



Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee

10 March 2014

Report of the AD Housing & Community Safety

Safer York Partnership Update on the Work of AVANTE

Summary

1. This report presents updated information on the work of Safer York Partnership's Alcohol & Violence in the Night Time Economy (AVANTE) multi-agency task group in support of the corporate scrutiny review into York's Night Time Economy.

Background

2. At its meeting on 24 June 2013, CSMC expressed interest in developing a theme around the Night Time Economy worthy of 'corporate review', and received a briefing paper in support.
3. The briefing suggested a number of possible areas for review associated with the Night Time Economy which would support the Council's current key priorities in its Council Plan 2011-2015. They agreed to proceed with the theme and requested each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees identify a suitable review remit in line with their individual terms of reference.
4. The Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an initial briefing from Tanya Lyon, Crime Reduction Manager, Safer York Partnership on the work that the Alcohol and Violence in the Night Time Economy (AVANTE) task group was delivering in relation to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour resulting from excessive alcohol consumption.
5. This report provides an update on the work of AVANTE.

Performance Targets

6. To achieve a 5% reduction in violent crime across the City of York between 2009/10 and 2013/14

Violent Crimes in York / Source: NYP					
Type	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Actual Turnout	2712	2831	2443	2254	2070 (Est)
Target Based on 5% Reduction from 09-10 Baseline	2712				2576

7. To achieve a 5% reduction in violent crime in the Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) between 2009/10 and 2013/14.

Violent Crimes in York Cumulative Impact Zone / Source: NYP					
Type	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Actual Turnout	481	525	470	406	412 (Est)
Target Based on 5% Reduction from 09-10 Baseline	481				457

8. To achieve a 5% reduction in criminal damage in the Cumulative Impact Zone between 2009/10 and 2013/14.

Criminal Damage Crimes in York Cumulative Impact Zone / Source: NYP					
Type	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Actual Turnout	128	113	90	82	68 (Est)
Target Based on 5% Reduction from 09-10 Baseline	128				115

9. To reduce Violent Crime attributable to alcohol by 2013/14 from 2011/12 baseline of 4.65 per 1000 population

Violent crimes attributable to alcohol: Persons, all ages, crude rate per 1000 population / Source: LAPE					
Type	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Actual Turnout	4.49	4.65	4.36	Not Published Yet	
Target Based on 5% Reduction from 09-10 Baseline (Set in line with Violent Crime reduction set in 2011-14 Community Safety Strategy)	4.49	4.44	4.39	4.34	4.27

10. To reduce A&E admissions for assault by 2013/14 from a 2012/13 baseline

York A&E Admissions for Assault / Source: YDH					
Type	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Actual Turnout				TBC	
Target Based on 5% Reduction from 09-10 Baseline					

11. Data Analysis

There is a decrease in reported violent crime with a predicted 250 decrease compared to last year. In the current CIZ, 46 crimes were recorded in December which was a slight increase on previous months, however there is no clear emerging pattern. ASB levels remain similar to last year with noise nuisance relatively low. MEDACS data (obtained from the police custody suite) is being monitored to build an evidence

base to support a possible Rest and Recovery Centre or static ambulance unit within the city centre. No problem premises have been identified, although data obtained from the Ambulance Service shows a high demand for service in Blake Street.

PREVENTATIVE ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO VIOLENT CRIME/RISKY BEHAVIOUR ASSOCIATED WITH ALCOHOL MISUSE

12. Operation Safari

This is a multi-agency operational model to combat alcohol related violence and disorder at key times of the year e.g. Freshers Week, races, public holidays etc remains in place. A new contract has been awarded to APEX Radio Systems Ltd to run the Storenet/Nightsafe radio scheme. This is a new digital radio system with a host of new features allowing better monitoring of the radio usage by the police. The contract is due to begin at the beginning of April in time for the start of the tourist season.

13. Operation Erase

This is a multi-agency operation to tackle the large number of people coming to York from the North East at weekends and consuming large amounts of alcohol, is to be revamped with a view to achieving greater impact. Options are being sought to fund police overtime and support from West Yorkshire's mounted section

14. Pubwatch

Work is underway through Pubwatch to look at the issue of 5pm-8pm closure of businesses in the city and ways to encourage visitors to visit or remain in the city at this time. Police licensing are looking at ID confiscation and an operational standard for drinks promotions/pricing. Whilst it is not mandatory to attend Pubwatch, all licensees are encouraged to attend meetings. Much of the current discussion at Pubwatch is centred on the forthcoming Tour de France and ensuring that licensees are involved in work to ensure visitors and residents are safe in the city.

15. Links to the Universities

Work continues with the universities and Student Unions to provide preventative advice on campus and improve co-ordination of activity around key student social events. Successful bids for funding from the PCC and SYP have resulted in the launch of a crime prevention campaign entitled 'Call it in'. The aim is to increase students' willingness to report crime and suspicious activity. By improving dialogue between

students, police and campus security, this provides help and support for students who have been victims of crime. The funding received is being used to provide an educational film, leaflets and victim crime packs. York University Students Union is also working with the Street Angels to introduce a similar initiative for their students on Club Nights. It is hoped this will ease pressure on NYP and the Emergency Department at York Hospital. There has been an increase in reports of drink spiking with students both on and off campus. Anti-spiking tops are being given out but as incidents have not been reported to the police, the increase is not showing in police data sets.

16. **Rest and Recovery**

A multi-agency meeting was held at the hospital Emergency Department before Christmas to discuss the problems caused by those in drink, particularly during the St Nicholas Fayre weekend. At that meeting there was universal support for diverting those 'in drink' away from the ED and police custody by providing somewhere safe for them to be monitored whilst they sober up. A meeting was held on 22nd January to discuss this further and agreed that an initial evidence base for such a centre should be identified from police custody records and other relevant data sets. SYP's Crime Reduction Manager met with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service on 11th February to look at the possibility of establishing a static ambulance unit in the city centre which would be deployed each weekend at a regular time (until the early hours of the morning). This would allow agencies to signpost individuals to this facility and is based on a successful initiative in Leeds City Centre.

17. **Street Angels**

Work continues with Street Angels with a pilot scheme using their Night Bus located in the city centre Friday and Saturday nights from 2130 until 0230. The bus will be clearly branded and will be located in Parliament Street. It is intended that one of the Street Angels team of three will be deployed on the bus to assist with 'rest and recover' and another team member will patrol the city. It has been suggested that the bus move location to Rougier Street later in the evening. Street Angels will be provided with a nightsafe radio under the new contract. *Further information on the work of Street Angels is included in the Health Scrutiny Review final report included elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.*

18. **Restriction on Sales of Super Strength Alcohol**

This is an initiative which has been successfully implemented in Ipswich and involves the banning of sales of super strength alcohol by Suffolk

Police as a mechanism to tackle problematic street drinking. A presentation will be given at the Institute of Licensing meeting on 4th March by a representative from Wakefield to talk about their experience of implementing such a scheme.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

19. Refresh of City of York Council's Licensing Policy

A report has been submitted to the Licensing Committee and has gone out to consultation until 7th February. The final stage is for the report to be submitted to full Council for approval in March. Work is underway to refresh the whole policy, including the inclusion of safeguarding services. The policy will refer specifically to the off license trade and include reference to possible sanctions that can be imposed on those businesses who fail to meet the requirements of the policy. These could include restriction on % alcohol sold or restricted hours.

20. Alcohol Restriction Zone (ARZ - previously Designated Public Place Orders)

The ARZ has been approved. Legal notices are to go out and signage has been ordered funded by SYP. The ARZ will formerly be implemented on 31st March 2014 with associated PR to include British Transport Police and York Railway Station. The new ARZ covers the area within the Bar Walls. This will ensure simplify the current DPPO landscape, making it more obvious to the police where the powers to seize alcohol apply. Under the development of the joint police/City of York Council Anti-social behaviour Hub, Council Enforcement Officers will also have the power to seize alcohol granted by the Chief Constable under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme.

21. Cumulative Impact Zone Review

CIZ consultation is currently ongoing with a view to including off licence premises and extending the area of the current CIZ. Data from the CIZ has shown that this initiative does impact in reducing incidents of crime and ASB within the zone. The CIZ currently covers premises within the City Centre/Micklegate area but will be extended to include the Back Swinegate area, expansion to the Goodramgate area and expansion into the Fossgate area as well as inclusion of missing properties in Spurriergate.

22. Alcohol Referral Projects

Lifeline, the organisation contracted by the DAAT to provide drug and alcohol treatment is currently in the process of recruiting a worker to

support the implementation of an Alcohol Referral Project. Alcohol referral is based on the evidence gathered from the Drug Intervention Programme that short term educational and awareness interventions are successful in changing behaviour associated with substance misuse (both alcohol and drugs). The Clinical Commissioning Group has funded two link workers who are working with street drinkers and the ED through Arclight. These drinkers are being encouraged into treatment services and accommodation. The posts are only being funded for three months however, it is hoped that there may be an option to increase the service as it is proving successful.

23. Under-age drinking/test purchase operations

A Christmas campaign was recently run whereby ten premises were visited with one illegal sale. The Test Purchasing Enforcement Policy on under-age sales has been approved.

24. Irresponsible Drink Promotions

This has been discussed at recent Pub Watch meetings where those in attendance were of the view that all venues would prefer not to be doing this. Further consultation is taking place with venues on this subject. Venues were, however, keen to stress that supermarkets were also responsible for cheap alcohol contributing to the culture of pre-loading.

25. Intervention Programme

This is a long term initiative being driven by Dr Gill Kelly at York Hospital to run an intervention project from the ED at York Hospital. Development of a business case is ongoing and this is very much a long term aspiration at this stage.

Implications

26. The implications associated with the information contained within this report form part of ongoing progress reports to O&S Committee.

Risk Management

27. There are no direct risks at this stage associated with recommendations in this report. Any risks associated with any implications which will be reported to the O&S Committee in future update reports.

Council Plan 2011-15

28. This review relates to the following key element of the Council Plan 2011-2015: 'to protect vulnerable people'.

Report Recommendations

- 29 Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee are recommended to:
- i. Note the ongoing work of Safer York Partnership's AVANTE Task Group when considering the findings from the other Night Time Economy related scrutiny reviews detailed elsewhere on this agenda.
 - ii. Consider the ongoing work of the AVANTE Task Group when making their commendations to Cabinet, to ensure there is no duplication of that ongoing work.

Reason: To conclude the work on this Review in compliance with scrutiny procedures, protocols and workplans.

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Report Approved



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Wards Affected:

All



Background Papers: None

Annexes: None

Abbreviations:

A & E – Accident and Emergency

ARZ – Alcohol Restriction Zone

ASB – Anti-Social Behaviour

AVANTE – Alcohol & Violence in the Night-Time Economy

CIZ – Cumulative Impact Zone

CSMC – Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee

DAAT – Drug and Alcohol Team

DPPO – Designated Public Place Orders

ED – Emergency Department

ID – Identity

LAPE – Local Alcohol Profile for England

NYP – North Yorkshire Police

O&S – Overview and Scrutiny

PCC – Police and Crime Commissioner

SYP – Safer York Partnership

YDH – York District Hospital