

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

Purpose of the Report

1. I am pleased to present the key issues and activities as Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, since the last report to Council. I hope you find the report of interest and I will be very happy to provide further information on any subject it covers.

TRADING STANDARDS

The Consumer Law Landscape Review

2. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has finally announced the Government's decision on the future Consumer Law landscape.
3. Key decisions made are:
 - A National Trading Standards Board (NTSB) to be established for prioritising national and cross-boundary enforcement in England and Wales;
 - A Strategic Intelligence, Prevention and Enforcement Partnership (SIPEP) will be established between the NTSB, Scotland and Northern Ireland Trading Standards, the new Consumers and Markets Agency, the new Regulated Industries Unit, and Citizens Advice;
 - Citizens Advice will undertake research and horizon-scanning about consumer issues to inform the SIPEP;
 - Publicly-funded information and advice from April 2012 will be delivered by Citizens Advice;
 - From April 2013, consumer-facing education to be led by the Citizens Advice and most business-facing education to be coordinated by the Trading Standards Institute;
 - Citizens Advice to become the publicly-funded voice of consumers; and
 - A Regulated Industries Unit for postal services and energy will be established.
4. The full response can be read at:
<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/consumer-issues/docs/e/12-510-empowering-protecting-consumers-government-response.pdf>
5. Our Trading Standards Service will work hard to make the most of the opportunities to improve the local and national trading environment the announcement offers.

Panic Fuel Buying

6. During the recent 'panic buying' of petrol, Trading Standards contacted all petrol stations to advise of their legal responsibilities regarding dispensing petrol. In a joint press release with the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, we also warned the public of the health and safety risks of storing petrol domestically, and the legal amount that can be stored. We received extensive coverage, as our release coincided with the unfortunate incident where a woman received serious burns while pouring petrol in her kitchen.

Doorstep Crime

7. **Police Training** - We are currently delivering training to control room staff to raise/reinforce their awareness of the issues, and what action we can take against the perpetrators.
8. **Cold Calling Controlled Zone** – following a request from residents in Rose Grove, Keyworth, we are currently analysing Trading Standards and Police data regarding doorstep incidents there. As initial analysis would support implementation of a zone, we are currently consulting with the residents. A local PCSO has offered to be the champion for the scheme if it goes ahead.

Primary Authority Partnerships

9. Our 11 fully signed-up Primary Authority Partnerships brought in £31,000 in 2011/12. I am pleased to report that all of these businesses have committed to continue with their partnerships in 2012/13 at the same or a higher level than last year. We are also in advanced talks with three further businesses.
10. A seminar is being held on 4th May in conjunction with Rushcliffe Borough Council and Better Regulation Delivery Office (formerly LBRO) to promote Primary Authority and give interested businesses the opportunity to learn more about what a partnership can offer.

'Real Deal'

11. This national voluntary charter, supported by Trade and Enforcement Bodies, aims to ensure that markets are free from counterfeit and other illegal goods. I am very pleased to report that Trading Standards is currently supporting the new owners of Thoresby Market who are keen to sign up to the Charter. In doing so, they will agree to work hard to prohibit the sale of all illegal goods including stolen, counterfeit, unsafe, as well as offensive weapons and pornographic items. If this pilot is effective, we will roll the initiative out to other responsible Nottinghamshire Market Operators, including District Councils.

Environmental Weight Restrictions and Lorry Watch

12. Residents in the County's five Community Lorry Watch (CLW) areas submitted 105 intelligence reports relating to vehicles breaching weight restrictions during 2011/12. In response, Trading Standards undertook 42 enforcement days in 23 different locations, catching 98 overweight vehicles unable to provide a valid reason for being there.

13. Since the schemes started, we have issued 101 warning letters, 36 simple cautions, and taken two prosecutions. No driver in 2011/12 was observed for a second time breaching a weight limit after receiving a warning. Work conducted in our two most established areas, feedback from the Parish Councils, and ongoing media interest continues to demonstrate the effectiveness of the schemes.

Legal Action Update

15. A Nottinghamshire man found guilty of five counts of fraud, and one for cancellation rights offences has been given a 242 hour community service order and ordered to pay £3,030 compensation.
16. A Derbyshire man was sentenced to 200 hours community service and to pay a contribution to prosecution costs for selling counterfeit dvd's on the car park at the Hucknall Sunday market. The court also issued a warrant for the arrest of another man who was selling counterfeit dvd's on the same occasion who did not attend court.
17. Three cases regarding the supply of counterfeit alcohol have now been concluded in Court. A Worksop retailer was been fined £500 for selling counterfeit Jacobs Creek, while a Mansfield company was fined £1,500 and a director £500 for selling 15 bottles of counterfeit vodka. A further company in Rainworth was fined £1,350 and a director £450 for selling four bottles of counterfeit vodka. All businesses were ordered to pay prosecution costs.
18. A Mansfield man convicted for selling counterfeit goods from a retail premise in Mansfield has now been ordered to pay £14,000 following a proceeds of crime investigation, this deemed to be the figure he has benefited from his criminality.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Major Emergency Exercise 'Joint Endeavour'

19. The Emergency Planning Team recently completed revisions of the Major Incident Plans for two major sporting venues in the County; Trent Bridge Cricket Ground and the City Ground, home of Nottingham Forest Football Club. These plans are produced by the County Council, in consultation with the Safety Advisory Groups, the emergency services, the borough council and the ground safety officers and management of the clubs involved. A multi-agency tabletop exercise 'Joint Endeavour' took place at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground on 29th March 2012. Its purpose was to test the major incident plans for both the City Ground and the cricket ground at the same time. Participants included representatives from the Emergency Services, local authorities and sports clubs themselves. Members of the two Safety Advisory Groups attended, either as participants, facilitators or observers.

Crowd Safety at Major Events

20. The Emergency Planning Team has continued to play a key role in preparations for major events this summer involving both the Queens Diamond Jubilee Beacons in the County and the Olympic Torch Relay as it passes through Nottinghamshire. It is

expected that around 48 Beacons will be lit during the evening of 4th June. Many of these will take the form of large bonfires, and will be attended by large numbers of the public. The Olympic Torch passes through the County on 28th June, and is expected to attract large crowds. The Emergency Planning Team is leading the multi-agency Safety Advisory Group for the event.

REGISTRATION AND CELEBRATORY SERVICES

Reorganisation of the Registration Service

21. A major reorganisation of the Registration Service has been completed. Most particularly, the five former registration Districts in the County have been amalgamated into one for the whole of Nottinghamshire. This enables the streamlining of services and more efficient responses to the public. The reorganisation also involved the establishment of an entirely new management structure which offers the flexibility to gear services more closely to public demand. This will assist the service to continue to address income generation targets and allows more scope to meet extra demand arising from marketing and publicity activities.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Domestic Violence

22. **Domestic Violence Commissioning** - On 10th April 2012 the results of the new joint commissioning process for domestic violence services were announced. The successful bidders are Nottinghamshire Women's Aid for North Nottinghamshire services and Women's Aid Integrated Services for South Nottinghamshire services. The "standstill" period came to an end on 24th April and contracts will now be issued. All staff currently employed to deliver these services will be eligible to transfer over to the new provider under TUPE regulations.
23. **Management of Violent Offenders** - Initial plans are underway to revise offender management arrangements for violent offenders in Nottinghamshire. Following the excellent work between the Police and Probation in "Integrated Offender Management" to reduce acquisitive crime linked to substance misuse, the partnership is now addressing violent crime and alcohol abuse in a similar way. Police, Probation, alcohol service and women's support service will be co-located and work together to ensure violent offenders are keeping to their court-mandated community orders and accessing support and training.

Partnership Plus

Hucknall East

24. The first meeting of the newly agreed Partnership Plus area of Hucknall East was held on 21st March. A problem profile has been provided by the police analyst which picks out the key areas by crime/anti-social behaviour type and geographical location.

25. The main areas for concern are substance misuse, youth crime, secondary fires (particularly around Broomhill Farm) and violence against the person without injury. Alcohol misuse seems to be a recurring theme reported by people working in the area.
26. The Hucknall East Partnership Plus Group will be led by local police. Sergeant Simon Scales chaired the first meeting, Inspector Nick Butler will chair in future. Meetings will take place on a six weekly basis.

Anti Social Behaviour

Vehicle Nuisance in Netherfield and Colwick

27. The problem of vehicle nuisance (car cruisers) has long been an issue in and around Netherfield and Colwick. This has been focused in the area around the Colwick Loop Road and the Victoria Retail Park. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has initiated a range of measures over the past 12 months to address this issue, including traffic calming measures, additional uniformed presence, road closures, automatic number plate recognition cameras, and improved security at the retail park. All of these have been successful in the short term, but to remain effective require continued funding and staff time. The CSP felt that a better, long term solution would be to apply for a court injunction to make this activity illegal. Nottinghamshire County Council led this successful application and the injunction was granted on 9th March, remaining in force until 31st December 2014. The CSP have now initiated an action plan to enforce the injunction.
28. To maximise the impact of the injunction Nottinghamshire County Council agreed to provide £15,000 from the Community Safety Portfolio. This will be used to fund such things as target hardening measures, publicity, cameras, and awareness campaigns. The CSP will share the success of their work with other partners, locally, regionally and nationally so that they will be well placed to deal with this issue should it arise in their area.

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