

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26 June 2017

Progress of Recommendations following the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Alcohol and its demand on Emergency Services



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members with progress of recommendations following the Committee's previous review of Alcohol and its Demand on Emergency Services.

Background

2. In 2016 Members of the committee agreed to establish a working group to undertake a review of alcohol and its demand on emergency services. The aim of this review was to gain an understanding of the impact of alcohol related incidents on levels of demand for emergency services within County Durham and to contribute evidence to support delivery of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The review's focus was on understanding demand from emergency services and findings from a cumulative impact assessment and has looked at prevention work that has been undertaken to reduce demand.
3. To achieve this aim, the review gathered evidence through desktop research, meetings with officers and service professionals from the Council's Public Health and Licensing Teams, attended the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Alcohol Harm Reduction conference and undertaken appropriate field study activity to gain an insight into the impact of alcohol on the emergency services.

Review's Conclusions

4. Alcohol significantly impacts on the work of the emergency services. Drunkenness places an avoidable demand on our police, fire, ambulance and medical services. It also affects the safety of personnel working within these professions. The welfare of emergency personnel is paramount. It was a concern of the committee that staff faced abuse and risk of assault in their daily work.
5. The review also highlighted positive work undertaken by emergency services, Balance and the Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner to raise awareness of the demand alcohol places on the public sector and the alcohol harm reduction initiatives carried out.

- 6 From the outset Members were committed to work with emergency services to understand issues and seek potential outcomes to reduce demand. It is accepted that there is no one solution or 'quick fix' to reduce demand and this is further exacerbated by a reduction in available resources.
- 7 The review's key findings focused on education and campaigns, affordability, availability, drink driving limits and information sharing that identify recommendations of which if implemented at either a local or national level may contribute to a reduction in demand. Locally, a number of these recommendations are for consideration by the Safe Durham Partnership Board. It is also hoped that work undertaken by the Committee will assist and provide support to the delivery of the Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.
- 8 The Committee's report was presented by Cllr Nearney to Cabinet on 14th December 2016 and the Safe Durham Partnership on 23rd January 2017 and included the following recommendations:
 - i. The Safe Durham Partnership Harm Reduction Group share findings from the Cumulative Impact Assessment with the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner to highlight the correlation between deprivation and alcohol to lobby the Government so that deprivation remains a factor within the formula for policing services. Furthermore it is suggested that consideration is given to undertaking a cumulative impact assessment within the development or implementation of a revised Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.
 - ii. Alcohol education events undertaken by partner agencies of the Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Group include awareness of the impact of alcohol and its demand on emergency services and where appropriate the video presentation commissioned by the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner.
 - iii. Consideration is given by the Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Group to undertake a joint campaign with emergency services that highlights the risk of increased demand over the Christmas period.
 - iv. The Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Group note information within the Home Office, Modern Crime Prevention Strategy and give consideration to undertaking further work on information sharing particularly between blue lights services and implementation of the Cardiff Model between Accident and Emergency and the Police.

- v. That the Safe Durham Partnership Board agree to share the working group's report together with a covering letter from the Safe Durham Partnership Board with all Constituent MPs, to raise awareness of the impact of alcohol on emergency services and as evidence in relation to reduction in drink drive limits, licensing and minimum unit pricing.
- vi. The Safe Durham Partnership continue to lobby for a reduction in the limit for drink driving and for the introduction of minimum unit pricing of alcohol.
- vii. The working group's report is shared with the Local Government Association's Safer Communities Board to raise awareness of the alcohol and its demand on emergency services and as evidence for Parliament's review of the Licensing Act 2003.

9 Appendix 2 provides progress on implementation of each of these recommendations and Jane Sunter, Public Health will be in attendance at the Committee's meeting to present the update and respond to Members questions in relation to this topic.

Recommendation

- 10. Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within this report and comment accordingly.

Background Papers

Overview and Scrutiny Review, Alcohol and its demand on Emergency Services, Cabinet December 2016

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – information within the report is aimed at reducing crime and disorder, Anti-Social behaviour and environmental crime

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP REPORT –Alcohol and its demand on Emergency Services
REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>1) The Safe Durham Partnership Harm Reduction Group share findings from the Cumulative Impact Assessment with the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner to highlight the correlation between deprivation and alcohol to lobby the Government so that deprivation remains a factor within the formula for policing services. Furthermore it is suggested that consideration is given to undertaking a cumulative impact assessment within the development or implementation of a revised Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.</p>	<p>The Committee's report has been shared with the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner.</p> <p>In Spring 2016, further work was undertaken in relation to improving the outcome of the previous cumulative impact of alcohol on County Durham communities. This was instigated as part of the PHE 5th Licensing Objective Evaluation, but the data produced did not provide any conclusive outcomes in regard to the cause and effect of alcohol related harm in the community that could influence Licensing Committees within local Councils. This process can be revisited by Public Health in 2018/19.</p> <p>This is confirmed in the review of the evidence base presented in The Public Health England Report: The Burden of Alcohol and the Effect and Cost Effectiveness of Alcohol control Policies. An Evidence Review (2016)</p>	<p>Public Health and Licensing</p>	<p>2018/19</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
	<p>The need to undertake a further Cumulative Impact Assessment can be assessed within the discussions on potential to merge the Drug and Alcohol Strategy in June 2017</p>		
<p>2) Alcohol education events undertaken by partner agencies of the Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Group include awareness of the impact of alcohol and its demand on emergency services and where appropriate the video presentation commissioned by the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner.</p>	<p>The harms of alcohol are highlighted in discussions delivered within the training partnership arrangement between Durham Constabulary and Lifeline. Training across a range of partners including schools, maternity services, the Council, police and fire service continues as per work plan</p> <p>The PCVC video can be utilised as a training tool to raise further awareness of the demands placed on emergency services.</p>	<p>Durham Constabulary and Drug and Alcohol Provider</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>3) Consideration is given by the Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Group to undertake a joint campaign with emergency services that highlights the risk of increased demand over the Christmas period.</p>	<p>To maximise the use of funding this message can be linked to the wider AHR campaign timetable in the lead up and over the Christmas period</p> <p>Any separate campaign would need to have a funding stream identified.</p>	<p>Durham Constabulary, PH Department,</p>	<p>From November 2017 over the Christmas period.</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>4) The Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Group note information within the Home Office, Modern Crime Prevention Strategy and give consideration to undertaking further work on information sharing particularly between blue lights services and implementation of the Cardiff Model between Accident and Emergency and the Police.</p>	<p>Cardiff data is now available. Public Health and Durham constabulary met with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) in April 2017. CDDFT are now undertaking internal scoping activity to look at data collection, coding and A&E pathways. This will be shared with a range of partners contained within an action plan.</p>	<p>Durham Constabulary, PH Department, CDDFT</p>	<p>April 2017 onwards</p>
<p>5) That the Safe Durham Partnership Board agree to share the working group's report together with a covering letter from the Safe Durham Partnership Board with all Constituent MPs, to raise awareness of the impact of alcohol on emergency services and as evidence in relation to reduction in drink drive limits, licensing and minimum unit pricing</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Safer Durham Partnership County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service North East Ambulance Service Durham Constabulary</p>	<p>Completed</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
6) The Safe Durham Partnership continue to lobby for a reduction in the limit for drink driving and for the introduction of minimum unit pricing of alcohol.	These issues highlighted continue to be monitored by the Alcohol harm Reduction Strategy Group and the Safe Durham Partnership. (as discussed in January 2017). This work is led by Balance on a regional basis.	Chair of the AHR Group	Ongoing throughout the year
7) The working group's report is shared with the Local Government Association's Safer Communities Board to raise awareness of the alcohol and its demand on emergency services and as evidence for Parliament's review of the Licensing Act 2003.	Completed. Letter sent to the Chair of the Local Government Association's Safer Communities Board.	Chair of SDP	Completed