

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STREET SCENE and ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

18 July 2016

Report of the Director of Planning Housing and Environmental Health

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 REPORT ON THE ESTATES EXCELLENCE PROJECT IN LARKFIELD AND AYLESFORD.

1.1 Summary

This report summarises the outcomes of the Estates Excellence project delivered by the Food & Safety Team together with other internal and external partners to assist small businesses with health and safety in Larkfield and Aylesford.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Estates Excellence (EE) is a project devised by the Health and Safety Executive and was rolled out nationally in 2012. It is a non-enforcement led project involving working with local authorities and other partners to help business owners and landlords to improve health and safety on their sites.

1.2.2 During April and May 2016, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council working with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Kent Fire & Rescue Service, and the Red Cross, assisted businesses on Quarry Wood and Mill Hall Industrial Estates in Aylesford, Larkfield Trading Estate and Larkfield businesses in Sheldon Way and Bellingham Way.

1.3 The Project

1.3.1 Businesses were initially visited to promote the project and identify where they may need health and safety support and guidance. Support visits were offered by appointment which enabled officers to visit and carry out an assessment of the workplace hazards and risks and give advice and support to the business in a non-enforcement environment. Free bite-sized training sessions and occupational health checks were offered. Businesses were also offered workplace wellbeing/health checks and advice and support on healthy weight, physical activity and nutrition by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Healthy Living Team.

- 1.3.2 The training sessions were scheduled in the week following the support visits and were held at the Royal British Legion, Capel Morris Centre, Hall Road, Aylesford between 19-25 May.
- 1.3.3 As training bookings were made the training sessions were reviewed and many had to be cancelled due to lack of take-up. The most popular courses were Fire Safety and First Aid. The training was very well received by those attending.
- 1.3.4 Table 1, shows the numbers of business that were targeted and those that engaged with the project.

TABLE 1

Activity	Figure
No of businesses in target estates	279
No of National/do not visits	84
No of emails to businesses prior to promotional visits	111
No of businesses visited during promotional phase but were not interested in support or training after follow up email/phone call	67
No of businesses participated in project	20
No of support visits booked	11
No of support visits carried out	11
No of businesses booked on training sessions originally	20
No of business that attended training (NB A number of businesses sent employees to multiple training sessions)	12
No of workers who attended training sessions	43
No of workers tested in occupational health	12
No of businesses that took up occupational health sessions	2

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to enforce health and safety, restricting proactive inspection to specific activities/risks specified by the HSE. Other interventions such as Estates Excellence meet with current requirements.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 The costs of the project were met within existing budgets and some elements were financed directly by the HSE.

1.6 Risk Assessment

The work of the Food and Safety Team is conducted in accordance with the Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the National Local Authority Enforcement Code.

Background papers:

Nil

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