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Health and Safety Service Plan 2015/16

Merthyr Tydfil Council has a duty to enforce the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 in those businesses that they regulate which are prescribed in law. The Health and Safety Executive directs how Local Authorities should discharge this duty and has issued the National Local Authority Enforcement Code. The Code stipulates that Local Authorities should produce publically available risk based service plans and information on health and safety interventions, enforcement and prosecution activity.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It is the aim of Merthyr Tydfil CBC to ensure that all employees in the Local Authority (LA) enforced sector and the general public enjoy a working environment that is safe and without risk to health.
- 1.2 Each year there is a programme of work to be undertaken to achieve this aim. The Service Plan sets out the programme of work and is designed to inform residents, the business community and the wider audience of the arrangements Merthyr Tydfil has in place to regulate health and safety. The Plan has been drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the National Local Authority Compliance Code. The Plan is delivered by the Environmental Health Department.

2.0 PLAN

- 2.1 The Service Plan is a document that:
 - identifies how these services fits in with the Single Integrated Plan and Corporate Priorities;
 - details the demands on the service;
 - gives information about the services provided;
 - the means by which these services will be provided;
 - the resources available to deliver these services;
 - details the risk based programme of work for the year ahead;
 - the means by which the service will achieve any relevant performance standards/targets;

- identifies potential risk to the service and where it may fall short of statutory requirements;
 - reviews performance in order to address any variance from meeting the requirements of the service plan.
- 2.2 As an Authority we are responsible for the enforcement of Health and Safety legislation across some 1042 employment businesses mainly shops, caterers and the service industry. The Health and Safety Executive have similar duties in relation to factory premises, the Health Service and this Local Authority.
- 2.3 In order to target our limited resources onto the most significant areas of concern we work in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and other Local Authorities across Wales to deliver appropriate interventions. There are a number of interventions that may be used including, education and awareness raising, audit, inspection, enforcement etc. The Code requires that unannounced proactive inspections are reserved for specific business sectors/activities that give rise to the most serious risks identified that are listed by HSE, or where the hazards are not being properly controlled.
- 2.4 The service will undertake to conduct the full range of interventions in respect of business sectors/activities targeted in the Plan.

3.0 CHALLENGES TO THE SERVICE

3.2 New Legislation and Transfer of Functions

From April 2014 the food standards function was transferred from the Trading Standards Service to the Environmental Health Department as part of the efficiencies agenda. No resource was transferred with the function which has placed an additional burden on the Environmental Health Service. In addition new legislation such as the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme means that resources have had to be diverted away from health and safety activity in order to fulfil this additional workload. Consequently the amount of planned health and safety regulatory activity has shown a significant decrease.

4.0 PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2014/15

- 4.1 The service delivered on some but not all elements of last year's plan. Some areas of planned activity were not able to be undertaken because resources had to be diverted to undertake new functions given to the department and a reduction in capacity because of maternity leave. Achievements included:
- The service achieved 100% of its planned high risk inspection programme.
 - The service successfully completed one of two planned collaborative projects as part of last year's South East Wales Intervention Plan namely "Management of cryptosporidium in swimming pools"

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Successful delivery of the service plan is dependent on adequate capacity being maintained during the plan period. The 2015/16 plan meets the Health and Safety Executives requirements and requires member approval.