



RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The following is a record of the decisions taken at the meeting of **CABINET** held on **Wednesday 18 May 2022**. The decisions will come into force and may be implemented from **Monday 30 May 2022** unless the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or its Committees object to any such decision and call it in.

Annual Enforcement Programme Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 and Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which reviewed enforcement activities under the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, and the Licensing Act 2003 for the period April 2021 to March 2022, and sought approval of a new enforcement programme for 2022/23.

The County Council has statutory responsibility for enforcement of age restricted products, namely tobacco, nicotine inhaling products, spray paint containers, alcohol, videos and DVDs, cigarette lighter refills, fireworks and the proxy sale of tobacco products and supply of nicotine inhaling products to under 18s. The Authority has also elected to enforce the age-restricted sales of solvents and glue, knives, access to gaming establishments and access to sunbed premises.

For many years the Authority has taken a proactive approach to tackling the harms and criminality associated with the illegal supply and misuse of alcohol and tobacco within County Durham. Together with partners including the Police Licensed Economy Team and the County Durham Tobacco Alliance, the Council continues to conduct high visibility enforcement campaigns to tackle the health inequalities and links with organised crime associated with these products. Protection of children is also a high priority. This forms part of a holistic approach the County Council has adopted to tackle the harms caused by alcohol and tobacco, as well as tackling the wider determinants of health.

Over the last two years, Covid has impacted on the service activities and staffing resource, with members of the service being involved in the regulation of businesses impacted by the Covid restrictions. As a result, the timing of the annual plan has been disrupted and activity has been significantly limited compared to previous years. Considerations around the health and wellbeing of staff and, most importantly, any young volunteers used in test purchase exercises, put this work on hold in terms of the ability to conduct test purchases in a Covid secure way, in line with the health and safety risk assessments around work activities. Covid business restrictions and social distancing had limited activities and the approach to businesses. As a result, Covid has curtailed areas of the enforcement work relating to illicit tobacco and age restricted products.

With the emergence from the pandemic, there are plans to relaunch this important area of work, to protect young people and residents of County Durham and safeguard their health and wellbeing. This report provided details of enforcement activity during 2021 / 2022 in relation to age restricted products and tackling supplies of illicit tobacco. It also provided information in relation to complaints, test purchase and seizure activity for the period and the outcomes of enforcement action. The proposed enforcement programme for 2022/23 was also provided.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- a) noted the enforcement activity undertaken during 2021 / 2022;
- b) approved the proposed enforcement programme for 2022 / 2023.

Health Protection Assurance Annual Report

Summary

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services and the Director of Public Health which provided members of Cabinet with an update on health protection assurance arrangements in County Durham and health protection activities over the course of the year. The Health Protection Assurance and Development Group (HPADG) meets quarterly and seeks assurance on five main strands of health protection activity, in addition to data and communications which are threaded throughout:

- (a) Screening programmes;
- (b) Immunisation programmes;
- (c) Outbreaks and communicable diseases;
- (d) Strategic regulation interventions;
- (e) Preparedness and response to incidents and emergencies.

The report provided information on key achievements overseen by HPADG in the last year including the following:

Programme delivery:

- (a) Improvement in flu vaccination uptake amongst eligible groups and effective delivery of the extended Durham County Council flu vaccination to all staff, with sustained increased uptake;
- (b) The Progression of work with cervical screening services to ensure that staff shortages and previously restricted access to training has improved;
- (c) Sustained delivery of national immunisations programmes;
- (d) Sustained delivery of the Antenatal and Newborn Screening programme;
- (e) Development of the avian flu and seasonal flu (care home settings) anti-viral prescribing pathways.

Collaborative system working:

- (a) Continued excellent working relationships with UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) during a time of significant change and COVID-19 enabling response to several non-covid outbreaks and incidents;
- (b) Development of Health Protection Assurance Board (HPAB) Transition Plan capturing the learning from covid including in relation to engagement of communities (vaccine inequality), use of data, real time dashboards and national and local intelligence;
- (c) Establishment of a protecting health team within public health to embed the learning from COVID-19 lead both proactive and reactive health protection responsibilities, working closely with system partners;
- (d) Completion of collaborative review, Public Health and NHS England (NHSE), to identify variation in second dose measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccinations by GP practice and address key issues contributing to this variation and undertake catch-up programme.

Areas impacted by COVID-19 and requiring further development:

- (a) All screening programmes have been impacted by the pandemic other than Antenatal and Newborn screening;
- (b) The restoration of affected screening programmes was started prior to the second wave and will have been affected by successive waves;

(c) Development areas include:

Programme delivery

- Understanding reasons for underperformance for the newborn and infant physical examination and ensure remedial measures are put in place;
- Improving uptake of certain vaccinations including shingles and pneumococcal;
- Ensuring equitable coverage and uptake of screening and immunisations programmes, seeking to identify, understand and address within Durham inequalities;
- Ongoing work with schools and providers to ensure improved rates of vaccination amongst adolescents, learning lessons from the COVID-19 vaccination campaign to ensure equity of access and to work with NHSE and local school provider, Harrogate and District Foundation Trust (HDFT), to gain assurance of actions and catch-up programmes in place to address reduced uptake due to disrupted programme delivery.

Collaborative system working

- Development of a sexual health strategy for County Durham;
- Ensuring health protection and public health related; emergency preparedness is assured during organisational change;
- Working with County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) and key stakeholders to support high quality infection prevention and control measures.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- (a) noted the content of the report;
- (b) noted that the performance in County Durham for all childhood immunisation programmes exceeds both national standards and national averages;
- (c) noted that the report provides broad assurance that effective processes are in place for each of the key strands of health protection activity;
- (d) requested a further report be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet which provides further assurance in respect to flu and COVID-19 vaccination, the ongoing work with CDDFT in relation to Infection Prevention and Control (IPC);
- (e) supported the development and delivery of the transition plan to 'Living with Covid' capturing the learning from Covid;

- (f) supported the review of the health protection governance arrangements aligning the robust Covid assurance arrangements with wider health protection governance.

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
20 May 2022