

## **Alcohol Strategy**

### **Summary**

1. Most people in the City of York drink responsibly; however, there are some significant issues to be faced. There are also problems with alcohol misuse within our communities. To tackle this we have developed a strategy which is supported by our vision for safe alcohol use. We will deliver, in collaboration with local stakeholders, a whole life approach towards alcohol through encouraging positive behaviour and responsible drinking. We aim to reduce and prevent the harm associated with alcohol and provide effective interventions and treatment for those who are drinking at risky and harmful levels.
2. We plan to influence more people to be aware of how to drink responsibly and to make positive lifestyle choices around alcohol, so that individuals use alcohol safely and sensibly.
3. We want to help and support people to make informed choices about drinking alcohol and to approach the issues that alcohol can bring within our communities and families in a positive way.
4. We would like residents in the city and our visitors to enjoy the diverse economic and cultural benefits that alcohol can bring when each of us takes responsibility for its use.
5. The Board is asked to agree that the draft alcohol strategy (Annex A) can be taken to public consultation using the proposed consultation questions (Annex B).

### **Background**

6. The Health and Wellbeing Board identified that alcohol poses a significant problem in the City of York and it was agreed that a strategy would be developed for the city.

An in-depth alcohol needs assessment has been undertaken which will form part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

### **Main/Key Issues to be Considered**

7. The draft alcohol strategy document has been completed and is now ready for a formal public consultation phase.

### **Consultation**

8. The content of the strategy has been developed in consultation within the organisation, the voluntary sector and external agencies.
9. With agreement from the Health and Wellbeing Board a formal public consultation will take place using the attached questions (Annex B).

### **Options**

10. Option 1: Agree that the draft alcohol strategy (Annex A) can go forward to public consultation using the proposed or slightly amended consultation questions (Annex B) and that the final sign-off of the strategy following any amendments post-consultation is delegated to the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board.
11. Option 2: Agree that the draft alcohol strategy (Annex A) can go forward to public consultation using the proposed or slightly amended consultation questions (Annex B) and that the final sign-off of the strategy following any amendments post-consultation is returned to the Health & Wellbeing Board for ratification.
12. Option 3: Delay public consultation pending further amendments to the draft strategy or consultation process.

### **Analysis**

13. **Option 1:**

The draft strategy has been developed by a multi-agency group which included membership from North Yorkshire Police; City of York Council; NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group; Public Health England; Safer York Partnership and Lifeline. The strategy has been informed by appropriate expertise from across the city and represents objectives that are felt to be locally relevant and in line with national strategic objectives around alcohol.

14. Final approval for the draft strategy is suggested to be most appropriately delegated to the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board following amendments post-consultation.
15. Whilst York does have a range of activity, service provision and resources dedicated to reducing the harms associated with alcohol, there is not currently a city-wide alcohol strategy that looks to direct the reduction of alcohol related harms in a holistic multi-agency approach. The delay of implementing a city-wide alcohol strategy will mean that York continues to not have a comprehensive, strategic approach to reducing the negative effects of alcohol seen within the city. The development of a local strategy is expected to help achieve four clear objectives:
  - The health and wellbeing of the local population in relation to alcohol is improved
  - The negative impact that alcohol has on the safety of people in our city is reduced
  - Personal responsibility and social awareness about the effects of alcohol are improved
  - Our ability to collect, share and use evidence based information about alcohol is improved

### **Option 2:**

16. The reasons for the need to take the draft strategy forward to public consultation are the same as in Option 1. Returning the draft strategy for final ratification to the Health & Wellbeing Board following amendments post-consultation will allow the full board to consider comments, feedback and amendments from the consultation process before making a decision whether to approve the strategy or not.

### **Option 3:**

17. Due to the collaborative multi-agency approach in developing this strategy it is suggested that any further delay to a consultation process will not add any value to draft content within the strategy.

### **Strategic/Operational Plans**

18. The alcohol strategy lays out some of the issues to be faced by the council and identified within the Council Plan.

The Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group has already signed up to the North Yorkshire Alcohol Strategy and a local City of York strategy will complete their footprint. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out the priorities for the health of the City of York and this strategy will help to identify the issues that York faces. A multi-agency group will develop an alcohol action plan to ensure that the strategy is implemented. The Health and Wellbeing Board will then be able to monitor the achievements of the strategy.

## **Implications**

### **Financial**

19. If there is no alcohol strategy for York there are financial implications for the city associated with the cost of responding to and treating alcohol related health and social harms.

### **Human Resources (HR)**

20. No issues identified

### **Equalities**

21. No issues identified

### **Legal**

22. No issues identified

### **Crime and Disorder**

23. The alcohol strategy will identify approaches to reduce crime and disorder within the City of York

### **Information Technology (IT)**

24. No issues identified

### **Property**

25. No issues identified

### **Other**

26. No other issues identified

## **Risk Management**

27. The risk of not proceeding to public consultation for this draft strategy will delay a collaborative multi-agency approach to addressing alcohol harms and problems currently seen within York.

## **Recommendations**

28. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider:

- i. Option 1

Reason:

29. This will progress the development of a local strategy aimed at providing clear direction and focus to reduce alcohol related harm within York and allow the strategy to be signed-off post consultation by the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board

- ii. Option 2

Reason:

30. This will progress the development of a local strategy aimed at providing clear direction and focus to reduce alcohol related harm within York and allow the strategy to be reviewed post consultation by the Health & Wellbeing Board.

## Contact Details

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Report  
Approved



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**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

**Wards Affected:**

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annexes**

Annex A: Draft Alcohol Strategy

Annex B: Public Consultation Questions

**Glossary**

Alcohol Restriction Zones (ARZ's)

Cumulative Impact Zones (CIZ's)