

# **Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Panel**

**28<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

## **Risk Assessment for Item 15: B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy**

### **Proposed recommendation(s) of report:**

- 1.1 The Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel support the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset (2014 – 2019) and agree that it is taken forward for endorsement by B&NES Council Cabinet.
- 1.2 The Strategy is refreshed in 2017 to update priorities and recommendations to ensure relevance to emerging local, regional and national issues.
- 1.3 The Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel actively engage in the call for evidence based national initiatives to support local delivery such as minimum unit pricing, a reduction in blood alcohol levels for driving, a public health objective in the licensing act and restrictions on advertising and sponsorship by the alcohol industry.

### **Risks relating to proposed recommendation(s)**

No significant risks identified

### **Risks of not taking proposed recommendation(s)**

The risks of not taking the proposed recommendations are that B&NES Council will lack a coherent, up to date, evidence based strategy in attempting to reduce the harm to individuals, families and the community from alcohol misuse.

Without a co-ordinated multiagency approach to alcohol related harm which incorporates the full range of activities including prevention, regulation and enforcement, treatment and support it is unlikely that B&NES council will be able to effectively tackle alcohol misuse locally

Without a clear understanding of the local needs and what works to prevent alcohol misuse B&NES council will struggle to prioritise cost effective action to protect children and young people, reduce antisocial behaviour and crime and commission treatment and support services to meet local need.

Without multiagency working and an agreed strategy we will be unable to influence resource allocation across agencies to ensure cost effective use of limited resources. Equally we are less likely to be able to attract additional funding from external sources without being able to demonstrate cross agency working and a joined up approach.

Without a clear message to central government on effective, evidence based population approaches to alcohol misuse it is unlikely that national initiatives will be prioritised thereby minimising the impact of local work.

### **Actions to manage risks of not taking proposed recommendation(s)**

B&NES Health and Wellbeing Board have prioritised the reduction of alcohol related harm in their Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which ensures that the issue is high priority locally and has commitment from the range of agencies represented on the Board including B&NES Council, B&NES CCG, and the local HealthWatch.

The B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction Steering Group will continue to co-ordinate and facilitate joint working on this agenda to ensure best use of resources and encourage innovation and leadership across agencies.

<b>Contact person</b>	Cathy McMahon Public Health Development and commissioning manager 01225 394064 Cathy_mcmahon@bathnes.gov.uk
-----------------------	--