A TATTOOIST HYGIENE RATING SCHEME IN
DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE**

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek approval to implement Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme across Derby and Derbyshire.

2. Information and analysis:

Tattooing and body piercing have become increasingly popular in recent years, particularly among young adults and adolescents. Whilst tattooing has previously been more prevalent in males, there is some evidence that it is becoming more popular amongst females.

The Council has a duty under the Health & Social Care Act 2012 Section 12 to take appropriate steps to improve the health of the people who live in the area.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1982 enables local authorities in England and Wales to adopt powers to control tattooing by requiring persons undertaking these activities as a business to register with the local authority and comply with by-laws. This legislation is enforced by unitary and district councils.

The potential health risks arising from tattooing are well documented and include:

- Infection risk from normal bacterial 'flora' of the skin. The majority of such infections are localised but they can result in secondary infections like cellulitis, sepsis, abscess, endocarditis, and gangrene.
- Infection from exposure to blood borne viruses, particularly Hepatitis B and C, from equipment if it is not sterilised correctly
- Allergic reactions from the materials used in some of the dyes and inks

The Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme was originally developed in Wales and contributes to the delivery of the national Blood Borne Viral Hepatitis Action Plan for Wales 2010-2015. The scheme has since been implemented in other parts of the UK and there are benefits to moving ahead with implementation across Derby and Derbyshire, as detailed below.

The aims of the Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme are to:

- Inform the public about the hygiene standards in the premises at the time of the most recent inspection
- Drive up standards and adoption of best practice across the industry for example requiring documentary proof that the person wishing to be tattooed is at least 17 years old.
- Reduce the risk of incidents of infection and transmission of infectious diseases from tattooing procedures.

Participating premises will be allocated a rating from 1 (Improvement Needed) to 4 (Very Good) following an Environmental Health inspection. That rating can be displayed on-line and in the premises in certificate form and on the window of the premises in the form of a window sticker (similar to that used in the Food Hygiene Rating System).

The scheme is a voluntary scheme but evidence from elsewhere suggests that take-up amongst tattooists is high. Across Derbyshire there are 137 registered premises offering tattooing.

The scheme will be coordinated centrally by the Derbyshire Health Protection Team within Public Health, and the district, borough and city council Environmental Health Teams will undertake the inspections of participating businesses and promote the scheme within agreed guidelines. The county council's corporate communications team will create a dedicated web page and provide media relations and social media support to encourage the public to consider the businesses' hygiene rating when choosing which tattooist to use.

The proposed scheme will operate in a similar way to the 'Heart of Derbyshire' project with the district/borough and city councils paid £60 to inspect each business that chooses to participate in the scheme. There will also be incidental costs such as postage and the costs of the stickers.

At the end of the initial funding period any future costs would be minimal (estimated to be less than £350 per annum) for any new premises that wish to join the scheme and the costs associated with sending out a new sticker following future inspections.

3. Financial considerations:

The overall cost for this new project is estimated to be £10,000. This is a one off cost to implement the project and can be met from the Health Protection budget in 2015-16. The actual cost may be less dependent upon the level of participation in the scheme. This cost is less than the treatment of a single person with hepatitis C (NICE guidance). There would also be wider savings to society e.g. keeping people in employment etc.

Any future costs as detailed above will be minimal and can be met from the Health Protection budget.

4. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

5. Background papers:

None

6. Key Decision:

No

7. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

8. Officer's recommendation:

That approval is given to implement Tattooist Hygiene Rating Scheme across Derby and Derbyshire

Elaine Michel
Director of Public Health