

FOOD AND SAFETY SERVICE UPDATE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the work of the Food and Safety team, for 2018/19 (Appendix 1).

The report also highlights the priorities in the Service Plan for 2019/20 (Appendix 2) in order to protect the health of residents and visitors to the New Forest.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Food and Safety team provide a range of Environmental Health functions within the Environmental and Regulation Service. These include inspection of food businesses for hygiene, investigating food hygiene complaints, food poisoning incidents, carrying out food sampling and providing advice to businesses.
- 2.2 The team are also responsible for the enforcement of workplace health and safety in a range of business sectors across the district, licensing of caravan sites and animal welfare establishments, and registration of businesses undertaking skin piercing activities.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018-19

- 3.1 Over 99% of all high risk food inspections were undertaken over the past year, and 98% of all other programmed inspections. Resources are targetted on poor performing businesses and those carrying out highest risk activities.
- 3.2 The National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme is continuing to encourage food businesses to improve their standards and over 97% of food premises in the District are now rated as 3 (generally satisfactory) or higher.
- 3.3 The team investigated approximately 1500 service requests in 2018/19 relating to complaints about food businesses, notifications of infectious diseases and food poisoning, workplace accidents and also requests for advice from businesses. Officers take a staged approach to enforcement and work to resolve issues informally wherever possible.
- 3.4 A significant piece of work for the service this past year has been the implementation of the new Animal Welfare legislation. This has been undertaken without any additional resource and involved officers undergoing detailed training in order to inspect and licence 119 businesses under the new regime.
- 3.5 In addition to completing programmed inspections for food safety, health and safety and caravan sites, officers have carried out a large number of visits to new businesses offering advice and guidance.

4. PRIORITIES FOR 2019/20

4.1 The food and safety service priorities are reviewed at the beginning of each financial year and amended based on national priorities, local concerns and new or amended legislation.

4.2 The food and safety service plan is attached (Appendix 2) and identifies food safety and health and safety priorities.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The attached report demonstrates the work carried by the food safety team during 2018/19 in order to fulfil their statutory functions and the priorities for 2019/20. The team's focus is to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by regulating those businesses which pose the greatest risk and providing information to consumers in order that they can make informed choices.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 That the panel reviews the performance of the food and safety service over the past year as set out in the service review report (Appendix 1).

6.2 That the panel supports the work programme for the Food and Safety Service in 2019/20. (Appendix 2)

Environmental and Regulation Service

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