

For Comment	
Public	
Report to:	Police & Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	April 20th 2015
Report of:	Police and Crime Commissioner
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Agenda Item:	7 (a)

Reducing the impact of alcohol on crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide a general update on the area of work to reduce the impact of alcohol on crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Police and Crime Panel is invited to note the contents of this report.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To inform the Panel on progress to reduce the impact of alcohol on crime and ASB.

4. Summary of Key Points

4.1 Nottinghamshire Police Alcohol Strategy

Reducing the impact of drugs and alcohol on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour is a key strategic priority for the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner hosted a successful conference in 2014, to bring together statutory agencies, other key stakeholders and Third Sector providers, to review the impact of alcohol upon crime and ASB, and to identify shared priorities to address the problems.

The priorities identified at the conference were used to inform the PCC's Alcohol Strategy and the Action Plan. The plan sets out how partners will tackle the causes of alcohol misuse and reduce the impact of drink fuelled crime, including anti-social behaviour in the night-time economy. The plan incorporates the following strategic themes:

- Working together and sharing intelligence
- Early intervention and education
- Recovery and support
- Diversion and prevention
- Enforcement

Since then, progress against the strategic objectives has been monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. The PCC reviews overall progress at quarterly meetings attended by the strategic theme leads.

In addition, the strategic plans of the Local Alcohol Action Areas (LAAA) in Nottingham City and County align with the PCC's priorities to reduce alcohol related crime and have contributed to the overall progress of the Commissioner's strategic plan. Although the Home Office initiated LAAA pilots were due to finish in March 2015, the Commissioner and all related strategic leads are in agreement that the work should continue beyond this date to build on progress made and to develop further initiatives.

Progress on the implementation of the PCC's alcohol plan is part of the Police and Crime Plan monitoring report considered by the panel every 6 months. An update on the alcohol action plan is also reported as part of the PCC's annual report.

A review of operational activity connected with alcohol harm has recently been undertaken within Nottinghamshire Police. The intention of the review is to ensure tactical delivery is aligned with the strategic intent of Nottinghamshire Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

- 4.2 A 'Nottinghamshire Police Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan' is currently in draft format (see Appendix A) and is subject of consultation with Basic Command Unit (BCU) and force thematic leads. The draft plan compliments the Nottinghamshire Police Substance Misuse Strategy 2013 and the PCC Alcohol Strategy, while taking in to account developments to the operating and legal landscape since 2013.

- 4.3 Following internal consultation, the Alcohol Strategy will be presented to the PCC for discussion and feedback.

- 4.4 Alcohol Strategy Action Plan Update

Below is a summary of some of the key achievements of the PCC's plan in the last twelve months:.

- 4.5 **Working together and Sharing Intelligence**

An action plan has been in place in the City to deliver data sharing, based on the Cardiff Model, and a version of this model has been fully implemented since March 2015. This allows data to be used to analyse activity around licensed premises and in the longer-term to target resources more effectively. In the County, similar progress has been made in relation to improvements in data sharing. Data is now received from EMAS, Kings Mill Hospital and Bassetlaw, and is used to map problems and visit venues. A long-term objective is to continue to improve the quality of data received, and to improve its use to target problem areas more specifically.

- 4.5 **Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP)**

CAPs bring together a range of stakeholders and agencies to tackle the problem of underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour. CAPS have become successfully established in Mansfield and Ashfield, work is currently underway to establish similar multi agency networks in Newark and Worksop. The work of CAP includes developing best practice concerning under-age drinking. The '*PASS - Proof of Age Scheme*' is an initiative promoted by the PCC and Nottinghamshire Police. The focus of this work is currently on increasing awareness and acceptance of the scheme with Licensees unfamiliar with the project. 'PASS' is now ACPO endorsed, so opportunity exists to advance assurance with the license and security trade.

- 4.6 Also aligned to CAP is a series of free training events offered to the 'on' and 'off' license trade. This work centres on responsible retail trading; delivered by a local legal business, sessions are due to take place week commencing 23rd March in Rushcliffe and Broxtowe before moving across the County.

4.7 **Best Bar None**

Best Bar None is a national scheme which aims to reduce alcohol related crime by raising the standards of the licensed premises. Businesses which meet all of the essential criteria are awarded the Best Bar None status. The scheme is well-established in the City, and is becoming successfully embedded in the County. Current reporting indicates in excess of 150 County and City premises benefitting from the scheme, raising standards in licensing management. A Best Bar None awards ceremony was held in December 2014, to mark the progress of the scheme and the contributions made by individual venues. This was a positive and well attended event, during which the Commissioner took part in the award ceremony.

4.8 **Ending Alcohol Harm**

The Drinkaware Campaign, "You wouldn't do it sober, you shouldn't do it drunk" which was launched in December 2014, focused on inappropriate sexual behavior while under the influence of alcohol. Using poster and film media within license premises and cinemas, the campaign brought in focus the issues affecting men and women whose judgment was affected by alcohol. Ending Alcohol Harm also included the pilot initiative of 'Club Hosts' at four venues across the City and County. The role of the Host was to identify and support customers at risk of acute signs of vulnerability from factors including alcohol. The evaluation of the campaign is due to be published later in the Spring 2015. The support provided by the PCC ensured the campaign was implemented across the whole of Nottinghamshire. The key focus of the Drinkaware campaign is to achieve behaviour change, and pending the outcome of the evaluation, this work may be extended to targeting alcohol related violence in the night-time economy.

4.9 **Vulnerability Training**

Following the above campaigns, a series of training programs has been delivered to the door staff across Nottinghamshire. This work involved use of video resources raising issues of vulnerability among those affected by alcohol. Learning from this work highlights further opportunity to improve the level of awareness in helping door staff broaden attitudes to vulnerability. It is the police intention to involve the Security Industry Association (SIA) locally in order to strengthen training on vulnerability in SIA accreditation.

4.10 **Diversion and Prevention - Innovative Measures**

The PCC's strategic action plan includes a number of innovative measures to support early intervention within the night time economy. This includes the use of cocaine torches and breathalysers in both the City and Mansfield. This practice has become embedded at a number of venues and received positive feedback from door staff who regard it as a legitimate tool on which to engage customers. When complimented by police powers such as the Section 35 Direction to Leave (Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014), these tools support the strategic intent for early intervention to prevent harm from alcohol. Signposting is an important part of this work, and materials have been produced to provide information to customers to signpost to relevant alcohol support agencies.

4.11 Local Alcohol Action Areas (LAAA)

The LAAA partnership group has overseen projects including those listed above. A key strength of the group is the enabling of joint working across the City and County. This is particularly important for border night time economy areas such as West Bridgford across to the City centre. As the LAAA initiative comes to an end, there remains enthusiasm to continue the group as a positive partnership through which new approaches to addressing alcohol harm can be explored and adopted.

4.12 Future plans: Force Alcohol Tactical Board

With formalisation of the Nottinghamshire Police Alcohol Strategy, a reorganisation of reporting structure will include reforming the Force Alcohol Tactical Board. The intention is that the Alcohol Tactical Board will assist work across the LAAA and other local groups, providing a coordinating and accountability role to drive police action and influence partnership working.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

5.1 None

6. Human Resources Implications

6.1 None to note

7. Equality Implications

7.1 Considered and none to report

8. Risk Management

8.1 Considered in terms of maximising opportunity to prevent harm of those most at risk of alcohol abuse.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

9.1 Links to the OPCC Alcohol Strategy

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

10.1 No further considerations

11. Details of outcome of consultation

11.1 Internal consultation on the draft strategy is currently under way. Action updates are drawn from police lead officers and alcohol licensing departments. Consultation has also taken place with the Crime & Drugs Partnership alcohol lead, Alex Castle-Clarke.

12. Appendices

12.1 Appendix A: Nottinghamshire Police Alcohol Strategy (Draft)

13. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

13. None