



Report to the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Update on the work of the Safer York Partnership Alcohol, Violence & Night Time Economy (AVANTE) Task Group

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report gives an update on the work of the Alcohol Violence and Night Time Economy (AVANTE) Task Group. Information on the work of the group was last presented to the committee in September 2013.

2. PERFORMANCE AGAINST COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN TARGETS (2011-14)

- 2.1 Safer York Partnership is currently developing a new outcomes-based performance framework to monitor progress against Community Safety Plan priorities 2014-2017.
- 2.2 However, in terms of performance against the previous 3 year plan (2011-2014, Safer York Partnership exceeded its targets for reduction of violent crime, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

3. OPCC RESEARCH & STRATEGY GROUP

- 3.1 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire has recently commissioned research into the work being undertaken in York to address issues associated with the Night Time Economy. Researchers have interviewed AVANTE task group members, those involved in the York After 5 initiative and others. The results are due to be fed back in mid-September.
- 3.2 A Night Time Economy Strategic Steering Group has been established with representation to include Chair of SYP, the NYP Safer Neighbourhood Commander, Head of Communications for NYP, Head of Community Safety, CYC, The PCC and the Commissioning and Partnership Manager for OPCC. This group will be responsible for the

strategic direction of work relating to tackling crime and ASB related to the Night Time Economy and oversee delivery of a programme of initiatives through SYP's delivery structure

4. UPDATE ON INITIATIVES FROM LAST MEETING

4.1 Improve coordination between CYC Licensing and Planning.

4.11 Work is ongoing to address this issue through the Night Time Economy Scrutiny theme.

4.2 Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) Extension

4.21 The latest CIZ extension came into force in April 2014 (See Annex 1). The CIZ creates a presumption that any new application for a premises licence or major variation of one, likely to add to the existing cumulative impact, will be refused. The responsibility is placed upon the applicant to demonstrate how their premise will not contribute to the cumulative impact.

4.22 The geographic area of the CIZ has now been extended to include Back Swinegate, Spurriergate, Goodramgate and Fossgate.

4.23 Off-licences, supermarkets and convenience stores selling alcohol now also fall under the remit of the CIZ.

4.24 North Yorkshire Police report positive results from the extended CIZ. This has allowed them to object to or negotiate robust conditions on new applications (such as alcohol ancillary to a meal). The police have found that many prospective applicants are deterred from opening new venues when they are made aware of the CIZ.

4.3 Alcohol Restriction Zone (ARZ)

4.31 The ARZ is now in place for the city centre and Railway Station (see map Annex 2) and allows police officers to confiscate alcohol from those who are behaving anti-socially.

4.32 North Yorkshire Police and British Transport Police have welcomed the introduction of the ARZ.

4.33 The ARZ has greatly assisted both NYP and BTP officers in managing antisocial behaviour and disorder, football related disorder and street drinking. The ARZ also compliments the temporary alcohol ban 6-9pm

at York Railway Station by allowing BTP officers to confiscate alcohol either side of these times to minimise the risk that alcohol on board some of the later trains would bring.

- 4.34 The ARZ has also recently assisted North Yorkshire Police in dealing with street drinkers congregating in the Rougier Street area. Alcohol has been seized on a number of occasions to date.
- 4.35 New signage has been erected around the city and at the Railway Station. Additional information boards are also deployed at the Railway Station to provide an additional reminder to travellers.

4.4 Operation Erase – Tackling Saturday alcohol-related disorder.

- 4.41 Operation Erase continues to run each Saturday. North Yorkshire Police deploy additional resources each Saturday and officers are required to liaise with their British Transport Police counterparts to engage with travellers arriving at the railway station.
- 4.42 BTP report that 6-8,000 people continue to travel into York on an average Saturday, arriving mid-morning and returning from 6pm onwards. This is increased to 20,000 on race days. NYP and BTP deploy additional resources on Saturday accordingly. Both report that although levels of actual criminal behaviour are low, the issue continues to be rowdy and intimidating behaviour caused by large numbers of people in drink.
- 4.43 There is currently a temporary ban on alcohol at the railway station between 6-9pm to run over the Summer months. British Transport Police (BTP) and North Yorkshire Police have distributed information to off-licences in the city centre advising of this and have asked business to display posters to this effect.
- 4.44 Individuals arrested by BTP for alcohol-related offences may now have bail conditions imposed including prohibition from travelling on rail transport.
- 4.45 There is improved coordination between NYP and BTP in relation to the issue of Section 27 notices which allow the police to move someone from a specified area for up to 48 hours. Information on notices issued by NYP for individuals to leave the city centre and which may lead to them using the train, are now relayed to BTP as a matter of procedure to alert BTP officers to potential problematic passengers as well as NYP

giving out the clear message that disorderly behaviour will not be tolerated on the rail network.

- 4.46 The Code of Conduct, developed last year by the Operation Erase multi-agency group, continues to be used by British Transport Police and is being distributed at other railways stations on the network, targeting those travelling to York.
- 4.47 Signage, advising that York door staff will check pockets and bags for alcohol concealment are now displayed at the railway station each Saturday (See Annex 3).

4.5 Street Angels Night Bus and Change of Location

- 4.51 The new Night Bus began deployment in May 2014 and was relocated to St. Helen's Square. AVANTE provided funding for the refurbishment of the larger bus.
- 4.52 The Street Angels immediately reported a positive response to the new location with 144 bottles of water given out during the first Saturday of deployment. 20 individuals visited the bus for care and attention and 50-60 individuals engaging with staff either on the bus or the tables and chairs set up around the bus.
- 4.53 AVANTE also provided Nightsafe radio units for the Street Angels. A static unit for the bus and 2 handheld radios for volunteers.

5. NEW INITIATIVES

5.1 Night Safe Radio

- 5.11 Safer York Partnership procured an upgraded, digital Nightsafe radio system which was launched in April 2014. The system replaced the previous analogue radios and provides additional features and an improved signal.
- 5.12 The radios are currently carried by 72 evening venues across the city.
- 5.13 Radios are also carried by the following partner agencies: North Yorkshire Police Safer Neighbourhood officers, Street Angels (a static unit on the Night Bus and 2 portable radios for foot patrols), Yorkshire Ambulance Service Static Unit, City of York Council and North Yorkshire Police Licensing, City Centre Enforcement Team, ASB Hub, British Transport Police, Minster Police, York University Students' Union

Nightsafe scheme, University of York student liaison officer, CYC CCTV Control Room.

5.2 Static Ambulance Unit

- 5.21 Yorkshire Ambulance Service began deployment of at Static Ambulance Unit in York in May 2014. This follows a similar successful scheme in Leeds where an ambulance unit is deployed on a regular basis in the same location to enable partner agencies to signpost to it. 600 patients attended the Leeds unit over 12 months from 1st April 2013 mainly as result of soft tissue injuries associated with falls.
- 5.22 The unit in York is a converted mobile home and is deployed each Friday and Saturday from 7pm – 3am in St. Helen's Square. On Saturdays it is deployed alongside the Street Angels Night Bus to allow for coordination with the Street Angels.
- 5.23 The unit is also deployed on Race Days.
- 5.24 The unit is not a Rest and Recovery Centre. Over 90% of those who attend the ambulance will be assessed and discharged and those seriously under the influence of alcohol will be sent to York Hospital ED.

5.3 Alcohol Diversion Programme

- 5.31 The Alcohol Diversion Programme is provided by Lifeline and funded by City of York Council Public Health. It was launched in May 2014.
- 5.32 The programme is aimed primarily at York residents over 18 years of age who have been arrested for alcohol-related disorder. In addition, British Transport Police have also been allocated up to 5 referrals a month for those who are arrested at the railway station, having travelled into York. Individuals will be bailed for 2 weeks and given an opportunity to attend the course in which case the charge will be dropped. Those who are alcohol-dependent are referred into a more appropriate treatment route.
- 5.33 The course encourages attendees to consider the causes and effects of their drinking, the links between unsafe alcohol consumption and criminal behaviour and the impact alcohol has upon themselves, their family and society.
- 5.34 As of mid-July there had been 17 referrals into the programme. 5 individuals have been assessed as suitable for the programme of which

3 had completed and agreed to a further follow-up. 1 failed to complete and one was due to attend later in the month. 7 have been seen on a one-to-one basis due to being acknowledged as alcohol dependent, of which 4 have been accepted for further support via Lifeline. 5 have not engaged with the process.

5.4 River Safety

- 5.41 A multi-agency River Safety task group has been convened as a sub-group of AVANTE following recent river-related deaths and the subsequent River Summit convened by the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire.
- 5.42 Following the River Summit, City of York Council commissioned ROSPA to conduct a river safety audit. Recommendations from the audit findings have been translated, by the task group, into a multi-agency action plan. The intention is that the action plan will be supplemented with examples of best practice and suggestions by group members.
- 5.43 The priority areas within in the plan are as follows:
- Development of a multi-agency River Safety Strategy (Board level).
 - Develop and deliver a multi-agency operational plan.
 - Improve provision of rescue equipment
 - Improve public realm design
 - Improve river safety education and awareness
 - Improve leadership and coordination.
- 5.44 The group will meet on a monthly basis until the action plan is delivered at which point the objective to sustain river safety will be merged into the overarching AVANTE action plan.
- 5.45 A follow-up River Summit is due to be convened by the OPCC in mid September 2014.

5.5 Summer Safety Campaign

- 5.51 At the inaugural meeting of the River Safety Task Group it was agreed that SYP would lead on a generic personal safety campaign for the Summer 2014.

5.52 The 'Plan Safe, Drink Safe, Home Safe' campaign developed by the University of York St. John Students' Union has been adopted as its focus.

5.53 It is intended that SYP will lead the campaign until mid September after which time the Universities of York St. John and York will take up promotion of the campaign amongst the student population at the start of the new academic year.

5.54 The Summer campaign consists of the following:

- Superside bus advertising campaign of 'Plan Safe, Drink Safe, Home Safe' to run from mid July to mid September.
- An electronic screen, deployed from midday to midnight each Saturday from Saturday 19th July to Saturday 30th August inclusive. The screen begins each deployment at the Railway Station to and then moves into the city centre, where it is sited at: St. Helen's Square, Nessgate Corner and Rougier Street. The screen will display a 'Message from Safer York Partnership' (see Annex 4), slides of the Plan Safe, Drink Safe, Home Safe' campaign and a number of short alcohol awareness film clips. In addition a short film highlighting the dangers of drinking on the rail network will be shown at the Railway Station.
- Posters and flyers have been distributed to evening venues and partners including: York Hospital Emergency Department, Static Ambulance Unit, Street Angels, BTP and NYP.
- Beer mats have been produced with the Plan Safe, Drink Safe, Home safe artwork on one side and a River Safety message on the other.

5.6 University of York Students' Union (YUSU) Nightsafe initiative

5.61 This is a 'Street Angels' type scheme due to be launched in student Welcome Week with volunteers drawn from the student community. The scheme has been developed following a number of alcohol-related student attendances, predominantly University of York students, at the York Emergency Department during Welcome week last year.

5.62 The scheme is secular and will operate on YUSU club nights, focussing mainly on those clubs and the surrounding area. While the scheme will assist anyone in need, it will focus primarily on students.

5.63 Funding has been provided from AVANTE towards provision of Nightsafe radios for the volunteers and additional costs associated with set up.

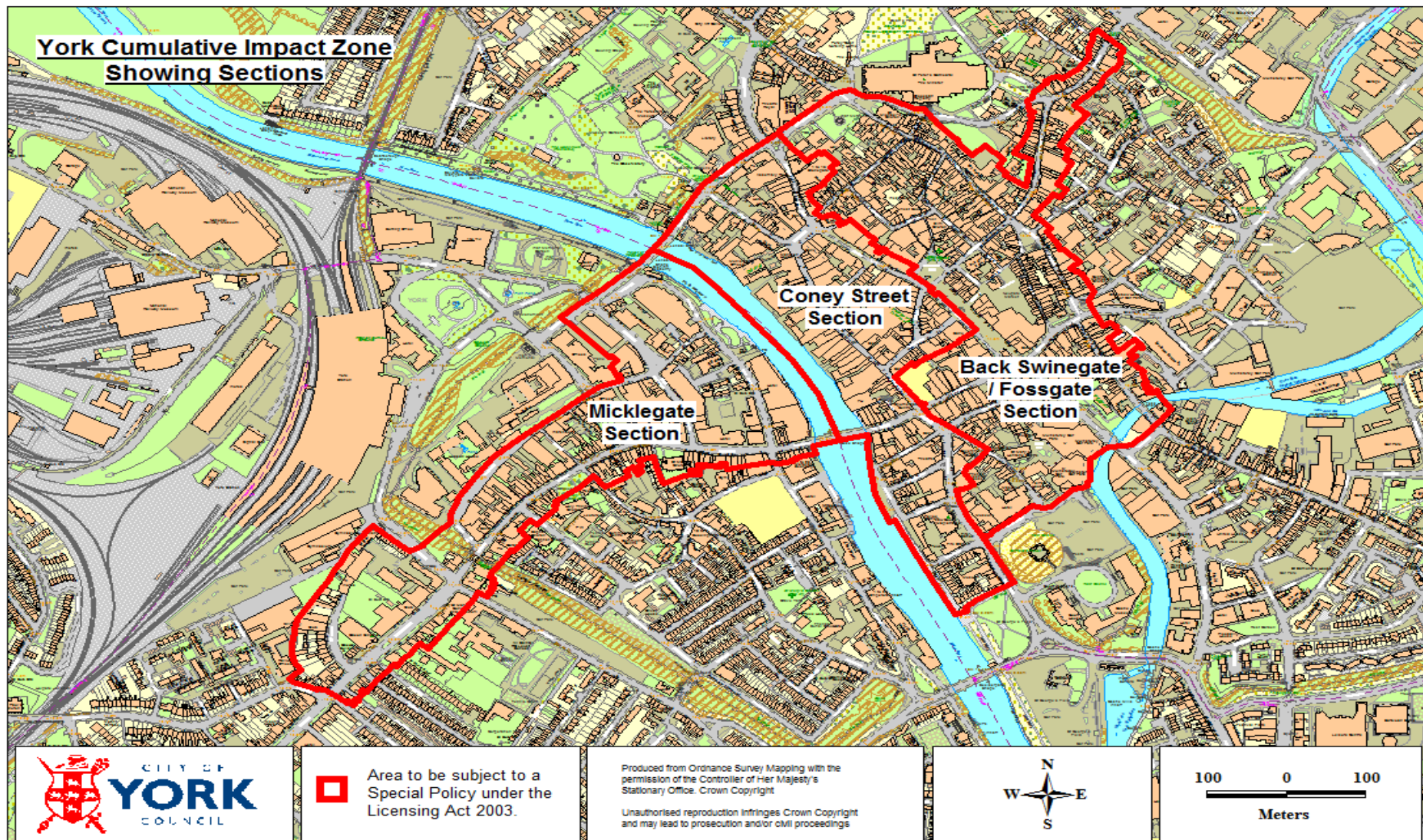
5.64 YUSU is also currently looking to fund a Rest and Recovery type centre on campus over Welcome Week to be provided by YorkMed.

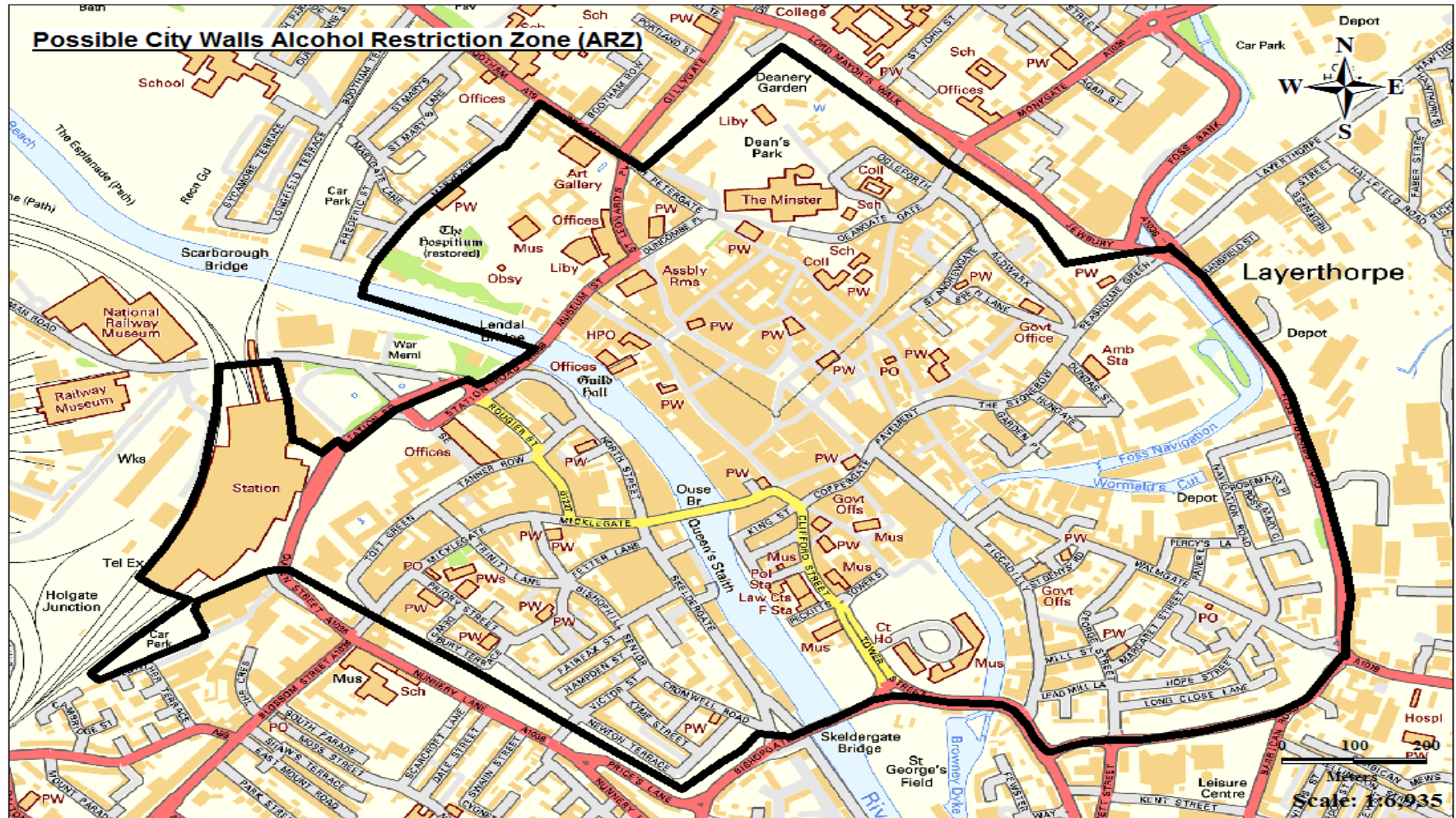
5.65 Attendances at the York ED over Welcome Week will be monitored to assess the impact of these initiatives.

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Drinking unmeasured alcohol increases and accelerates drunkenness.

It is a risk to your health and will quickly affect your behaviour.

York door staff will check pockets and bags for concealed alcohol.



A MESSAGE FROM SAFER YORK PARTNERSHIP

We are proud that York is one of the safest cities in the country

Please help us to keep it that way...

Stay In Control

Think about how much you drink and how this might affect your judgement and behaviour.

Stay Together and Stay Safe

If you arrive in a group, look out for each other; particularly anyone who you feel might be overdoing it. Don't let anyone wander off alone.

Be Considerate

Rowdy and drunken behaviour can be intimidating to others. Please think about those around you.

Keep It Clean

Enjoy and your celebrations, but please no 'adult' accessories when children might be around.

Get Home Safely

Have plans in place for getting home and stick to them. Store an ICE (In Case of Emergency) number on your phone.

We value our visitors and are keen to protect the reputation of our city. Enforcement action will be taken against those who commit disorderly behaviour and spoil the enjoyment of others.

