

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 7 July 2015 at County Hall, Matlock

**PRESENT**

Councillor D Allen – Cabinet Member

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor C A Hart

**63/15** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 15 June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

**64/15** **DERBYSHIRE HEALTHY WORKPLACES PROGRAMME** The Derbyshire Healthy Workplaces Programme had been developed as a result of the report 'Working for a Healthier Tomorrow', and this had acknowledged that government and employers should do more to improve the health of the working age population. The current Derbyshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment had highlighted the link between employment and health, and it was important to consider the profile of the workers who were targeted by the Derbyshire Healthy Workplaces Programme.

The national Workplace Wellbeing Charter had been developed as a framework for business engagement based upon the recommendations of the Black Review. This had formed the basis for the Derbyshire Healthy Workplaces Programme and had been integrated into the delivery framework for the scheme. The Programme had an overarching aim of facilitating integration of a sustainable health and wellbeing approach within individual organisations, and had been developed in collaboration with a range of partners. The programme had been designed to be proactively driven by the employer.

The Derbyshire Healthy Workplaces Programme had utilised the Council's membership of the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce to promote the programme to the business community and had worked with the Chamber to promote the official launch of the programme. The Programme and the Council's Communications team had worked closely to develop a website and a range of publicity materials with unique branding. The programme would be formally publicly launched in July 2015.

Work streams were currently being developed across all employment sectors across the county, and there had been engagement with a range of organisations and employers. The D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan and Derbyshire Economic Strategy Statement would be supported through work undertaken at the Markham Vale site, which was a key point of development

for the programme. The programme had made direct contact with Markham Vale businesses in order to encourage uptake of the scheme.

In-house work at the County Council had commenced, and a pilot study for the workforce was planned to be rolled out across Derbyshire over the next eight months in collaboration with relevant internal partners. The approach would add further value to the ongoing work that the council was doing to support staff wellbeing and to successfully reduce sickness absence rates.

**RESOLVED** to note the report and to continue to support the development of the Derbyshire Healthy Workplace Programme, including proactive support for programme delivery within the Council.

**65/15      ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS IN DERBYSHIRE 2014/15** The County Council's Highways Division was responsible for setting up weight restrictions in the county. The Division had received 505 complaints about breaches of weight restrictions during 2014/15, and had carried out 24 checks which had identified 191 potential infringements. Prosecutions had been taken as a result of a number of breaches of weight restrictions, and the Courts had imposed fines totalling £1,400 and had awarded costs to the authority of £805. Full details of enforcement activity conducted during 2014/15, along with the action taken in areas generating the most complaints, had been provided.

When a vehicle was observed breaching a weight restriction without a legitimate reason, both the driver and the operator of the vehicle were potentially guilty of an offence. Operators were not usually charged unless there was an element of responsibility or negligence in respect of their drivers' actions. In line with the Division's compliance policy, unless either party had previously been warned, the person or persons responsible would be given a written warning. It was proposed that this policy was endorsed together with the current strategy of targeting those weight restrictions generating the most complaints from local residents.

**RESOLVED** to note the activity to tackle breaches of weight restrictions in Derbyshire and to endorse the proposed policy towards enforcement.

**66/15      FOOD AND FEED PRODUCTS ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY 2014/15** Details were provided of activity undertaken by the Trading Standards Division to ensure compliance with food and feed product labelling requirements. There had been a slight fall in the number of complaints about food products compared to previous years, but this had been offset by an increase in the number of requests for advice from local businesses. The increase in requests for advice had followed new Food Regulations bringing into force a European-wide requirement to provide more information about allergens. The number of scheduled 'high risk' inspections was determined by

a number of factors, and the number of inspections and of non-compliant businesses had been in line with previous years. Details were provided of samples taken for analysis during the past quarter and the range of activities undertaken during the last financial year to ensure compliance with both food and feed requirements. A summary was also given of inspection and complaint levels for Food and Feed product activity for the past three years.

Food product labelling could be complex, and local businesses could contact the Division seeking assistance. The Division could receive a notification from another enforcement authority that had sampled a product and had identified a problem, or an issue could be identified as a result of a planned visit to the business. Examples of how the Division had supported local businesses were provided along with further details of the inspection programme and complaints and requests received and actioned.

The theme of the most recent food sampling projects were highlighted, and a summary of each of these together with the results of analysis and action taken was provided. In total, 58 food or feed products had been submitted for analysis and of those, 32 had been reported as being unsatisfactory in some way. The Division had a range of sanctions available to seek compliance with legal requirements. An advisory approach was generally adopted where there had been a recent change in legislation and only when there was evidence of deliberate or negligent criminal behaviour would a more formal enforcement approach be adopted.

**RESOLVED** to note the outcome of recent food sampling activity.

**67/15      MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE** Cabinet had previously approved changes to the Mobile Library Service, and the fleet had been reduced from ten vehicles to two, operating on a four-weekly rather than a fortnightly frequency and serving approximately 150 communities. The revised service had commenced on 12 January 2015.

Following the changes, usage by customers had been closely monitored. After four months of operation, issues per four weekly operating period had settled at approximately 14% of previous levels of use, and there had been some practical operational difficulties in keeping to the published timetable. Given this level of take up and other operational considerations, it was now proposed to make some adjustments to the existing timetables to ensure that the service could continue to be delivered to prioritised communities and to maximise levels of use.

Based on the current pattern of use, some stops were not being used at maximum capacity, and where this was the case, it was proposed that some stopping times and durations were rearranged so that there could be multiple stops in the communities served. Some travelling times between stops

needed to be adjusted to allow for slower journeys at peak times; changes to the order of stops on certain daily routes would enable improved access for some communities; and the movement of some stops to alternative locations within communities was desirable for reasons of safety and ease of access. A proposed timetable was presented and would be publicised prior to implementation in September 2015. The library service would continue to monitor the use of the Mobile Library Service and further reports would be presented as appropriate.

**RESOLVED** to approve the proposed changes to the Mobile Library Service timetable as outlined with effect from September 2015.

**68/15      REMOTE eBook LENDING PILOTS** In April 2013, ‘An independent review of e-lending in public libraries in England’ had been published, and this had examined the tensions between the book publishing industry and the growth in eLending services in public libraries. The report had recommended creating a pilot which would test different business models and users’ behaviours into eBook lending and buying. Four library authorities had been chosen as pilot authorities, including Derbyshire.

The pilot had run for 12 months from March 2014, and each authority had been given access to 893 adult fiction eBooks. The selected authorities had been required to submit performance data on eLending, library visits and issues throughout the year, and library users had been consulted at the end of the pilot. The key findings from the overall report had been that eLending had attracted new users to the library service; 74% of users surveyed had thought that eLending was a ‘great new development’; users had enjoyed the ability to browse and borrow books remotely; remote e-lending users were more affluent and older than the average library user but less likely to visit the library; remote e-lending users had reported purchasing nearly twice as many e-books as other library users but 20% fewer new print titles; 45% of remote e-lending users had reported that their purchasing of new printed books had decreased; and going forward, around half of users had commented that if more titles were made available for e-lending, they would buy fewer titles.

The findings broadly mirrored evidence collected by Derbyshire libraries, but analysis of Derbyshire’s eBook users had demonstrated that although there was a peak of users aged between 65-70, there was another peak of users in the early teens age range, which was in contrast to the pilot findings. Derbyshire had had the highest number of new users joining the eBook service and the highest number of clicks on the buy button.

Since the pilot, four key publishers were allowing libraries to purchase some or all of their eBook titles for eLending. However, there were still some publishers who had yet to make a full commitment to eLending for public libraries. The pilot had also been unable to address the issue of the

compatibility of an Amazon Kindle with the library eBook service, although the pilot results had indicated that the popularity of the Kindle eReader could be declining which could diminish the impact this had upon readers using eLending services. Derbyshire Libraries would continue to develop the eLending services as new titles were released and would promote access to all electronic resources with an ongoing programme of public workshops.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**69/15      SV2 COUNSELLING SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT** Approval was sought for a grant of £40,000 to SV2 for the provision of additional counselling services in order to reduce a significant waiting list for services for victims of rape and sexual assault.

Support services for victims of rape and sexual violence were primarily delivered by the County's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), which was provided by SV2 under a contract entered into at a cost of £190,000 per annum. The contract for the Derbyshire SARC was due to expire on 31 March 2016, when it was expected that responsibility for commissioning and contracting SARCs nationally would transfer to NHS England. NHS England was developing a national specification for all SARCs in order to bring about consistency of service provision. The current specification did not include counselling services, and NHS England did not intend to include counselling services in the new specification. SV2 had used a number of funding streams historically for this provision, and most recently had received funding from Hardwick CCG for services for 2015/16 and was working on assessing future needs for counselling in order to secure ongoing funding for the service.

SV2 offered both counselling and psychotherapy from an integrative perspective. Since 1 January 2015, SV2 had received 43 referrals for counselling – this continued to exceed the actual counselling spaces available. There were 59 clients currently receiving counselling within SV2, but the waiting list continued to grow, with 154 clients at 31 March 2015. Whilst Hardwick CCG was providing some funding for the counselling service, it was not sufficient to address the waiting list. Of these on the waiting list, 55 had waited nine months plus. SV2 would be able to provide services to all the clients waiting six months or more through existing resources at a cost of approximately £40,000. Responsibility for appropriately qualified therapists lay with SV2 and the increased sessions could be met by existing sub-contracted therapists.

**RESOLVED** that the sum of £40,000 be awarded from the Communities Budget to fund a temporary increase in the number of counselling sessions available to victims of rape and sexual assault via SV2 in order to reduce the waiting time.

**70/15      TRADING STANDARDS CONTRIBUTION TO ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION 2014/15** Details were provided of the activities undertaken by the Trading Standards Division to reduce the harm from alcohol and of the continued approach to enforcement of legislations intended to prevent the sale of alcohol to young people.

During the last financial year, a total of 212 licence applications had been received – 68 had been applications for premises licences at off-licences, and 27 of these had been considered to have insufficient arrangements for the protection of children from harm. It had therefore been necessary to negotiate with the applicant to ensure that appropriate arrangements were put in place and if necessary to make a licence condition.

Trading Standards staff had carried out 111 advisory visits to local businesses selling alcohol during the year. 14 test purchase checks had been made which had resulted in five illegal sales. The proportion of illegal sales was significantly higher than in previous years, but a smaller number of test purchase checks had been made. If a business was found to have made an underage sale during an exercise, a second attempt was made to ascertain whether the first sale had been a 'one-off'. The total number of premises visited during the year had been 11 of which 4 had made one or more illegal sale.

On-trade test purchase checks were led by the Police and supported by Trading Standards. A similar number of test purchase checks had been made during the year as compared to the preceding year, but with 17 sales from 76 checks, the compliance rate had been much improved. The programme of surveillance and test purchase checks was now well established and there had been a steady decline in failure rates.

The Division had a range of sanctions available following the detection of non-compliance, and the most appropriate course of action had been determined on a case by case basis. As a result of illegal sales, a range of enforcement action had been taken, and these were reported. Tackling alcohol harm by working with partners and local businesses would remain a priority for the Trading Standards Division and it appeared that there had been an improvement in compliance. However, the programme of age-verification and test purchase checks continued to show that a minority of businesses would still sell alcohol to young people and it was therefore intended to continue to maintain the range of actions to minimise illegal sales.

**RESOLVED** to note the contribution to alcohol harm reduction made by the Trading Standards Division and to endorse the continued approach to enforcement.

**71/15      DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014/15 REVIEW AND 2015/16 APPROVAL**

During the financial year 2014/15, the Community Safety Unit had provided and facilitated training for a total of 3019 delegates over 100 sessions, and a breakdown of courses was provided. The events had been accessed by a wide variety of delegates from County Council departments and partner agencies. 90% of delegates had rated the core courses very good or excellent overall, and the comments had showed that the content was pitched correctly for the vast majority of partners.

During the year, the Unit had trained an additional 1338 delegates and had doubled the number of courses delivered. Many of the additional numbers had been due to the roll out of the ASB Victims First training, including the CAYA E-CINS training and the delivery of ASB Tools and Powers training. Demand had also increased for WRAP and Hate Crime training.

The Community Safety Learning and Development Plan for 2015/16 was presented for approval.

**RESOLVED** to note the update for the Community Safety Learning and Development Plan 2014/15 and to approve the 2015/16 Plan.

**72/15      HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES CONTRACTS OFFICER**

Approval was sought for the creation of a new post in the Management Information resource of the Health and Communities Department, to lead on the co-ordination of contract management for the department.

Prior to its transfer to the Council, Public Health contracts had been managed elsewhere in the National Health Service, and as a result no individual performing roles relating to contract management had been transferred into the Council. Funding relating to contract management had been included in the ring fenced Public Health grant.

Many senior staff had invested time in the establishment and procurement of a number of contracts and agreements, and there now required a contract monitoring process, at a less senior level, to be in place to ensure that the service were being delivered as per expectations, and that value for money was being achieved. Owing to limited resources, Public Health contract management was currently only focussed on the monitoring of performance information, and resolving urgent issues with providers. Recent experiences had demonstrated the need for a post to be established to help support the process. The post would be mainly involved with Public Health contract management, but where appropriate, the person appointed would also take on responsibility for the management of other contracts held within the Department.

The post of Contracts Officer had been subject to job evaluation and assessed as Grade 10. Recruitment to the post would be carried out in accordance with the Council's Recruitment and Selection Policy. Establishment of the post would cost a minimum of £31,719 and a maximum of £35,203 per year. Funding for the post would come from budget allocated to corporate support that had been transferred to the Council in 2013 as part of the ring fenced Public Health Grant and savings from a permanent reduction in the Public Health administrative workforce.

**RESOLVED** to approve the creation of an established post of Contracts Officer, Grade 10, in the Health and Communities Department.