

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

30 NOVEMBER 2016

Adult Social Care

Postural Management and Prevention for Resident's in Care Homes

1. Two of our Occupational therapists are continuing to work on a pilot project to improve the postural management of individuals living in care homes. This piece of work is a significant step in improving the quality of life for some very vulnerable individuals. For some people the nature of their physical needs causes contracture of their joints, pulling their legs and arms towards an exaggerated foetal type position. This in turn may lead to the inability to sit in a chair or wheelchair and ultimately to the need to be managed in bed full-time. In many instances this can be avoided or at least minimised by effective postural management and the use of specialist, but relatively inexpensive, equipment.
2. The objectives of the project are as follows:-
 - To prevent health problems such as joint contractures, poor skin integrity, respiratory problems occurring and in doing so reduce the need for admissions to acute hospitals.
 - Early identification of residents in care homes who are at risk of poor postural management and associated problems.
 - Implement early assessment and management plans for residents with postural / immobility needs.
 - Advise and educate care home staff in identifying risk factors and the importance of preventative measures or early referral to therapy services.
 - Work with care homes moving and handling coordinators to embed protocols for management of "at risk" residents.

Pavilion

3. The Pavilion in Albert Park currently provides a base for a Community Day Care Service for Adults with Learning Disabilities from the Community Inclusion Service. The building is to shortly embark upon an internal refurbishment programme, as part of the ongoing review and rationalisation of the service, with an expected start date in early December 2016, and expected completion in March 2017. The work is being undertaken by MBC Property Services.
4. Once completed the refurbishment will vastly improve the resource and services for Adults with a Learning Disability, creating more open spaces, which will allow relocation from other satellite units resulting in efficiencies and improved accommodation.

5. The Pavilion will also be available for other community groups to access on an evening, including the local bowls club.

Adult Health

Firework Safety

6. Over the October-November period Trading Standards staff played a key role in regulating the storage, sale and safety of fireworks, to ensure that everyone could enjoy a safe bonfire period. They licensed 21 Premises to store fireworks and for the first time took proposal to refuse action on two licence applications following the applicant's fitness to hold such a licence being called into question.
7. Every licensed premises was inspected to check compliance with both the licence conditions and to ensure that the fireworks supplied met strict safety standards. A test purchasing exercise was also carried out with a young volunteer to ensure that no firework sales were being made to anyone under 18 years old. A press release was issued promoting the reporting hotline of 01642 728223 to report illegal sales of fireworks. In total 11 complaints were received about the illegal storage and/or sale of fireworks, the majority of which related to advertisements on social media. Enforcement work resulted in two ongoing criminal investigations for the unlicensed storage of fireworks, breach of licence conditions and 10 takedowns on Facebook.
8. This work contributed to the multi-agency Operation Autumns which involved agencies such as the Police, Fire Brigade, Thirteen Group and various services from Middlesbrough Council working together to tackle anti-social behaviour, crime and firework nuisance around the Halloween and Bonfire night period. This partnership approach provided increased intelligence and communication amongst agencies enabling more effective and coordinated action against perpetrators.

Food Fraud Action

9. The Environmental Health and Trading Standards team have been taking a close look at the menus of local restaurants and takeaways to see if consumers are being given accurate information about the foods they buy.
10. The team looked at menus advertised through well-known internet sites, as well as visiting food outlets in Middlesbrough, and compared the description of dishes against what was actually being served.
11. They found a number of businesses miss-describing some of their foods, which leads consumers into thinking they are being sold certain foods when they are being sold something else.

12. Most of the examples of this food fraud found do not affect the safety of the food, they are mainly cheaper alternatives used by food businesses to save money. In the worst cases some businesses have deliberately used a false description believing the customer would not buy the food if they knew its true nature.
13. Caterers in Middlesbrough have been written to ask them to check how they are describing their foods and ensure that their customers are not being misled. The subject has received publicity in local media.
14. During their routine visits to food premises, officers will be checking for any evidence of food fraud and will take appropriate enforcement action if offences are found. This could include prosecution which could result in heavy fines and negative publicity for a business.

Testing cleanliness in food outlets

15. Environmental Health Officers have been engaged in a study into the cleanliness of work surfaces and equipment in food premises in Middlesbrough. During the study of catering outlets various surfaces were swabbed and an assessment of cleaning practices was carried out.
16. In most food outlets the cleaning practices used appeared to be satisfactory. However, the swab results showed unsatisfactory levels of bacteria on some surfaces. Through investigation officers found that wiping cloths were not being used correctly in some food premises and brought their findings to the operators attention. After changes in the use of the cloths were made, surfaces were re-tested and good standards of cleanliness were found.
17. The survey highlighted that poor cleaning practices, particularly poor use of wiping cloths, can spread potentially harmful bacteria, which could lead to contaminated food and subsequent food poisoning.
18. The results of the survey are being used by Environmental Health Officers to highlight to local food businesses that good hygiene means effective cleaning and disinfection practices, and how wiping cloths, if used incorrectly, can spread harmful bacteria. Special instant swabbing kits are also routinely used by officers to educate food businesses on effective cleaning and disinfection practices.

Quitting in Stoptober

19. In October, the national smoking cessation campaign 'Stoptober' was supported by the Public Protection Service. Adult smoking prevalence in Middlesbrough has seen a year on year decline from 24.9% in 2011 to 20.8% in 2012 which is good news. However, the number of smokers in Middlesbrough is still too high and smoking continues to cost our local society an estimated £40.8 million per year.

20. Stoptober is a campaign that supports smokers to quit with a series of positive quit messages and is supported by the Council and our local stop smoking services. Reducing the prevalence of smoking in Middlesbrough remains a public health priority.

Bonfire Night Air Quality

21. Strong winds and rain during Bonfire Night helped to keep our air clean this year. In stark contrast to last year, when we exceeded the 24-hour limit of $50 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, this year we were comfortably below – with a 24-hour value of $15 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. The Council's automatic air quality monitoring system, which measures level of smoke and other fine particles continuously provided this data. Although Middlesbrough has good air quality, and meets all the relevant air quality standards, from time to time we do experience days when standards fall – and November 5th is potentially one of these because so many people light bonfires and set off fireworks. This pattern is repeated across the country in areas where people live in significant numbers.

22. If we look back 50 years or more however, when everyone burned coal to keep warm in winter, high levels like this were an every-day occurrence. Thankfully the Council undertook a smoke control programme – switching to smokeless fuels and gas appliances across the town – to make our air what it is today.

Middlesbrough Scams Prevention Group

23. Middlesbrough Trading Standards have now signed up to a project to combat the problem of older vulnerable citizens falling victims to scams, which will be delivered through a multi-agency group, including Cleveland Police, Victim Support, Middlesbrough Council Adult Services and Ageing Better Middlesbrough.

24. A national priority for Trading Standards is the protection of older and vulnerable consumers from scams. Older people can be seen as an easier target, or to be more vulnerable to scams such as misleading mailshots, telephone cold-calling or on-line mass marketing fraud - a crime that exploits mass communication techniques to con money out of unsuspecting consumers by making false promises. Some examples are:

- Lottery scam
- Catalogue / Prize Draw scam
- Clairvoyant / Psychic scam
- Inheritance scam
- Impersonation of UK Officials
- West African 419 Fraud
- Fraud Recovery scam
- Charity

25. The National Trading Standards Scams Team have developed a tool kit to assist Local Authority TS services in their work with consumers who are at risk of scam victimisation. This will be utilised to deliver the project over the next few months to protect the Middlesbrough residents.

Councillor Julia Rostron
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