
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM:	11
DATE OF MEETING:	22 April 2004	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Head of Community Services	OPEN	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Stuart Batchelor (5820)	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To accept and support local implementation of the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy by the Crime and Disorder Partnership and the District Council.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To advise members of the implications for local authorities and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships of the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England, published on 15th March 2004.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Prime Minister's Strategy Unit estimates that, nationally, alcohol misuse now costs £20bn a year. This is as a result of alcohol related health problems, crime and anti-social behaviour, loss of productivity in the workplace and problems for the families of those who misuse alcohol. The National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy aims to reduce the harm associated with alcohol misuse by creating partnerships between government, the drinks industry, health, police, individuals and communities.
- 3.2 The strategy focuses on the prevention, minimisation and management of the harm caused by alcohol misuse, through activity centred around the four areas of:
- Better education and communication
 - Improving health and treatment services
 - Combating alcohol related crime and disorder
 - Working with the alcohol industry.

3.3 The strategy places implementation and delivery duties on central Government, Primary Care Trusts, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and local authorities. The strategy states that CDRPs, with the addition of representation from local voluntary organisations and the drinking industry, form the obvious body to co-ordinate this delivery and to develop, if necessary, a local strategy within the wider framework set by the Local Strategic Partnership. CDRPs can assist individual members to achieve their objectives by:

- Providing a forum for agreeing a strategic framework on alcohol misuse
- Ensuring that information and good practice are shared
- Providing a forum for agreeing how organisations will work together

It shall also be the responsibility of CDRPs to decide what their local priorities for delivery are, within the framework set down by the strategy.

3.4 The strategy encourages local authorities in particular to consider, within its local context, the application of the following measures to address local alcohol related issues:

- The use of a variety of existing measures, under the auspices of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, to set the strategic framework for the management of the drinking economy. This includes planning law and policy, licensing law, the use of the Security Industry Authority, provisions governing littering and noise and transport policy.
- Production of a local alcohol strategy, in instances where there is clear and evidenced need. The strategy states that “this is likely to be in the context of existing strategies and will be left to the discretion of local authorities.” In practice, it is likely that a decision regarding the production and content of such a strategy will be made, by the CDRP, in light of the findings of the Crime and Drugs Audit 2004.
- Establishment of a ‘Code of Good Practice’ scheme for retailers, pubs and clubs, run by a partnership of the industry, police and licensing panels and led by the local authority. This is to ensure that industry works alongside local communities on issues such as underage drinking and town centre safety. Adherence to the code could be taken into account when there is an official complaint against a premises and license removal may be considered. Participation in these schemes will be voluntary, with the success of this being reviewed in the next parliament. If industry actions are not beginning to make an impact in reducing harms, government will assess the case for additional steps including possible legislation.
- Administration of local financial contributions from the industry towards managing the crime and disorder consequences of alcohol misuse. Depending on the outcome of further consultation, financial contribution towards the costs of alcohol misuse may be required. This contribution would be collected and managed by local authorities, with decisions on how the funds are to be spent being made by CDRPs in consultation with local communities. Possible uses include funding for Community Support Officers, additional cleaning, additional transport or the establishment of PubWatch schemes. Administration costs would be met by the scheme itself. The operation details of the scheme will be developed in

consultation with the industry, local authorities and the community. Decisions regarding whether these schemes should operate will be at the discretion of the local authority. Participating areas should establish schemes by the start of 2005.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 At this stage, it is recommended that implementation of the recommendations of strategy be undertaken within the existing financial resources of the Crime and Disorder Partnership.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The development of a local implementation strategy will support the Council's key aim of reducing crime and the fear of crime.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 The 2004 Drugs Crime and Disorder Audit 2004 will include alcohol within its scope and this will ensure that the community is consulted on the issue of alcohol use and whether it should be considered a priority for the Crime and Disorder Partnership over the following three years.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Alcohol use and misuse is a key factor in anti-social behaviour and violent crime and the new legislation will ensure that agencies work together to reduce its detrimental effects.

8.0 Background Papers

'National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England'

