

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
9 June 2015

Subject: TATTOO HYGIENE RATING SCHEME

All Wards
Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Planning Services: Councillor B Phillips

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Tattooing is increasing in popularity and is being offered both by registered and unregistered tattooists. The latter offer tattooing in non-registered premises (usually domestic), often using equipment, materials and practices which are sub-standard thereby putting their customers at risk of infection with blood-borne viruses such as hepatitis B, C and D and HIV as well as bacterial infections. Tattooing of minors is also much more prevalent with unregistered businesses.
- 1.2 Tattooists are controlled by being required to be registered with the District Council. Their premises and practices are regulated under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as well as under Health and Safety legislation. In Hambleton District there are currently 18 registered tattooists operating from 5 registered tattoo studios.
- 1.3 The District Council has adopted byelaws to help control tattooing and other forms of cosmetic skin piercing and colouring. The Better Regulation Delivery Office is encouraging the introduction of risk rated inspection programmes and the introduction of schemes that inform the customer about the standards adopted by businesses so that customers can exercise their own informed judgement.
- 1.4 Tattoo Hygiene Rating Schemes are running in certain parts of the country. It would be similar in operation to the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme which has been instrumental in encouraging an improvement in standards. Premises participating in the scheme do so on a voluntary basis and may withdraw from it at any time. Participating premises and Local Authorities are bound by the rules of the scheme.
- 1.5 The scheme would give a rating following scheduled inspections, these ratings can be displayed as a certificate or as a window sticker. Premises would be re-rated on a scheduled basis so no additional visits are required other than where re-rating has been requested when improvements have taken place.
- 1.6 Premises are inspected approximately every 18 months depending on the risk rating. As visits have to be undertaken whenever a new tattooist registers or when a complaint is received, it is anticipated that these can be combined with rating inspections to minimise any additional work.
- 1.7 The intention of the scheme is to help make the 'High Street' the location of choice for a tattoo and to improve the reputation of the legitimate trade. As well as driving up standards of hygiene within existing studios it would also help educate the public as to the risks associated with using unregistered or poor standard tattooists or use of tattooing kits in people's own homes.
- 1.8 The scheme is voluntary and, being linked to the inspection programme, would enable the Environmental Health Service to be in a position to encourage its adoption and provide businesses with advice and help if and when needed in order to improve standards.

2.0 LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

2.1 The scheme would contribute towards delivery of the Council's priority of Promoting Health and Wellbeing by supporting businesses providing services that meet best standards of hygiene and safety and thereby achieve the aim of improving the personal safety of individuals using those services.

3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:

3.1 There are no significant risks associated with this scheme.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 The scheme can be operated within existing resources and requires only a very small amount of additional administrative work. The inspections required to implement this scheme are not anticipated to have any significant impact on other areas of work due to the small number of registered studios.

4.2 The stickers for the scheme cost £1 and this is the only cost associated with joining the national scheme. Information on the premises and their ratings is stored on the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health website at no cost.

4.3 As the scheme is primarily aimed at driving up standards within registered studios and recognising good hygiene standards and publicising these to the public, it is not considered appropriate to charge a joining fee.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 As the scheme is completely voluntary, there are not expected to be any legal implications involved with this scheme.

6.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES

6.1 There are no equality issues associated with this proposed scheme.

7.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

7.1 There are no health and safety implications associated with this scheme.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION:

8.1 That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council that the Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme be approved.

MICK JEWITT

Background papers: Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme. Guidance for Local Authorities. Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (Wales) 2013.

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