

LGA Webinar
Manchester City
Council Approach to
Enforcement of Covid
19 Restrictions

Overall approach to enforcement

The 4 E's – enforcement is an absolute last resort

Multi Agency approach- close working with Health, Emergency Services, Universities, Business Reps, VCSE, Transport operators, etc

Availability -day and night- time service, 7 days a week

Proactivity –Anticipate and intervene before problems arise

Partnership is key- information sharing & joint patrols with key partners

Case Study 1- City Centre Night Club

The issue – Operating as a nightclub in contravention of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2020

The 4 Es approach was taken including advice and guidance to nightclubs before hospitality sector reopened to advise on measures needed to operate as bars in covid secure way

Visit by Council on 11 July warning given as operating as nightclub

Visit by council on 17 July – still operating as nightclub – prohibition notice served

Visit by council and police 18 July still operating as a nightclub- LA2003 s19 closure notice issued

Visit by council 1 August operating as a nightclub – revisit with police later that night and still operating as nightclub but main doors locked

5 August police submit summary review

7 August Interim Steps Hearing – Premises licence suspended pending full review

1 September – Council and Police present evidence of contraventions -Premises Licence revoked

Case study 2

— Restaurant/Banqueting Suite

The issue –Venue failed to implement a COVID risk assessment, appropriate social distancing controls & hosted a wedding event with more than 30 guests, many of whom were mingling.

4 Es approach taken –27 August visit no covid secure Risk Assessment in place – **advice given**

Visit by council 4 Sept- still no covid secure RA in place and no contact tracing system in place – **warning given**

Visit by council –9 Sept – still no RA or contact tracing in place and concerns re lack of social distancing, cross contamination and cleaning regime -**Improvement Notice served**

Complaint received re events due to take place on 24 Sept

Police and council visit 24 Sept – wedding with 70+guests – initial refusal to stop – police issue £10k fine. Council gather evidence for further action

Evidence of further events booked – Council issue Direction to close on 25 September

Worked with premises to enable them to put measures in place to reopen

Original direction revoked and new direction with conditions that enabled the restaurant to reopen issued on 28 September

Case study 3 – City Centre Convenience Store

Issue – ASB, failure to manage customer behaviour & inadequate risk assessment

Concerns raised by police re inadequate management of covid secure measures at this shop including lack of social distancing, no signage & staff and customers not wearing face coverings

Council officer visited 9 October identified serious issues of non-compliance, inadequate RA and lack of understanding of covid secure risks and how to manage them by premises staff

Consideration given to a further warning but due to the clear lack of appropriate controls a direction order was issued requiring the premises to close from 20.00hrs that night

Key areas of learning/Challenges

Learning

Understand the range of powers available to Council and Police

Regular tasking meetings to action plan non-compliant premises

Develop key contacts in Health and Police to streamline process when Direction Orders are required

Challenges

Pace of change in regs and guidance challenging for both businesses and staff

Covid specific improvement notice requiring immediate improvements and swift closure powers still required