

## Alcohol harm reduction strategy

### Scrutiny inquiry day (SID)

(A joint working task by EYCY, ECD, PTE and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels)

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2013

Room: Brunswick, Guildhall, Bath

### Terms of Reference

#### Background

- March 2012 the Government launched its Alcohol Strategy that included new powers for local authorities from April 2012. Licensing and health bodies become responsible authorities under the Licensing Act 2003. They are now notified of applications / review and can instigate a review of a licence. From Oct 2012, Local Authorities' also have powers to introduce Early Morning Restriction Orders (to restrict alcohol sales if a problem) and the late Night Levy (from businesses to cover cost of policing and Local Authority action).
- April 2012 the cabinet adopted and set key priorities of the refreshed B&NES Alcohol Harm reduction Strategy. Key themes: health & treatment, community safety, crime and disorder, children and young people, partnership working. A steering group would be responsible for implementation.
- May 2012, the Wellbeing PDS Panel received a briefing on Bath & North East Somerset Council's (B&NES) Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.
- Later in 2012, initial ToR of the SID set-out to review and refresh the B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, and to consider how the new powers from the Government's Alcohol Strategy would impact. The work would also aim to feed into a government consultation which included topics such as minimum pricing
- Oct 2012 new powers of licensing become available to local authorities
- Government holds a consultation on alcohol harm closing in Feb 2013
- Existing steering group decides during May 2013 that the need to address alcohol harm reduction remains but that the work needs input from different panels. New steering group assigned
- The Health and Wellbeing Board have also identified alcohol as a key priority within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (due to go to 10 July Cabinet and full sign off in November 2013).

#### 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'. For example, the use of other new powers including extended Early Morning Restriction Orders 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.

## Scope

The Scrutiny Inquiry Day will 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?
- Formulation of joint recommendations about how to refresh the B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and the role these new powers will play in the strategy. Recommendations may also be made about how to deliver the strategy including consideration of partnership working and funding.
- This work will inform the current review of licensing policy. As such, the scope may include discussion of Early Morning Restriction Orders and late Night Levies.

## Approach

This is a joint panel task led by Cllr Lisa Brett. The relevant PDS panels are: PTE, EYCY, ECD and Wellbeing.

Whilst this SID is a public meeting, members of the public must submit any statements in advance of the meeting (with 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). It is envisaged these statements will be supplied as part of the briefing pack / papers on the SID day.

Outcomes will be presented to the next public meeting of the Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (potentially Nov 2013) with all the relevant PDS Panels invited to attend this meeting.

## 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 future 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:-

- Health and wellbeing factors (with input on children)
  - Social / financial impact
  - What is currently being done?
  - Best practice
  - Challenges
  - Recommendations from panels
- Community safety issues
  - Social impact on communities – ASB and DV
  - Financial cost to police and local authority
  - What is currently being done?
  - Best practice
  - Challenges
  - Recommendations from panels
- Licensing and environmental factors
  - Types of complaint and financial costs of these
  - What is being done?
  - Best practice
  - Challenges
  - Recommendations from panels

An afternoon workshop will take groups of stakeholders from a mix of health, community safety, residents and licensing to consider potential questions:

- Given the range of agencies involved in harm reduction strategies, which task should be the main priority for improved performance for BaNES?
- Which alcohol harm reduction strategy will have the highest return on investment?
- What practices would the group most like to see introduced?

#### 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: Invitations sent to all members of the EYCY, PTE, ECD and Wellbeing panels

Cabinet Members: An invitation will be sent to all Cabinet members. Those with a particular interest would include Simon Allen (Wellbeing), Dine Romero (Early Years Children and Youth) and David Dixon (Neighbourhoods), David Bellotti (Resources)

Council: 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.

Other Cllrs: Chair of Licensing

#### Partners and Stakeholders:

Clinical Commissioning Group

Health and Wellbeing Board Members

Healthwatch

Health and Social Care Organisations: Sirona, Royal United Hospital (A&E / gastroenterology), South West 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, NHS Rep, City Centre Manager (Future Bath Plus/Bath Business Improvement District), Curo

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

University of Bath: Institute of Policy Research (Tobacco Control Group)

### Timescales

The planning and preparation for the Scrutiny Inquiry Day will take a minimum of 3 months with an event in October. This would allow for a report of findings/ outcomes to be delivered to the November 2013 PDS Panel meeting and to Cabinet for December 2013.

### Enquiries

For further information, contact:

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