

## **Update on partnership work to tackle Saturday daytime alcohol-related anti-social behaviour (Operation Erase).**

### **Background**

1. For over two years, Safer York Partnership has focussed partnership work around this issue. Initially a time-limited Operation Erase sub-group of the AVANTE (Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy) task group was convened in January 2013 for 12 months after which time its work plan had been completed and the subject was transferred back onto the main action plan for the AVANTE Task Group.
2. In April 2015, the AVANTE group identified that Saturday day-time disorder was continuing despite ongoing efforts from Safer York Partnership, North Yorkshire Police and British Transport Police.
3. It was therefore decided to reconvene the Operation Erase sub-group with revised membership, in order to provide renewed focus on this issue by a range of partners.

### **Operation Erase Multi-agency Task Group**

4. The first meeting of the new task group was held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and was chaired by Superintendent Phil Cain, North Yorkshire Police.
5. Membership of the revised group consists of: City of York Council, North Yorkshire Police, Safer York Partnership, British Transport Police, York Pub Watch, Train Operating Companies (Virgin Trains East Coast, Grand Central, First group), Make It York and York BID. Virgin Trains East Coast is also currently the York Railway Station operator. Consequently, a representative from York Racecourse was invited to and has attended future meetings.
6. The purpose of the inaugural meeting of the group was to scope the problem and to identify a joint way forward which would be translated into a new multi-agency action plan.
7. As part of this 'scoping' exercise it was agreed that a separate consultation event should be held with York Licensees, in order to discuss their perceptions of the problem and suggestions for

improvement. This event took place at York Racecourse on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, with over 100 licensees in attendance.

### **A New Approach**

8. The group recognised that although previous efforts had been made to tackle this issue, a new harder hitting approach was now necessary, with all partners standing together to reinforce this message. As a number of NYP/BTP Saturday Days of Action had been planned, commencing on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September, it was agreed that this should be the launch date.

### **Actions to Date**

9. The following actions have and are being implemented for Saturday Days of Action on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015:
  - A new hard-hitting media campaign, entitled 'Had Enough? – We have Too'. Artwork has been designed (see Appendix 1) to be used on posters, flyers and websites. A joint meeting has been held with Marketing/Communications officers from NYP, CYC and BTP to ensure there is a consistent and effective approach from partners to promoting this message.
  - A Code of Conduct has been developed (see Appendix 2) to be distributed to those travelling into York by train. York licensees have further adapted this to develop their own Code relating to the standard of behaviour they expect on their premises.
  - A temporary barrier (Saturdays and Bank Holidays) is deployed at the railway station to deter fare avoidance/revenue enforcement and to provide an opportunity for engagement with travellers to reinforce key messages. Large banners of the 'Had Enough' campaign are displayed and literature distributed.
  - Regular alcohol-free 'Dry Trains' deployed on Saturdays, as resources allow.
  - High visibility patrolling presence through additional resources deployed by North Yorkshire Police and British Transport Police and joint patrols by NYP PCSO's and CYC Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers.

- Joint premises checks undertaken by CYC & NYP Licensing officers.

**Response/results to Date:**

10. To date, a positive response to the new approach has been received from members of the public and licensees. £4k revenue was taken from the ticket barrier deployed 11am – 3pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Police activity has included a low number of alcohol-related arrests.

**Forward Plan**

11. Focus on this issue will be maintained going forward The Operation Erase multi-agency task group will continue to meet and will review all action taken to date. Progress reports will be provided to the wider AVANTE Task Group and Safer York Partnership Board.

**Update Provided by:**

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Appendix 1



Had enough?

**We have too!**

Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated in York or on the railway.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY.  



Had enough?

**We have too!**

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## Appendix 2



York is one of the safest cities in the country. We will not allow the behaviour of a minority of visitors to change this or to ruin the enjoyment of others. Anti-social behaviour **will not be tolerated** on the train or the station, in the street or in licensed premises.

Enforcement action can be taken against those who commit the following types of disorderly behaviour:

- Rowdy behaviour likely to distress others
- Foul or abusive language
- Urinating in the street
- Carrying inappropriate or offensive inflatables
- Taking pre-purchased alcohol into pubs and bars.

The above offences may lead to you :

- Being ordered to leave a venue or the city
- Being refused travel on the rail network
- Receiving a criminal record or a fine.

**Do not let alcohol ruin your or other people's day.**

**Ensure your behaviour is appropriate to your surroundings.**

***Would you behave like this in front of your family?***