

<b>Report on</b>	Sunbed Test Purchasing Exercise
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McClements, Head of Environmental Health

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform Members of the outcome of a sunbed test purchase exercise which was carried out on Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2019 under the Sunbeds Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Sunbeds Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 came into effect in May 2012. The Act was introduced because of the growing evidence of the health risks associated with sunbed use, including skin cancer, with young people at particular risk.
2.2	District Council Environmental Health Departments have a statutory duty to enforce the provisions of the Act.
2.3	Regulation 1 of the Act prohibits the use/sale and/or hire of sunbeds to persons under the age of 18. The Public Health Agency has set a target for all premises operating sunbeds to be subject to test purchasing at least once every two years.
2.4	Test purchase exercises using child volunteers under the age of 18 are considered an appropriate means of assessing the level of compliance with Regulation 1.
2.5	Members will be aware from previous reports to Committee on this area of work that any test purchase exercises in relation to the Sunbed Act are undertaken in accordance with the most up to date guidance produced in by the Northern Ireland Sunbed Working Group (NISWG).
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Within the Mid Ulster District Council area all sunbed premises owners were informed by letter of their responsibilities under the provisions of the Act. Those premises selected to be part of the test purchase exercise were visited by officers in advance of the exercise to inform them of their legal obligations in relation to age restrictions and that such a test purchase exercise would be taking place within the next 12 months.
3.2	A test purchasing exercise for sunbeds involves sending a young person under the age of 18 years into a sunbed premises to ask to purchase a sunbed session. On

	this particular occasion a 15 year old child was used and the young person received training prior to the test purchase exercise.
3.3	For the purposes of the test purchase exercise a total of 12 sunbed premises were visited. 9 premises refused a sale to the child volunteer, 1 premise made a sale and 2 premises were closed at the time of the exercise.
3.4	A fixed penalty notice was served on the owner of the premises who made the sale and the fine of £250 was duly paid.
3.5	It is proposed to undertake a further test purchase exercise later in the year to capture those sunbed premises that were not part of the above exercise or were closed at the time of the exercise.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Officer time
	Human: Officer time
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That the Committee Members note the outcome of the sunbed test purchase exercise.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/a