

9 October 2012**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****ALCOHOL SERVICES BRIEFING – REPORT BACK****Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the information received by the study group of Joint Health Members examining alcohol services.

Information and Advice

2. On 3rd September 2012, Tammy Coles, Senior Public Health Manager, NHS Nottinghamshire County and Barbara Brady, consultant in public health made a presentation to Members of the Joint Health Committee on alcohol services. The presentation is attached as an appendix to this report.
3. Members heard that in Nottinghamshire it is estimated that 21,000 people are dependent on alcohol in Nottinghamshire – 2.7% of the population. Commissioning alcohol services is transferring to local authorities. In the County alcohol and drugs services would be brought together, whereas the City alcohol is dealt with separately to drugs. The concern now is for 'poly-drug' use and the use of alcohol and drugs in combination.
4. All alcohol use carries risk; men should not regularly consume more than 3-4 units per day and for women 2-3 units per day. Consumption greater than this increases the risk of memory loss, depression and ultimately liver disease and cancer.
5. 20% of people binge drink, which is defined as consuming twice the daily amount in one session. The majority of us would binge drink at a dinner party.
6. In response to questions, the NHS Nottinghamshire County officials indicated that they collaborated well with City PCT colleagues.
7. It was confirmed that there is work to be done around 'getting the message out' and employees suffering from alcohol dependency need to be supported in the journey. There needs to be a greater awareness of what services are available in a non-prejudicial way. Society has stigmatized alcoholism and we do not intervene when we encounter it the same way we might if we suspected someone has cancer.
8. There is also a relationship between alcohol and obesity – a glass of wine is like a slice of cake – it has no nutritional value.

9. The following areas were identified as possible areas for development:

- Awareness of where families can go for help
- What alcoholics can do for themselves
- Promotion of the unit calculator
- Targeted use of resources
- Realisation that the problem is not just social but anti-social

10. In further discussion Members agreed that following this briefing it would not be necessary for this study group to enter a phase of evidence gathering. Instead, the Chairman of Joint Health Scrutiny Committee will write to the Health and Wellbeing Boards for the City and County to highlight the possible areas for development listed above.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Joint City and County Health Committee notes that the work of the Alcohol Services Study Group has now concluded.
- 2) That Chairman of the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee writes to the Chairmen of the City and County Health and Wellbeing Boards to highlight the possible areas for development in relation to alcohol services

Councillor Mel Shepherd

Chairman of Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Gately – 0115 9772826

Background Papers

Nil

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All