2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Tattooing has become more fashionable and mainstream in the United Kingdom as a whole particularly in the last decade. Anyone carrying out tattooing must be registered with the council under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. This aims to ensure that infection control arrangements are adequate and effectively carried out. Currently there are persons registered to carry out tattooing at 18 premises in our area.

2.2 The proposed THRS would complement the existing registration requirements. The main objectives would be to:

- Inform the public about the hygiene standards at the premises at the time of the most recent inspection;
- Drive up standards and the adoption of best practice across the industry;
- Reduce the risk of incidents of infection and of transmission of infectious disease from unhygienic tattooing procedures and
- Promote the use of reputable registered tattooists.

2.3 The scheme was developed with the support of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Wales (CIEH) and the Tattoo and Piercing Industry Union. It is being actively promoted to all local authorities. Under the scheme tattoo premises ratings will be displayed on both the council’s and the CIEH website.

2.4 Ratings are allocated to premises in accordance with set criteria dependant on the standards found at the rating inspection.
- 1 – Needs Improvement
- 2 – Satisfactory
- 3 – Good
- 4 – Very Good
2.5 The premises are provided with a certificate and a window sticker as detailed together with the scheme rules at Appendix 1.

2.6 The standards and rating of tattooing premises under the THRS are reviewed annually on inspection.

2.7 The scheme is scheduled for launch in North Lincolnshire from April 2015 following consultation and pre assessment work with registered tattooists. Neighbouring authorities of East Riding of Yorkshire and Hull City Council’s are also launching the scheme on a similar timetable.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Option 1 – To adopt the scheme.

3.2 Option 2 – Not to adopt the scheme.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1

The council could continue with its existing controls but this would not help to drive up standards or provide information about hygiene standards to consumers.

4.2 Option 2

The scheme would complement existing regulatory controls by improving hygiene standards and raising consumer awareness in a similar way to the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 There are no implications.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 No issues were identified from the integrated impact assessment.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 The scheme has received a positive response from the trade following its promotion by the Welsh CIEH and is being adopted across a number of English local authorities.

7.2 Currently registered tattoo premises are being consulted in the pre assessment phase of the project.
8. **RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 To adopt the Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme as outlined in the report and detailed at Appendix 1.

**DIRECTOR OF PLACES**

Church Square House  
Scunthorpe  
North Lincolnshire  
DN15 6XQ

Author: Martin Allcock  
Date: 28 November 2014

**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**

- Appendix 1 Rules of the Scheme/Frequently asked Questions.
The Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme

Rules of the Scheme

1. All premises offering tattooing within a council’s administrative area shall be eligible to apply to participate in the THRS. Application to join the scheme constitutes acceptance of the Rules of the Scheme.

2. Irrespective of any other services offered by the premises the THRS shall apply to the tattooing procedure only.

3. Tattooing premises will be rated by the inspecting officer in accordance with the rating scheme following a programmed or initial inspection carried out under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (hereinafter called ‘the Act’).

4. Where, in consequence of conditions found at the time of the initial inspection, the inspecting officer requires remedial works or action to be taken, at the request of the operator, the rating may be deferred to allow the works or action to be undertaken and the premises shall be rated upon the completion of the works.

5. Upon the THRS rating being awarded, the awarding local authority shall give the operator of the premises a THRS Certificate indicating the date of the rating inspection and the rating awarded and a THRS window sticker indicating the rating awarded. The operator of the premises may display the Certificate within the premises to which it relates and may display the window sticker in a prominent position on a window, door or other entry to the premises to which it relates where it will be readily seen by potential purchasers.

6. The THRS Certificate and THRS window sticker remain the property of the awarding local authority and must be returned by the premises operator to the authority on demand.

7. A list of all premises in England and Wales having a rating awarded under the THRS will be currently maintained on the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Cymru Wales Region website www.cieh-cymruwales.org

8. Local authorities may display rating of tattoo premises within their own areas on their own web site and may, at their discretion, provide a link to the CIEH Cymru Wales web site from their own web sites.

9. Owners of premises with a THR may refer to or display their current rating on advertising material and websites should they wish to do so.
10. Where an operator of premises displays a THRS certificate or sticker that is no longer valid through its being superseded, or claims in any advertising material display or manner to be the holder of a THR that is incorrect, or makes any claim with regard to the scheme that is misleading in any material particular, he shall be liable to prosecution under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

11. Operators of premises holding a current THRS rating may apply to be re-rated, but may not do so until 3 months after the most recent inspection under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 inspection and THRS rating visit has elapsed.

12. Owners of premises may ask the local authority to re-rate their premises where they are of the view that the rating currently awarded to the premises no longer reflects the conditions existing there. A local authority may not re-rate a premises within 3 months of a rating visit carried out contemporaneously with a programmed (or initial) inspection carried out under the Act and may at its discretion decline to re-rate a premises where the request to re-rate is received within 2 months of a programmed inspection under the Act being due.

13. Where an operator of premises is aggrieved by the THRS Rating awarded to his premises he may appeal to the local authority making the award. The grounds under which an appeal may be made are:

   a. That the rating allocated to the premises does not properly reflect conditions existing within it at the time of the rating visit, OR
   b. That the rating criteria were incorrectly applied.

14. The appeal must be made in writing within 28 days of the notification of the THRS rating and must state the grounds upon which the appeal is founded. The appeal shall be determined in accordance with the local authority appeal mechanism which will be communicated to the owner at the same time as the THRS Rating is communicated, and the determination shall be binding on both parties.

Withdrawal from the Scheme:

Where an operator wishes to withdraw from the scheme they must write to the awarding local authority advising of their intention to withdraw. On withdrawal from the scheme the operator should return the certificate and window sticker and the local authority will remove the business from the database and website.
Tattooing Hygiene Rating Scheme FAQs

1. Who supports the scheme?

The Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme (THRS) is a voluntary scheme and is supported by the Tattoo and Piercing Industry Union and the Chartered Institute of Environmental health.

2. Who delivers the scheme?

Local authorities

3. What does the THRS cover?

It covers the following:
• Cleanliness and cleansing of equipment in specific premises;
• Record keeping;
• Cleanliness and personal hygiene of the operators;
• Training;
• Professionalism and
• Staff protection

4. If I own several premises, do I need to get each one inspected and rated?

Yes

5. Is the scheme adopted across the UK?

The scheme was developed recently in Wales. There are only a few areas in England that have currently adopted the scheme because it is so new.

6. Does it cost anything?

In North Lincolnshire, there will be no initial charge for your rating.

What do I get in return?

• Practitioners will be able to seek advice from North Lincolnshire Council on how to improve their practices and help to drive up standards within the trade;
• High rated practitioners will have been able to demonstrate adoption of best practice in the industry including infection prevention and control;
• Reduction in the risk of incidents of infection and transmission of infectious disease from tattooing procedures;
• Promotion of the use of registered, legitimate tattooists;
• Through published ratings the public will be able to make an informed choice about the business they select for a tattoo and can be reassured that the practitioner takes cleanliness and infection control seriously as part of their everyday practice;

• The general public will be made aware that you have entered into a voluntary agreement with North Lincolnshire Council that strives to protect both the public and practitioners.

7. Can the rating be reviewed if improvements have been made?

A rating will not be reviewed for at least 3 months and will be automatically reviewed each year.

8. What if I don’t agree with the rating?

An appeals process will be made available and a different person will review your premises and give you a verdict on the rating. (Please refer to the “Rules of the Scheme” for more details.

9. I would like to apply to belong to the scheme. What do I do next?

Email food.safety@northlincs.gov.uk or Tel: 01724 297561 and ask to speak to an officer from the Food & Safety Team

Premises will be rated into four categories;

1 Needs Improvement        2 Satisfactory        3 Good        4 Very Good

For further information on how to apply to take part in the scheme and the scheme rules: Web link

Premises rated in North Lincolnshire will be published on the North Lincolnshire Council and Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Websites as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Premises Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 Stars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 Stars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 Stars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 Stars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A comprehensive list of current Tattoo Hygiene Ratings for all premises participating in the scheme will be displayed on the CIEH Cymru Wales web site.
Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme

Rating Standards

Rating Level 1

Any premises not achieving all of the requirements of Rating Level 2 shall be rated as Level 1.

Rating Level 2

To achieve a rating of Level 2 the premises must achieve all of the following requirements:

Cleanliness of premises and fittings

For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises and fittings in such premises a proprietor must ensure that—

(i) any internal wall, door, window, partition, floor, floor covering or ceiling is kept clean and in such good repair as to enable it to be cleaned effectively;

(ii) any waste material, or other litter arising from treatment must be placed immediately after use in an appropriate waste receptacle with a pedal operated lid and be handled and disposed of in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance as advised by the local authority;

(iii) any needle, razor or other sharp item used in treatment is disposed of in a sharps container that is kept out of reach of clients and the general public in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance as advised by the local authority;

(iv) any furniture, fitting or waste receptacle in the premises is kept clean and in such good repair as to enable it to be cleaned effectively;

(v) any table, couch or seat used by a client in the treatment area which may become contaminated with blood or other body fluids, and any surface on which a needle, instrument or equipment is placed immediately prior to treatment has a smooth impervious surface which is cleaned and disinfected—

(a) immediately after use; and

(b) at the end of each working day.

(vi) any table, couch, or other item of furniture used in treatment with which the clients' skin comes into contact is covered by a disposable paper sheet or plastic film wrap or similar material which is changed for every client;
(vii) no eating or drinking is permitted in the treatment area and a notice or notices reading "No Eating or Drinking" is prominently displayed there; the only exception to this being drinking water provided for clients during the tattoo process;

(viii) animals are prohibited from the premises except for animals used by the sight and/or hearing impaired.

Treatment Area

1. A proprietor must ensure that the clinical treatment area is physically distinct from the nonclinical area/s within the premises, and that all treatments are conducted solely in the treatment area that shall only be used for this purpose.

2. A proprietor must ensure that the floor of the treatment area is provided with a smooth surface that is impervious to water.

Cleansing and so far as is appropriate, the sterilization of needles, instruments, materials and equipment

1) For the purpose of securing the cleansing and so far as is appropriate, the sterilization of needles, instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with treatment an operator must ensure that—

(i) any gown, wrap or other protective clothing, paper or other covering, towel, cloth or other such article used in treatment—

(a) is clean and in good repair and, so far as is appropriate, is sterile;

(b) has not previously been used in connection with another client unless it consists of a material which can be and has been adequately cleansed and, so far as is appropriate, sterilized.

(ii) any needle or other sharp item used in treatment is single-use and disposable;

(iii) any single-use needle, metal instrument, or other instrument or equipment used in treatment or for handling such needle, instrument or equipment and any part of a hygienic piercing instrument that touches a client is sterile;

(iv) if petroleum jelly or lubricating gel is to be placed on a clients skin, enough for one client only should be removed from the stock container with a clean spatula, and placed in a container that is either disposed of at the end of each treatment or is cleaned and sterilized before re-use;

(v) tattoo machines and clip cords are covered with plastic which is renewed between clients and is disposed of appropriately;

(vi) elastic bands or needle runners used on tattoo machines are changed between clients and are disposed of appropriately;

(vii) tattoo stencils and marker pens are single use and are appropriately disposed of after use

(viii) for the purposes of tattooing or semi-permanent skin-colouring, only pigment/ink dispensed into single use pots or pre-packed in single use vials is used;
(ix) any container used to hold pigment/ink for tattooing or semi-permanent skin-colouring is used for only one client and disposed of together with any unused pigment/ink at the end of each treatment.

(x) Plastic film wrap used to cover tattoos is clean and used straight from the pack and is secured by hypo allergenic tape

2) For the purpose of securing the cleansing and so far as is appropriate, the sterilization of needles, instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with treatment a proprietor must provide—

(i) adequate facilities and equipment for—
   (a) cleansing and disinfection, including a general purpose sink with an adequate and constant supply of hot and cold running water on the premises separate from the wash hand basin required for operator personal hygiene. This general purpose sink should be located out of the treatment area wherever possible; and
   (b) sterilisation, unless only pre-sterilised items are used. All sterilisation equipment must be serviced in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions and maintained at manufacturer specified intervals and periodically tested by the operator to ensure its efficient operation. Records of maintenance, servicing, testing and operating cycles must be retained at the premises until the date falling six months after the equipment is destroyed or disposed of.

(ii) sufficient and safe gas points and electrical socket outlets;

(iii) clean and suitable storage which avoids contamination of the articles, needles, instruments and equipment.

Record Keeping

1. For the purposes of controlling the spread of infection a proprietor shall maintain a record of all clients treated in the premises which shall record
   i. Name of the client
   ii. Address of the client
   iii. Date of birth of the client
   iv. Nature of treatment (consultation, tattoo initial appointment, follow up appointment etc)
   v. Relevant medical history, health related questions and assessment
   vi. Name of the operator giving the treatment

which record shall be made available to the local authority on request.

2. The proprietor shall ensure that all client purchasing a tattoo or tattoo treatment shall sign and consent form consenting to the treatment, which form shall be retained by the proprietor and which shall be made available to the local authority on request.

Cleanliness and personal hygiene of Operators
For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of operators, a proprietor must ensure that an operator—

(i) is instructed in appropriate hygienic hand decontamination techniques and washes their hands immediately before carrying out a treatment on each client;
(ii) is instructed in the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE),
(iii) keeps his/her hands and nails clean and his/her nails short and free from nail varnish, nail decoration or any form of nail covering;
(iv) does not wear wrist watches, stoned rings or other wrist jewellery whilst undertaking tattooing procedures,
(v) keeps any open lesion on an exposed part of the body effectively covered by an impermeable dressing;
(vi) wears disposable, well fitting, powder free surgical gloves that conform to European Community (EC) standards, are free from rips and tears and have not previously been used with another client,
(vii) does not wear natural rubber latex (NRL) gloves for tattooing procedures involving petroleum based lubricants,
(viii) wears a gown, wrap or protective clothing that is clean and washable and, so far as is appropriate, is sterile, and wears a single use plastic apron that is disposed of appropriately after use;
(ix) does not smoke or consume food or drink in the treatment area.

For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of operators a proprietor must provide—

(i) suitable and sufficient wash hand basins with non hand operated taps appropriately located for the sole use of operators, including an adequate and constant supply of clean hot and cold water, liquid soap and paper towels stored in a wall mounted dispenser next to the wash hand basin. Hand washing instructions should be clearly displayed at such basins;
(ii) suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for operators that shall be maintained in a visibly clean and hygienic condition

It shall be the duty of all operatives to practise and maintain high standards of personal hygiene at all times.

Rating Level 3

To achieve a rating of Level 3 the premises must achieve all the requirements of Rating Level 2 and all of the additional following requirements:

1. To the client record required to satisfy the requirements of Rating Level 2 shall be added

(iv) Method or form of identification used to verify date of birth of client
(v) a record of the brand and batch number of all inks used in the tattooing of the client.

2. The proprietor shall provide all clients purchasing a tattoo or tattoo treatment with written aftercare advice in a form that the client can retain and take away with them.

**Rating Level 4**

To achieve a rating of Level 4 the premises must achieve all the requirements of Rating Level 3 and all of the additional following requirements:

1. The proprietor of the business and all tattoo artists practising from the premises shall be members of a trade or professional body at such level of membership as may be appropriate to their operational level, such body being defined as one whose aims an objectives include promotion of safe and hygienic tattooing practise;

2. Arrangements are in place to encourage staff to be immunised against Hepatitis B. The following records should be kept
   i. Detailing that staff have been offered immunisation against Hepatitis B and have declined,
   ii. Where staff have been vaccinated a copy of staff documentation of Hepatitis B vaccination, if blood test is done post vaccination to check for antibodies copy of documented proof protection against Hepatitis B .

3. (i) The proprietor of the premises shall have a training programme (CPD or similar) in place for all staff, which programme shall be tailored to ensure that all staff have access to training that ensures that the are competent to practice at the level at which they operate.

   (ii) Staff training records (or copies thereof) shall be retained at the premises and shall be made available to the local authority on request.
Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme – Application Form

Full Name of Premises: ____________________________________________

Full Address of Premises: ________________________________________

Telephone Number: ____________________________________________

Email Address: _________________________________________________

Website: _______________________________________________________

Full Name of Applicant: _________________________________________

Position in Business: ___________________________________________

Full Names of Tattooists (please indicate if they are employed or self-employed): ________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Have you undertaken the self-audit questionnaire from the Tattooing Guidance toolkit?  Y/N

I certify that the information given by me in this application is true and complete.

I consent to the Council retaining my application and details on its database(s).

Signed: ___________________________ Date: __________________________

Please return this form to: North Lincolnshire Council, Food and Safety Team, PO Box 42, Church Square House, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, DN15 6XQ
Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme

.................................................................. achieved tattoo hygiene rating

1  2  3  4  

GOOD

Inspection date ........................................................................................................

The Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme is delivered by

and supported by