

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING & APPEALS COMMITTEE

14 November 2005

Report of the Director of Health and Housing

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE (HSE)

1.1.1 Moving on from the success of the “Kent and Medway – Delivering Food Safely” initiative, which saw local authorities working in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Kent Police, there have been two other national initiatives. These were established to help deliver the Health and Safety Commission’s (HSC) Strategy for “Workplace Health and Safety in Great Britain 2010 and Beyond”. Details of the proactive initiatives are detailed below:

1.2 Manual Handling – the “Backs! 2005 Campaign”

1.2.1 National accident statistics published in November 2004 showed a fall in the incidence of work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). However, MSDs still remain the largest single cause of occupational ill health in Great Britain.

1.2.2 The objectives of the “Backs! 2005” initiative are to:

- promote the use of lifting and handling aids as a means of reducing the incidence of back injuries at work;
- create widespread awareness and use of sensible precautions to reduce back injuries via targeted national and local publicity; and
- for local authorities to work in partnership with the HSE to maximise outcomes.

1.2.3 The initiative included a national co-ordinated education and inspection phase over a four-week period in June/July. During the four-week period, commercial team officers carried out inspections at high-risk premises. In addition, the initiative and advice to our businesses was publicised in the commercial team’s newsletter, “Wise Up”.

1.3 Slips and Trips – “Watch Your Step”

- 1.3.1 Slip and trip accidents can account for over 11,000 major workplace accidents each year with the national cost to employers estimated at £512 million per year.
- 1.3.2 As part of the “Watch Your Step” initiative, officers of the commercial team ran two seminars for local businesses to help them reduce their slip and trip accidents. The seminars were designed to help businesses fully identify the hazards posed by slips and trips, whilst increasing the sensible, practical precautions which can be taken to reduce accidents. Both seminars were well attended by a variety of local businesses and also included a number of our managers and staff.
- 1.3.3 Ongoing routine inspections of businesses will be focusing on hazards associated with manual handling and slips and trips to reduce the number of accidents to employees.

Background papers:

contact: Ruth Thomas

Nil

John Batty
Director of Health and Housing