

## **Public Health**

Following a recent restructure agreed in consultation with Management Team and staff a new Public Health service has been created. This encompasses elements of the more widely restructured Environmental Services and specifically brings together a range of regulatory and statutory functions with an overarching responsibility for public health and public safety. This includes the Environmental Health, Licensing and Private Sector Housing teams. These teams report to number of cabinet, committee and policy development areas including Community Well Being but also Managing the Environment and Licensing Regulatory.

The Public Health service also has a duty to respond to the new Public Health agenda and work with Devon County Council to develop and implement actions to target local health inequalities. This work is led by the Public Health and Professional Services manager who has initiated a local working group including key Mid Devon services/members, DCC Public Health, NHS and the community/voluntary sector. Work in this area commenced in September 2014 and progress to date in taking this forward is detailed below.

- Working group set-up and terms of reference agreed
- Multi-service and agency mapping exercise carried out to identify current resources, projects and identify local priorities
- Local health inequality priorities in Mid Devon agreed and include working in partnership to address emotional health and resilience, cardiovascular and cancer prevention, clean air for all and decent high quality housing
- Secured 50% DCC Public Health grant funding for a two-year fixed term Public Health officer role to take forward locality planning and health initiatives in addition to producing a corporate Public Health strategy
- Additional DCC grant funding agreed in support of the Targeted Families programme and provide key families with six-months free off-peak access to Mid Devon leisure services
- A small additional amount of grant funding has been approved with DCC provide a community enabling pot of money for the community voluntary sector. This pot will be administered by Involve and monitored jointly by DCC and Mid Devon. It is anticipated this will be available from July 2015 for the current financial year.
- Public Health England Health Profile for Mid Devon 2015 published encompassing the latest health indicator data and locally agreed priorities
- Currently working collaboratively with DCC and the Devon Chief Environmental Health Officers group to identify Devon-wide projects around common public health priorities including county funding for projects aimed at mental health, fuel poverty, physical exercise and air quality.

## **Licensing**

### Budget

Licensing income came in £9.2K over target in 14/15. The 14/15 income funded the costs of the licensing service to the extent of 79% when indirect costs taken into account, a key improvement over the 67% last reported (2012/13). Nonetheless, under current statutes the service will never be completely funded by income as various pieces of licensing legislation require that cost of some licences and registrations are taken from the General Fund and we are not permitted to cross subsidise by raising charges.

## Current Issues

The team has adjusted well under a revised structure following the retirement of the previous Licensing Manager in May 2014 and continues to provide an effective service. The Lead Officer for Licensing has been in the role for just over 12-months and now works with a largely new team. The vacant part-time job share Licensing Support Officer post was filled internally during 2014 and more recently the Licensing and CCTV officer post became vacant. As part of a wider restructure of Public Health the licensing officer post has been refocused and CCTV responsibility has moved to Property Services. The role has also been returned to full-time enabling the team to work at full strength and provide greater resilience with more capacity to undertake vital enforcement work. This post has also been filled internally with the post-holder bringing key experience in partnership working, enforcement and working with animal establishments to the role.

An independent external audit of the Licensing service was commissioned earlier in 2015 by the Public Health Manager and has identified that service delivery overall is good and well-controlled. However, a number of improvements and opportunities to transform operationally have been identified in respect certain business processes and enforcement. These have been prioritised and an action plan agreed with Lead Officer. The increased capacity of the Licensing Officer role offers an opportunity to better support improvements and to increase proactive inspections and carry out other enforcement interventions.

## Future Challenges

With two key roles within the team recently recruited there is a higher level of personal development required to bring the team up to speed on legal and operational processes. This is being addressed and personal development plans are in place with external and on-the-job training and mentoring being provided as required.

The recent district elections have resulted in a number of new members sitting on licensing regulatory committees. This means potentially there will be less experienced members on some hearings and meetings. Nonetheless, it has also presented an opportunity to complete refresher training with new and existing members plus the Licensing team and Legal Services. This was completed in conjunction with East Devon District Council by Cornerstone Barristers and Institute of Licensing and was well received.

There are also a number of fee and policy review requirements in the current financial year which will stretch the Lead Officer, especially in the context of developing a largely new staff team. These requirements include updating licensing hearing procedures, taxi fees and the private hire and hackney carriage policy, conviction policy plus animal establishment model conditions and fees. These are incorporated in the team Business Plan and support will be given by the Public Health Manager and Head of Service to ensure priorities are met.

## Licensing Overview - Licences and Registrations to date – 16 June 2015 (% change from 2012/13 previously reported)

### Alcohol and Entertainment

Personal licences	990	(+8%)
Premises with alcohol (includes a vessel)	271	(+4%)
Premises no alcohol (includes village halls, takeaways etc.)	64	(-1%)
Clubs	45	(-2%)
TENs issued 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015*	352	(-16%)
TENs issued from 1 April 2015*	115	-

Total number of TENS since November 2005\* 3835 -  
 \* includes standard/late TENS with and without alcohol

#### Hackney and Private Hire

Hackney carriages	58	(0%)
Private hire vehicles	50	(-1%)
Private hire operators	18	(0%)
Hackney carriage/private hire drivers (joint)	127	(-3%)

#### Gambling

Adult gaming centres	3	(0%)
Unlicensed family entertainment centre permits	3	(0%)
Betting premises	5	(0%)
Club gaming permits	2	(+100%)
Club machine permits	9	(0%)
Alcohol licensed premises permits	3	(0%)
Alcohol licensed premises notifications	73	(+6%)
Small society lottery registrations	108	(-6%)

#### Animals

Boarding kennels and catteries	15	(+50%)
Dangerous wild animals (wild boar and savannah cat)	2	(0%)
Riding establishments	4	(+25%)
Zoo	1	(0%)

#### Charities

House-to-house collection licences 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015	76	(+400%)
Street collection permits 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015	64	(0%)

#### Miscellaneous

Scrap metal dealer – site licence	6	(+17%)
Scrap metal dealer – mobile collector	18	(+6%)
Caravan sites (does not include a number of single sites)	25	(+8%)
Ear-piercing registrations 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015	0	(-300%)
Ear-piercing registrations since 1 April 2015	0	-
Tattooing registrations 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015	4	(+400%)
Tattooing registrations since 1 April 2015	1	-

#### Performance

The licensing performance standard for 2014/15 for the issue of licences and registrations (once all relevant information had been received) was 95%. The actual figure achieved was 98.2%.

The projected income for licensing for 2014/15 was £111,410 and the actual income achieved was £120,618.30, therefore £9,208.30 (8%) over and above budget and represents a small increase in total over 2012/13.

## Licensing/Regulatory Sub Committee Hearings

1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015

- 16 May 2014                      Hearing to consider a new premises licence application for an event at Shobrooke Park, Shobrooke. Agreement was reached between all parties so licence granted.
- Hearing to consider a new premises licence application for Hanlons Brewery, Half Moon Village. Objections received from local residents. Licence granted subject to additional conditions.
- 30 June 2014                      Hearing to consider a new premises licence application for a one-time event called Sunset Festival, East Pidsley. Objections received from a number of Responsible Authorities, local councillors and local residents. Licence refused.
- 30 January 2015                      Hearing to consider a review of the premises licence for Tomato Bar, Tiverton. Review applied for by the Police and a number of local residents made positive representations in favour of the premises. Conditions added to the licence.
- 23 February 2015                      Hearing to consider the fitness of two hackney carriage and private hire drivers. One had carried out a school contract when not licensed to and the other lied to cover them. The licences were revoked.

## Taxi driver licences immediately revoked (delegated authority)

1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015

3 in total on the following grounds:

- Driver suffered a heart attack and was not fit to the required medical standards
- Driver assaulted someone in Tiverton and resisted arrest
- Driver was alleged to have formed an inappropriate relationship with a passenger (under 16). This was text messages and free journeys which continued after a warning from the employer. Advice and further information was obtained from DBS checks and the police and DCC social services/transport (school contract) team

## Cautions

- 10 December 2014                      Simple caution administered to the operator of Crediton Cars for operating a licensed private hire taxi vehicle without a current MOT. This will be reported to the next Licensing Committee.

## Licensing Policy

New licensing policy consulted on, taken to Committee, adopted by full Council and published on MDDC website in January 2015 in compliance with statutory requirement. This policy will last until January 2019.