

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Public Engagement Board
Date: Monday 14th December 2020
Report for: Information
Report of: Strategic Manager – Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

Report Title

Enforcement Sub Group

Summary

Following the national lockdown in March 2020, the Council established a multi-agency weekly enforcement group meeting to share information and intelligence, track demand and capacity and co-ordinate our responses. The frequency of these meetings reduced over time but have now been stepped back up to weekly meetings which are held every Monday and are chaired by the Director of Growth and Regulatory Services.

Recommendation(s)

That the update from this meeting be noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Helen Grant
Extension:3434

For non-confidential reports add the following:

Background Papers: *Please list*

Background Information

Background information – must include all relevant and explanatory information.

It should also include consideration of the following implications. Please specify what the implications are or if they have been included in the body of the report. If any do not apply, insert 'not applicable' so that it is clear that all implications have been considered.

Implications:

Relationship to Corporate Priorities	
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Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	
Financial	Managed currently within existing resources
Legal Implications	Adherence to the Coronavirus regulations
Equality/Diversity Implications	
Sustainability Implications	
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	
Risk Management Implications	
Health and Safety Implications	Protection of public health

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The 'Enforcement Sub-Group' was established in March 2020 and comprises members from a range of services and organisations, Principally these are; the council's Director for Growth and Regulatory Services (Chair), Environmental Health, Community Safety, Licensing, Greater Manchester Police, Social Housing, Legal, Communications and Public Health.
- 1.2 The purpose of the group is to be able to understand the current data in relation to the prevalence and transmission of Covid-19 and to co-ordinate any responses that may require enforcement of the regulations.
- 1.3 The group links in with the Community Engagement work-stream, as the main aim is to engage and educate residents and businesses to keep our communities safe.
- 1.4 The group also looks at demand and capacity for services, and works to ensure that actions are co-ordinated and that efforts are not duplicated, reducing opportunities for inefficiency.
- 1.5 The group also plans and executes joined-up operations which are multi-agency in nature.
- 1.6 The council's principal solicitor also attends the meeting to provide legal updates and to answer any queries that any of the attendees may have about the regulations.
- 1.7 A member of the council's communications team also attends so that key messages for the week can be agreed and disseminated through our communication channels.

2.0 Updates

2.1 Licensed Premises

- 2.1.1 The Enforcement Sub-Group is attended by representatives from our Legal Department and the council's Licensing Team.

2.1.2 Staff have continued to monitor premises and have found that compliance has been good.

2.1.3 The Community Safety Team facilitate town centre marshalling around taxi ranks during the busiest times of the festive period. Details of this will be released once it is confirmed what tier Trafford will be in over the Christmas and New Year period.

2.2 Offices, shops and workplaces

2.3.1 Our Environmental Health Team along with Public Health engage and advise businesses where there is an outbreak of Covid-19.

2.3.2 Where concerns are raised by individuals about the measures and mitigations in their place of work, these are referred to Environmental Health if they fall within their remit. (Note: some workplaces such as food processing plants fall within the remit of the Health & Safety Executive)

2.3.3 The Environmental Health Team liaise closely with Greater Manchester Police due to the need for joined up responses and have issued Prohibition Notices to businesses who fail to comply with the regulations.

2.3.4 The council is currently in the process of recruiting additional Environmental Health Officers.

2.3.5 Recent checks that have been made by the Environmental Health Team include Altrincham Market and One Central which have been busy but with businesses complying with the regulations. Some further advice was given to improve covid secure measures to include one way systems and queueing.

2.3.6 The Trafford Centre is also visited regularly. Their capacity is currently 13,400 based on a one person per 1.5m calculation which will remain in place for the next few weeks. Capacity has not been reached since re-opening after lockdown. Systems appear to be working well although there is a request for Covid Marshalls to be more visible and to ensure compliance.

2.3.7 There was a drive-in event last Saturday which required some intervention through speaking to the event organiser. This was immediately addressed and resolved and no further events are planned at the location.

2.3.8 A further visit was made to the Dunham Lights event on it's opening evening and was found to be well organised with reduced numbers to allow for social distancing. A few minor issues were addressed on the night.

2.3.9 The Environmental Health Team are being supported by the RAF Environmental Health Officers and have been visiting gyms following complaints that classes were taking place indoors in breach of the regulations. No formal enforcement action has been taken but advisory visits have been carried out.

2.3.10 Environmental Health continue to be involved where there are any outbreaks in businesses ensuring that they are complying and managing risks appropriately.

2.3.11 Environmental Health Officers have also been carrying out follow up visits to hair and beauty premises that have been contacted by the Health and Safety Executive about their Covid measures (HSE refer businesses of concern).

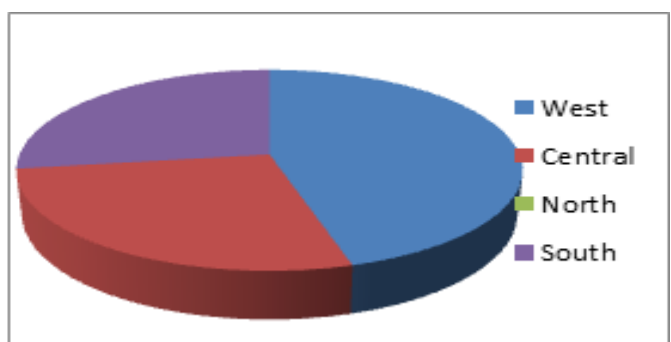
2.4 Residential Premises

2.4.1 Reports of gatherings within residential premises are managed between Greater Manchester Police, and the council's Community Safety Team and our main social housing provider. A proportionate approach is taken, which will involve a stepped process for minor breaches, but where there is flagrant disregard for the regulations, and an excessive number of people when the police arrive, then fixed penalties can and have been issued, and the parties dispersed from the premises.

2.4.2 Information about Covid breaches is reported via various channels, some reports are being made to Public Health, some directly to Community Safety and some to Greater Manchester Police. A Community Safety Officer has now been tasked with pulling reports together from each source to ensure that responses are neither duplicated nor missed.

There has been a significant decrease in reports relating to residential premises over the last week. Some weeks there have been as many as 60 reports, the previous week the team received 11 reports.

Predominantly these have been in the west of the borough, with no reports having been received in the North.



2.5 Quarantining

2.5.1 Some reports have been received by the council and Greater Manchester Police that individuals or families returning from specified countries on the 'quarantine list' have failed to quarantine upon their return. This has caused some real concern in our communities. Dealing with these cases requires a joined-up approach between the council, Greater Manchester Police and the UK Border Control.

3.0 Next steps

3.1 The group will continue to meet weekly and share intelligence and information and plan actions as necessary. Some other GM boroughs are meeting more regularly than this, and the frequency of the group meetings will be kept under review.

3.2 The group will also jointly review any changes to the legislation and guidance to ensure that organisations are giving correct and consistent information to businesses and residents.

