

Feasibility Report – Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Summary

1. This report asks Members to consider a scrutiny topic registered by Councillor Sue Galloway to scrutinise the performance and value for money of the North Yorkshire & York NHS's alcohol treatment services, particularly in relation to hospital admissions and the impact on NI (National Indicator) 39 of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). A copy of the topic registration form is attached at Annex A to this report.

Criteria

2. Councillor Sue Galloway believes that this topic fits with the following eligibility criteria as set out in the topic registration form:
 - Public interest (i.e. in terms of both proposals being in the public interest and resident perceptions)
 - Under performance/service dissatisfaction
 - National/local/regional significance e.g. a central government priority area, concerns joint working arrangements at a local 'York' or wider regional context.
3. Councillor Reid, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, believes that the information contained within the topic registration form fits the eligibility criteria as set out above.

Background information

4. At a meeting of the Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee on 05.12.2008 Members expressed concerns that York had not been collecting data for NI 39 (alcohol harm related hospital admission rates) of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). A copy of the report for this meeting and the minutes from this meeting are attached at Annexes B & C respectively.
5. At the above meeting a copy of the North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement 2008/11 – Relevant Alcohol Indicators was circulated to Members. The document showed that a number of local authorities were collating information, but York was not listed as being one of these. This is shown at Annexes D & E to this report.

Consultation

6. Councillor Reid, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services made the following comment:

'This is a scrutiny of the Primary Care Trust (PCT) rather than City of York Council (CYC). Members of the Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee expressed concerns that the PCT did not appear to be playing their part in tackling alcohol problems making it difficult for CYC and other partners to be as effective as possible.'

7. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods & Community Safety) made the following comment:

'The only comment I might have is from my position as Chair of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). If this information were collected it would help services (police/drug & alcohol action team (DAAT)) to better target offenders and rehabilitation strategies.'

8. The Head of Licensing and Safety stated that this topic was about the work of the PCT rather than that of CYC. Safer York Partnership (SYP) maybe involved as having accountability within the strategic partnership and its DAAT linkages.

9. The Licensing Manager for City of York Council provided the following response:

'I am the licensing manager for the City of York Council responsible for the licensing of over 800 premises selling alcohol. In addition I chair the Safe York Partnership Nightsafe Task Group which was set up a number of years ago to reduce alcohol related violent crime in the city centre and to support the night time economy.'

Since the introduction of the new Licensing Act 2003 which saw a relaxation in the licensing laws and brought about 24 hour drinking we have seen drink related violent crime drop significantly our PSA1 Target for 2005 –2008 was to reduce violent crime by 25% we achieved 35%. This was achieved in partnership – initiatives included introducing a cumulative impact zone, 19 alcohol exclusion zones, taxi marshals, door staff, late night transport – taxis /buses, resiting of taxi ranks, high profile police operation Alten8, multi-agency inspections amongst others – I could go on.

The new objective for Nightsafe is to continue work with licensees, police and City of York Council to reduce alcohol related night-time economy.

National indicators are

N15 Serious violent crime rate

N20 Assault with serious injury

N39 Alcohol harm related hospital admission rates.

It is clear to impact further we need hospital data. All the indicators point to a changing drink culture of pre-loading with alcohol before going out or more relevant the drinking of alcohol at home.'

10. The following comments were received from the Director of Safer York Partnership (SYP):

- DAAT have currently got consultants in looking at the level of alcohol treatment services in York & North Yorkshire. Their report is awaited.
- NI 39 data is already available and has been supplied to the Corporate Performance Manager in the Resources Team. The trajectory for the City of York is baseline 1,294 per 100,000 hospital admissions for 06/07; 1544 08/09; 1620 09/10; 1675 10/11
- We are currently awaiting the monitoring data from the Department of Health as this is monitored annually.
- Alcohol related admissions include all and not just those as result of binge drinking aligned to the nighttime economy.

'This looks to be a scrutiny of how the PCT collects and reports on its data. I did refer (at the Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee) to the fact that the PCT do not engage well within the partnership which means that there is little presentation and/or explanation of data.'

11. The following comments were received from the Assistant Director of Vulnerable People and Third Sector Commissioning at North Yorkshire & York Primary Care Trust (NYYPCT):

'The Primary Care Trust (PCT) Public Health Department provide annual data to City of York Council in York regarding this target. This target will reflect, in time, the prevention work undertaken by all partners to prevent alcohol related admissions which is described within the North Yorkshire & York Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.'

'There is a Joint Alcohol Working Group across North Yorkshire and York which City of York Council are invited to attend. This group also reviews this particular target.'

12. NYYPCT have also provided further background information and this is attached at Annex F to this report.

Analysis

13. It should be noted from the comments above that data is collected annually and provided to City of York Council, however, NYYPCT have not demonstrated how they propose to collect or present the specific data requested by Cllr Sue Galloway and Members of the Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee.

Conduct of Review

14. Should the review go ahead, the aim would be to ensure that our partners, North Yorkshire & York Primary Care Trust (NYYPCT) have in place systems, which will monitor and give detailed information on NI 39 of the LAA. This target is a key one for CYC in meeting the LAA objectives. The review should achieve a process for collecting the information as detailed below:
- In York, how many hospital admissions are specifically related to alcohol as their primary cause?
 - From where are these people taken? I.e. from city centre locations/premises or private/domestic settings.
15. If the review were to go ahead it is suggested that it should take no more than 3 months and comprise a scoping report, up to a full day of evidence collection and a final report with recommendations. As part of any review the following questions should be explored and answered:
- Why isn't any data being collected?
 - What data should be being collected and how should it be presented?
 - What is needed to encourage NYYPCT to collect this data? and; given all the above
 - How would NYYPCT propose to collect this data?
16. Any review should aim to change the way evidence regarding the above is collected, as ultimately this information will allow Members to investigate the effect that alcohol is having on the health of the population of York.
17. Councillor Sue Galloway has suggested that the following persons could be consulted should the review go ahead:
- NYYPCT
 - Safer York Partnership (SYP)
 - Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP)
 - Relevant Officers from CYC
 - Nottingham PCT (possibly to discuss how they collect their data)
18. Members may also like to consider involving the York Hospitals Trust if the review were to proceed.

Corporate Priorities

19. This relates to the following Corporate Priority:
- 'Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest.'

Implications

20. **Financial** - There is a small amount of funding available within the scrutiny budget to carry out reviews. There are no other known financial implications associated with this report however; implications may arise should the review be progressed.
21. **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no known HR implications associated with this report.
22. **Legal** – There are no direct legal implications associated with this particular report however; legal implications associated with this topic may emerge if a review were to progress.
23. There are no known equalities, property, crime and disorder or other implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Risk Management

17. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

Recommendations

18. Based on the evidence presented within this report Members are advised to proceed with this scrutiny review in order to clarify how NYYPCT will collect and present the requested data to Members in the future. It is suggested that this review begin as soon as possible.
19. In making the above recommendation, the overall aim for this review was recognised together with a number of key objectives. A suggested remit is therefore attached at Annex G to this report and Members are asked to consider this and make any necessary changes, prior to approving a remit for this review.

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Feasibility Study
Approved



Date 23.01.2009

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

North Yorkshire & York Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008-2011

Annexes

- Annex A** Topic registration form
- Annex B** Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Report (05.12.2008)
- Annex C** Minutes of the meeting of the Gambling & Licensing Acts Committee held on 05.12.2008
- Annex D** North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement 2008/11 – relevant alcohol indicators
- Annex E** North Yorkshire LAA – Designated Indicators – Quarterly Monitoring Report.
- Annex F** Further information provided by NYYPCT
- Annex G** Draft remit