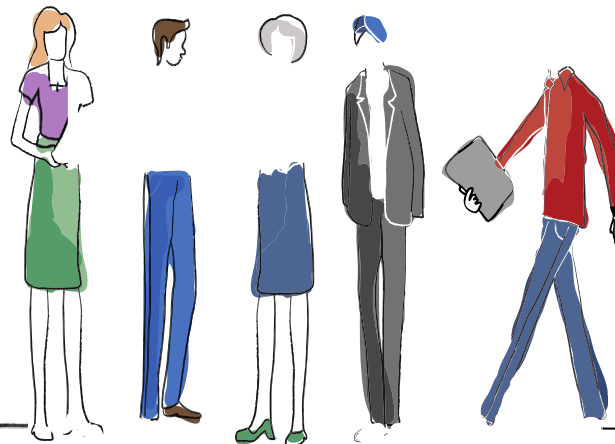


Presentation to Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee

13 January 2020

Trish Caldwell, County Commissioner,
Regulatory Services and Community
Safety



Purpose of Presentation

To inform and update Members on the Trading Standards service and its contribution towards Safe and Strong Communities



What we Do

TS Purpose : To protect the citizens, business and environment of Staffordshire from harm and to ensure that the County Council fulfils its statutory obligations

- Responsible for enforcement of over 260 pieces of legislation
- 25 key pieces that support Council priorities regarding Safe and Healthy communities and supporting local business
- Intelligence led approach
- Working with a number of partners including Health, Safeguarding teams, Police, HMRC, Regional and National Trading Standards, Districts and Borough Councils,.

Areas of Work – What we Do...

- Protecting Vulnerable Adults from scams & rogue traders
- Prosecuting frauds and doorstep criminals who rip off our citizens
- Protecting children from age restricted products eg. Tobacco, alcohol, knives, solvents
- Keeping us all safe from dangerous goods and services eg. Electricals, cosmetics, toys
- Animal Health & Welfare -Supporting farmers to sustain safe & traceable food chain including TB regulation enforcement
- Ensuring our food is described correctly with safe ingredients
- Removing unsafe/dangerous counterfeit products from sale
- Supporting business & policing a fair & competitive trade environment

Resources

- Budget £1.7m
- Team - 35 Staff (headcount)
- Income Generated = 11% of budget
- External Funding opportunities– NTS /Defra
- POCA – opportunities to seize funds from guilty criminals
- MTFS - £648,000 reduction since 2016

Impact 2018/19

- Identified detriment prevented for victims - £3,658,000
- Cost of service = £1,727,280
- 40 Prosecutions – 100% success
- 34,000 illegal products , 200 unsafe products and 24,000 illicit tobacco prevented from entering the market, current year to date **1,248,464** illegal products
- 54 businesses – food related breaches including allergens
- 800 business requested and received advice – resulted in 98 % compliance
- Intel led Test Purchasing – 45% failure tobacco , 21% alcohol

Outcomes/value for money

- 53% victims feel safer in their home following our intervention - £43,000 saved for 36 scam victims last year
- Call blockers – 20 devices fitted – successful in eliminating unwanted calls
- Media – 11% of all County Council positive coverage
- 100% Successful high profile prosecutions
- Cost effective delivery of service - over twice the amount saved for residents of Staffordshire than cost of service
- Proceeds of Crime (POCA) £77,000 received

Enforcement – Recent Prosecution Cases

- Door Step Criminals – (JB Home Improvements/ Eco-Seal)
- TB Fraud – Protecting the Food Chain (Op Eastwood)
- Animal Welfare – (Croxall)
- Fraud (counterfeit goods) Proceeds of Crime (Bowler)
- Under age Sales – (Phoenix)

Questions?

THANK YOU

