

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES** held on 28 July 2015 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Councillor D Allen – Cabinet Member

Also in attendance – Councillor C A Hart

73/15 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities held on 7 July 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

74/15 **COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENTS IN LIBRARIES** The aim of the Community Safety Week 2015 event was to increase public awareness of community safety issues and to increase public confidence through displays and a range of activities held in libraries around the county. The proposal was to run a main event at Chesterfield Library with other libraries supporting this with displays and optional partnership attendance/engagement.

Crime and disorder issues in Chesterfield Library and the public's concerns related to drugs and legal high use, alcohol and anti-social behaviour and looking after the vulnerable people within the community. Complaints to the library had reflected this and, as such, would be the main themes. A range of events would be delivered in libraries throughout the week, and funding of £4,500 would be required to cover the cost of bookable seminars on community safety related matters, key information about the impact on community safety and health, youth engagement activities, wider engagement activities, and promotional items. £4,500 could be met from the Communities budget.

RESOLVED that £4,500 to support Community Safety Week in October 2015 be agreed.

75/15 **CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY – TRADING STANDARDS ACTIVITY 2014/15** Details were provided of activity undertaken by the Trading Standards Division to check compliance of products on sale in Derbyshire with product safety legislation. Each year, the Trading Standards Division monitored the safety of goods manufactured, produced or offered for sale in Derbyshire. It was not possible to check every product placed on the market, so the Division sampled a selection of product types. Officers would also monitor products manufactured or first imported in Derbyshire and targeted new or 'novel' products that could pose a safety risk. During the past year, a range of product groups had been tested, including children's sunglasses, e-cigarettes and chargers/adaptors, second-hand electrical goods, memory foam mattresses, and part-worn tyres.

The Division had a number of enforcement tools available. The majority of breaches were dealt with by way of advice and information to the trader. More serious breaches were dealt with through warnings or prosecution through the courts. In addition, the company responsible for placing the product on the market could be required to carry out a product recall and/or to warn the public about the safety concern. Trading Standards staff had the power to suspend dangerous goods from sale or order a product recall. However, the incorrect use of the powers could give rise to compensation claims by the manufacturer/importer affected. Any action to restrict the free access of goods in the European market had to be communicated to relevant colleagues throughout Europe.

Full details of the results of testing and action taken with regards to non-compliant products were presented. Nearly two-thirds of samples tested had been unsatisfactory in some way and were in breach of product safety legislation. Although many of the issues had been relatively minor, there had been some significant problems that posed a risk to the health and safety of local consumers. These were summarised.

RESOLVED to note the activities undertaken to assess the safety of goods on sale to the public in Derbyshire.

76/15 TRADING STANDARDS SAFETY SURVEY – STEP LADDERS

Details were provided of the results of a Trading Standards product survey into the safety of step ladders on sale in Derbyshire. This had followed a complaint from a disabled Derbyshire resident who had purchased a step ladder from a mail-order company. In response to the complaint, Derbyshire Trading Standards had made a test purchase of the ladder, and had submitted both this and the complainant's ladder for testing against the European Standard. The examination had confirmed that neither of the samples complied with the Standard and so the ladders were in breach of the General Product Safety Regulations. Following an investigation, officers had felt that the company concerned had not taken sufficient precautions to avoid breaching the Regulations, and a decision had been taken to prosecute the company. The company had been fined a total of almost £6,500.

A survey of ladders on sale in Derbyshire had been undertaken during 2013/14, and four ladders had been submitted in order to assess their safety in relation to the General Product Safety Regulations. The ladders had been tested against a selection of structural requirements and all four had been deemed to have failed the standard and had been considered to be in breach of the General Product Safety requirements. A summary of the main issues of concern was presented.

All the companies involved in the supply of the unsafe ladders had been investigated and the relevant Home Authorities informed. In two instances, the ladders were no longer being supplied and in the other two cases, the companies concerned had agreed to remove the ladders from sale. Three of the businesses had agreed to sign a Home Office 'Simple' caution, and in one instance, the decision had been taken to instigate legal proceedings against the company. The company had pleaded guilty and had been given a two year conditional discharge and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £3,599.

RESOLVED to note the activities undertaken to assess the safety of goods on sale to the public in Derbyshire.

77/15 DERBYSHIRE FOOD FOR LIFE PARTNERSHIP Public Health officers had commissioned the Food for Life Partnership (FFLP) to work with the school food catering service and school clusters, including Long Eaton, Chesterfield and Shirebrook areas, to raise the standard of food provision in pre-school and school settings. In June 2015, the Council's Catering Service had been awarded the FFLP Bronze Catering Mark Award, and an additional three schools had been successful in achieving the FFLP Bronze School Award. In Derbyshire, 79 schools were enrolled on the FFLP – seven schools had achieved the Bronze award, two Silver and two Gold.

Many changes were taking place around school food, including the independent School Food Plan, school meals food-based standards. Universal Infant Free School Meals, compulsory cooking in the curriculum and Ofsted's inspection framework to assess 'informed choices about healthy eating'. Ofsted had formally included healthy eating in its common inspection framework from September 2015. Schools had an important role to play in ensuring that no child started the day or spent any part of it distracted by hunger or poor nutrition, and the FFLP promoted a good food culture within the school.

At a national level, independent evidence showed that schools who were engaged in the FFLP demonstrated improved educational attainment, addressed health and learning inequalities, raised Ofsted outcomes, increased the uptake of Free School Meals, supported a range of existing learning initiatives and addressed health and wellbeing targets. Nationally, FFLP could demonstrate improvements in improving children's health, improving education, tackling inequalities and improving local enterprise and sustainability.

RESOLVED to note the report.

78/15 REVENUE OUTTURN 2014/15 The final revenue outturn position for 2014/15 was reported. The gross controllable budget had been £52m and the controllable underspend had been £6.297m – this had included an

underspend of £5.987m against the ring-fenced Public Health budget. After transferring this to the Public Health Reserve, the portfolio's net underspend was £0.310m.

Key variances were reported, and included an underspend in Public Health and Community Safety. There was a commitment of £0.038m to the Domestic Abuse Voluntary Perpetrator Programme, and Cabinet had recently allocated £250,000 to the portfolio from underspend to be used on specific, one off projects – Digital exclusion/Benefits/Universal Credit Support (£96,000) and Fairshare (£154,000). Once the commitments and bids had been accounted for, there would be a transfer to general reserves of £22,000, and the position was summarised.

The department's earmarked reserves, totalling £9.741m, were highlighted – Public Health Resource Fund (£6.661m), Public Health S256 monies/externally funded projects (£0.573m), Emergency Planning (£0.078m), Community Safety (£0.209m), Derbyshire Sport (£1.131m), and Libraries and Heritage (£1.089m). Details were provided of how these amounts would be used.

Budget reductions totalling £1.288m had been agreed by Full Council as part of the approval of the 2014/15 budget. Performance against the target was presented.

RESOLVED to (1) note the revenue outturn position for 2014/15;

(2) approve the use of underspends to meet the commitments outlined in the report; and

(3) approve new bids requested for the use of underspends.

79/15 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC** **RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of the kind of information detailed in the following summary of proceedings:-

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

1. To consider the exempt report of the Director of Public Health on Children and Young People's Public Health Services Home Accident Prevention Scheme (contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information))