

**London Boroughs of Brent and Harrow  
Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board  
13 November 2019**

FOR INFORMATION

**LONDON RESPONSIBLE RETAILERS AGREEMENT ON THE SAFE  
STORAGE, SALE OF KNIVES AND OTHER AGE RESTRICTED  
PRODUCTS.**

**1.0 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with information concerning an initiative to help retailers who sell knives to comply with the law which prohibits the sale of these to minors.
- 1.2 The initiative has been developed in partnership between the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the Metropolitan Police Service and London Trading Standards (LTS) in response to reducing knife crime in London.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 For Members to consider the report and make recommendations where appropriate.

**3.0 DETAILS**

- 3.1 On 11 September 2019 during the London Trading Standards Week of action a new Responsible Retailer Agreement on knife sales, an online training package developed by LTS, Metropolitan Police and MOPAC was launched. The objective behind this is to reduce and assist independent knives retailers from selling knives and other bladed items to those under the age of 18.
- 3.2 The Criminal Justice Act 1988 as amended by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 creates a criminal offence for anyone to sell a knife, articles with blade or sharp point to a person under 18.
- 3.3 Section 3 of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 requires that age verification takes place when the sale takes place and also when the item is delivered, this is to capture internet sales. These are important steps in reducing the risks of selling a knife to a person under the age of 18.
- 3.4 The toolkit provides businesses with access to training materials that would enable them to carry out their legal obligations in relation to the sale of knives. The training is easily accessible with an online training video covering 5 modules:

- 1 Safe storage and display of knives,
- 2 How to assess purchaser's age
- 3 How to challenge a purchaser for their age identification
- 4 How to check identification properly
- 5 When to call the Police

- 3.5 Businesses will be asked to sign a voluntary best practice agreement undertaking to follow the good practice guidance issued with the pack that they are given at the time of signing the agreement.
- 3.6 By signing the agreement, the business is stating that it is committed to being a responsible seller of knives and will comply with rules such as store and display knives safely and securely, operate a strict challenge 25 age verification policy and agree to display a Challenge 25 poster, ensure that all staff are trained in the selling of knives.
- 3.7 The pack also includes posters/stickers - indicating the business does not sell knives to anyone under the age of 18 and a reminder to staff to carry out their duties, training record and checklist for the owner/manager to ensure that staff are trained.
- 3.8 It is intended that the London Responsible Retailer Agreement on the safe storage and sale of knives will run alongside our own Responsible Trader Scheme (RTS) which has been in place for over 10 years.
- 3.9 The Brent and Harrow Trading Standards Responsible Trader Scheme is a valuable resource to assist businesses that sell any age restricted products such as alcohol, tobacco products, fireworks and knives to comply with the legal requirements.
- 3.10 The RTS also provides tools and materials on how to train staff and demonstrate steps on how to comply with the law in relation to age restricted products.
- 3.11 The main aim is to improve existing standards and promote best practice within a business.
- 3.12 Whilst the London Responsible Retailers Agreement focuses on businesses that sell knives only our RTS is for all businesses that sell age restricted products and will therefore capture other businesses within the boroughs that could benefit from such material
- 3.13 The London Responsible Retailers Agreement does not have any formal requirement for us to carry out a formal audit to check compliance, part of the RTS scheme terms and conditions is that the business agrees for Trading Standards to carry out an audit to ensure the materials supplied is being used as required by the scheme and the business will co-operate with the process.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The staffing resource required to implement this agreement would be contained within the existing Trading Standards budget.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no legal requirements for businesses to sign up to either schemes although it will assist businesses meeting their legal due diligence requirements if they do adopt either or both schemes.

## **6.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The proposals in this report have been screened to assess their relevance to equality and were found to have no equality implications.

## **7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

- 7.1 There is no requirement to specifically consult Ward Members about this report as it affects all wards across both Boroughs.

## **8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications**

- 8.1 There are no significant staffing implications arising from this report.
- 8.2 There is a possibility that additional work may be generated through visits to businesses to ensure compliance and adherence to the terms and conditions that the business has signed up to.

Any person wishing to obtain more information should contact Anu Prashar, Senior Regulatory Services Manager, Regulatory Services, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley Middlesex HA9 0FJ. Telephone: (020) 8937 5515 Email: [anu.prashar@brent.gov.uk](mailto:anu.prashar@brent.gov.uk)

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**Report sign off:**

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