

Chief Executive's Management Team

Informal Briefing paper

Director: Kevin Parkes

Subject: Gas Safety Management Policy

Matter for Consideration

1. The attached report satisfies requirements that the Council's Gas Safety Management Policy be adopted at the highest levels within the organisation.

Background

2. The Council has to meet statutory requirements regarding the management of gas in its buildings, and needs to have the appropriate policies in place to do so, and to monitor and review these policies periodically.
3. It is also important that the Council be able to demonstrate its full compliance with the relevant requirements in the event of an incident involving a gas appliance which would trigger a Health and Safety Executive investigation. Any investigation would include whether policies and practices were imbedded at all levels at the Council. Consequently, the Policy is being brought to CEMT and will be formally approved by the Executive Member of Resources and the Executive Member for Wellbeing Care and Learning (covering the Council's corporate and education/social care property portfolios comprehensively).
4. During discussions about this matter other potential risks/liabilities about gas issues have been identified. These fall outside of the requirements of this policy, which relates solely to the Council's management of its own buildings. Examples raised included areas such as social care & private sector housing that do not have any direct responsibility for the management of gas in a Council building, but need to be aware of the potential of CO poisoning when interacting with service users in a domestic environment, their home. This related to the instance raised by Property Services when a CO detector was issued to a member of the public by social care, but not fitted as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Potential Legal and Financial Implications

5. The Council must meet its statutory requirements for gas safety in its buildings.
6. There are no significant financial issues; cost of implementing the policy will be met within existing property budgets.

Recommendations and/or issues on which guidance is being sought

7. It is recommended that CEMT note and endorses the revised Gas Safety Management Policy.
8. It is recommended that the concerns raised in paragraph 4 are forwarded to the specific service area with a view to managers reviewing the process of issuing CO detectors to the public in line with recommendations from 'GasSafe'

Martin Shepherd
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