

Public Safety Division

Assistant Director : Judith Macho
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Service description

This division provides environment health & licensing, trading standards, emergency planning, travellers and business continuity management services as well as leading partnership work to reduce crime, fear of crime anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol dependency. The environmental improvement team and neighbourhood renewal team are also situated in this division of the directorate.

Service teams

Environmental Health & Licensing

Head of Environmental Health & Licensing : Tim Nichols
2163

Tel : (29)

This service area includes five separate teams of Food safety, Health and safety & Licensing , Pollution control, Community services and Licensing & projects .

The *Food Safety Team* is responsible for the food inspection programme of over 3400 food premises in the city. The team investigates food and premises complaints and investigate food poisoning incidents. The team also carry out sampling, food hygiene training , provide advice to food premises owners and carry out a range of health promotional work and issue food hazard warnings.

The *Health and Safety and Licensing Team* regulate and enforce over 1400 licensed premises and over 10,000 health and safety premises in the city. The team carry out a business inspection and enforcement programme for all these premises on a priority basis, investigate accidents and provide advice and administer the licensing Act 2003. The team also licence taxis, street traders, sex shops, gaming arcades, street collections, lotteries, skin piercers and pet shops etc . They also carry out infectious disease investigations and enforce Sunday trading laws.

The *Pollution Control Team* administer an inspection programme and complaint investigation service of local authority pollution prevention and control processes which involves the issuing , reviewing, varying and revoking the authorisations of these processes. The team monitor air quality across the city in accordance with the city's air quality strategy. They investigate air pollution, drinking and bathing water complaints , asbestos contamination, contaminated land and commercial noise pollution .

The *Community Services Team* provide the night time noise patrol , investigate domestic noise complaints and deal with other public health complaints relating to bonfires, accumulations , filthy and verminous premises, odours and infestations and provide the city animal welfare (including stray and dangerous dogs and dog fouling) and pest control services

The *Licensing and Projects Team* provides technical support for environmental health and licensing teams and professional advice to customers, administers the licensing

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service including processing applications for premises and personal licences and temporary events notices, licensing register, provides expert support for committee hearings. The team also investigates designated infectious diseases and conducts low-risk inspections and provides professional hackney carriage driver and vehicle licensing advice and information and administers the management of the services ISO accredited quality systems

Public Safety Operations

Head of Operations : Jonathan Fortune

Tel : (29) 2083

The Operations Service in the Public Safety Division comprises five small teams. These are the Business Continuity Team, Emergency Planning Team, Environment Improvement Team and the Neighbourhood Renewal Team and Travellers Liaison Team. The services provided by each of these teams is detailed below

The *Business Continuity Team* advises on and co-ordinates the preparation of Business Continuity Plans for all council services, producing the overarching Business Continuity Plan for the council and acts as a focal point for Business Continuity advice to local businesses, as required by the Civil Contingencies Act.

The *Emergency Planning Team* is responsible for preventing, mitigating and responding to major incidents in accordance with the Civil Contingencies Act. The team is also responsible for keeping the public up to date with regard to mitigation measures for major incidents and alerting the community should there be any foreseeable major incident.

The team is responsible for training and exercising the council's Major Incident Plan and for developing external partnerships, where appropriate, to assist in the implementation of this Plan. The team is also responsible for providing guidance to all managers on emergency related strategies, so ensuring that the council is suitably trained to respond to incidents at all times.

The *Environment Improvement Team* is responsible for the delivery of environmental improvements in identified hotspot areas across the city. The improvements brought about by this team will have the outcomes of reducing the fear of crime and improving liveability in the city. The work carried out by the team is through the development of Local Action Plans, achieved following full engagement with the communities, identifying the key problems in a particular locality and co-ordinating multi agency working to solve these issues.

The *Neighbourhood Renewal Team* aims to narrow the gap between the most deprived areas of Brighton & Hove and the rest of the city. The Neighbourhood Renewal strategy focuses on five main areas, namely community safety, education, employment, health and housing.

The *Travellers Liaison Team* deals with the management of unauthorised Traveller encampments within the framework of the council's published strategy. This entails taking legal action where necessary, as well as allowing for periods of site toleration where practical. The team also provides support for Travellers and has links with both Health and Education Services. This team is also responsible for the running of the council's transit site at Horsdean.

Community Safety

Head of Community Safety : Linda Beanlands

Tel : (29) 1115

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) placed a statutory duty on local authorities to work with the police to reduce crime and improve safety. Since then, the Partnership Community Safety Team (PCST) has delivered that responsibility on behalf of the city council and facilitated the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The Team is multi-disciplinary, made up of police and council officers and with staff dedicated to tackling anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, hate crimes and all of the other crimes that are described within the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy. As one of the Teams within the Public Safety Division there is great added value in working closely with Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Licensing and the Drug and Alcohol Team - particularly in tackling drug and alcohol issues. There are also specific projects within the team which tackle some of the underlying causes of offending behaviour. The Intensive Family Intervention Project and the Youth Inclusion Project for Hangleton & Knoll are two examples of those projects.

The Team places a strong emphasis on the benefits of partnership working and developing innovative approaches to developing solutions to challenging issues. Creating a dialogue with faith communities is important and one of the ways in which we achieve this is to host dialogue events and to continue to support the community led network of meetings that are included within the Racial Harassment Forum. The Team also leads for the City, on matters to do with refugees and asylum seekers.

Trading Standards

Head of Trading Standards : John Peerless
2486

Tel : (29)

Trading Standards is a regulatory service that has a duty to ensure that businesses operating within the city comply with a range of legislation covering the following areas : Metrology (Weights & Measures), Food Standards, Product Safety, Fair Trading, and Animal Health

These duties are carried out through a comprehensive programme of inspection, sampling, testing and project work as well as the investigation of complaints and enquiries received from the public. In addition we also inform, educate and advise traders and consumers on their rights and responsibilities. Current priorities include

Tackling 'rogue trading' including doorstep crime by intervention on behalf of the consumer, the investigation of target offenders across the region, and the development of an approved trader scheme and preventing the sale of alcohol to minors by licensed premises by the provision of training for businesses, the promotion of 'proof of age' schemes, business support and the implementation of a test-purchasing programme using young volunteers.

The key to the effective and efficient achievement of these priorities and the other work required to be carried out is our joint working with the Police, local action teams, Business Associations, the voluntary sector and colleagues within Brighton & Hove and the region.

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Drug and Alcohol Action (DAAT) Team

DAAT co-ordinator : Graham Stevens

Tel : (29) 2950

The Drug and Alcohol Action Team [DAAT] is a senior partnership, composed of representatives from the Local Authority, NHS, Police, Probation and Voluntary Sector, integrated with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. It oversees work to reduce the harm caused by substance misuse via : preventive and targeted work with young people; strengthening local communities and neighbourhoods; improving the availability, quality and take-up of treatment and social care; and reducing the supply of illegal drugs. To help achieve these core aims, the DAAT also promotes : workforce planning and development; awareness of the needs of under-served and diverse groups; the active involvement of users and carers; and an effective monitoring and evaluation system.

The work of the DAAT is coordinated, facilitated and, to some degree, delivered by a small Support Unit of specialist staff, who have an important role in developing and sustaining collaborative and productive relationships across a range of professional boundaries and in ensuring that Government performance monitoring requirements are adhered to.

Neighbourhood Management

Neighbourhood Manager : Paul Allen
3103

Tel : (29)

Neighbourhood management service within this city comprises of the East Brighton NDC Programme and the NRF Programme including the Turner Neighbourhood Project and the Turner/Eastern Rd Project. These programmes are separately managed by the East Brighton NDC Partnership and the Neighbourhood Renewal Group respectively.

From April 2007 the overall management and monitoring of the two programmes has been pulled together and led by Paul Allen. This will enable the projects to more easily share their skills, experience and good practice. It will also increase the impact and effectiveness of the operational and strategic discussions, with service providers, to sustain the benefit of the neighbourhood renewal programmes.

Brighton and Hove are carrying out a city wide review of neighbourhood renewal during 2007/8