

Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

SCRUTINY INQUIRY DAY

Date TBC
Room TBC

This meeting is a public meeting, though members of the public must submit any statements in advance of the meeting – outcomes will be presented to the next public meetings of the Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on (date TBC)

Background

On 18th May 2012, the Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny received a briefing on Bath & North East Somerset Council's (B&NES) Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and also the Government's Alcohol Strategy that was this year.

The briefing outlined that a refreshed version of the B&NES strategy had been adopted and key priorities agreed by the Cabinet in April 2012. The key themes in the strategy are health and treatment, community safety, crime and disorder children and young people and partnership working. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Steering Group, a multi-agency group with Council representation, is responsible for implementing our local strategy.

The briefing also outlined that in March 2012; the Government launched its 'Alcohol Strategy' which introduced a number of new powers to local authorities including: from April 2012, licensing authorities and local health bodies became 'responsible authorities' under the Licensing Act 2003. This means that both will now be automatically notified of an application or review and can instigate a review of a license themselves. From October 2012, local authorities will also have the power to introduce Early Morning Restriction Orders to support local areas to restrict alcohol sales late at night if they are causing problems and a new late night levy for businesses that sell alcohol late into the night, which can be used to cover the cost of policing and wider local authority action. The government also plans to hold national consultation on whether to ban multi-buy drinks promotions and the levels of minimum pricing for alcohol sales.

The B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy will need to be reviewed in light of the national strategy within the next 12 months so the Wellbeing Panel agreed to undertake a scrutiny inquiry day (SID) to assist with this review.

Purpose

The purpose of the scrutiny inquiry day is to provide the opportunity to formulate policy approaches with relevant experts and stakeholders on the key issues in the B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction strategy and the new powers being introduced through the Government's 'Alcohol Strategy' and refresh the B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and its desired outcomes.

Key Objectives

1. To engage key stakeholders to develop a future policy direction for the use of new powers for local authorities and health bodies through the Government's 'Alcohol Strategy'. Specifically SID will formulate recommendations about:
 - a. How best to utilise the new licensing powers which mean that local authorities and local health bodies will become 'responsible authorities' in order to reduce alcohol harm.
 - b. The use of other new powers including extended Early Morning Restriction Orders and late night levies for businesses in Bath and North East Somerset
2. To examine existing evidence in order to identify the harm caused by alcohol in Bath and North East Somerset. This data will feed into the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and refreshed Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.
3. To engage key stakeholders in refreshing the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and its desired outcomes:
 - a. *Increasing the number of people drinking sensibly within the daily safe limits; Decreasing the physical and emotional harm arising in people who misuse alcohol; Decreasing the crime and disorder arising in people who misuse alcohol; Decreasing the impairment at work arising in people who misuse alcohol; Decreasing the amount of family and community harm related to alcohol misuse and; Preventing children and young people and adults from misusing alcohol.*
4. If possible, influence national policy by formulating a joint response to government consultation on minimum pricing policies and 'multi buy' offers (timescales for the consultations are yet to be confirmed by Government)

Scope

The Scrutiny Inquiry Day could focus on:

- What work has been undertaken already and what issues have been identified? Including an introduction to the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and progress made by the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Steering Group and a look at existing data on harm caused by alcohol in Bath & North East Somerset.
- What are the new powers being introduced through the Government's Alcohol Strategy and (timings permitting) what is the government currently consulting on?
 - What are the issues with introducing these new powers?
 - What opportunities are there with introducing the new powers?
 - What are the interests/obligations of stakeholders attending the Scrutiny Inquiry Day?
 - Discussion/formulation of a response to any government consultation
- Formulation of joint recommendations about how to refresh the B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and the role will these new powers play in the strategy. Recommendations may also be made about how to deliver the strategy including consideration of partnership working and funding.

Approach

The Wellbeing Panel host the Scrutiny Inquiry Day, however it has been recognised that the subject area under investigation overlaps with other Panel remits, particularly the Economic and

Community Development PD&S Panel (who are responsible for scrutinising community safety) and the Early Years, Children and Youth PD&S Panel. The Wellbeing Panel will therefore keep these Panels regularly informed about developing the SID and members of these Panels will also be invited to attend the Scrutiny Inquiry Day.

The Panel will request for written submissions at least 5 days before the event to try to avoid duplication and to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to engage in the event.

Exclusions:

We need to prioritise areas where B&NES and key partners are likely to either have impact locally (through the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy) or influence nationally (by responding to government consultation). Therefore, the SID will not focus on areas that, whilst important, we have limited influence such as supermarket pricing policies.

Outline of the Day (draft)

The day will focus on:-

- Presentation/briefing about the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and what progress has been made so far
- Presentation/introduction on joint ways of working with new licensing procedures, Early Morning Restriction Orders, Late Night Levies and government consultation (if available).
 - Group discussion or small group workshops to discuss new powers and joint response to government consultation on minimum pricing and restricting 'multi buy' offers
 - Refreshment break
- Workshops: Potential topics could include the following (attendees pick two out of four to participate in):
 - Engaging with businesses/workplaces
 - Working with parents, children and young people and vulnerable groups
 - Crime and disorder associated with alcohol consumption
 - Accessing treatment
- Feedback from workshops, additional points to raise in recommendations, next steps and sessions close

Attendees

(Please note a full communications plan will be developed therefore the below only provides a draft list of some of the key stakeholders that will be invited to engage at the Scrutiny Inquiry Day)

Council:

Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels: Initiations sent to all members of the Wellbeing, Economic and Community Development and Early Years Children and Youth

Cabinet Members: An invitation will be sent to all Cabinet members both those with a particular interest would include Simon Allen (Wellbeing), Nathan Hartley (Early Years Children and Youth) and David Dixon (Neighbourhoods)

Council/Primary Care Trust (PCT) Departments: Public Health, Policy and Partnerships (Community Safety), Licensing Team. This will also include an open invite to the Chief Executive and all Strategic and Divisional Directors.

Partners and Stakeholders:

Clinical Commissioning Group

Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board Members

Local Involvement Network (LINKs)

Health and Social Care Organisations: Sirona, Royal United Hospital (A&E), Great Western Ambulance Service, Avon and Wiltshire Mental (AWP) Health Trust, Developing Health and Independence (DHI), Project 28

Responsible Authorities Group (RAG): Avon and Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue, Avon Probation Service, Primary Care Trust, City Centre Manager (Future Bath Plus/Bath Business Improvement District), Curo (formerly Somer Housing)

*Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Steering Group:
Public Health, Substance Misuse Treatment Service Providers, Community Safety, Public Protection, Fire Services, Probation, Police, RUH, Commissioners Adult & Children's substance misuse services, Bath Spa University, Cllr Katie Simmons (representing Wellbeing PDS)*

*Night Time Economy Steering Group:
Police, City Centre Manager, Licensing, Cllr Lisa Brett, Environmental Health, Business Improvement District Representative, University Student Representatives, Fire Service, Public Protection*

Local Strategic Partnership Members: Chambers of Commerce, Business West, Children's Trust, Youth Parliament, Federation of Bath Residents Associations,

Town/Parish Councils

Residents Associations

Educational Establishments: University of Bath, Bath Spa University, City of Bath College, Norton Radstock College

Draft Timescales

The planning and preparation for the Scrutiny Inquiry Day will take a minimum of 3 months looking at an event date to be agreed around December/January. This would allow for a report of findings/ outcomes to be delivered to the March Wellbeing Panel meeting and to Cabinet in March.

Enquiries

For further information, contact:

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