

## **Annex 2 - Summary of key work undertaken in 2013-14**

### **Alcohol**

There was only one illegal sale of alcohol were made from 19 visits. The seller received an £80 fixed penalty notice for disorder. We conducted 50 visits to retailers to advise on preventing illegal sales of alcohol and tobacco.

### **Tobacco**

In 2014-15 we have joined the West Yorkshire & York Illicit Tobacco Project ('the project'), the purpose of which is to identify the prevalence of cheap and illicit tobacco in the City and take enforcement action to reduce its availability. Cheap tobacco undermines the Government's strategy to reduce smoking through price – making smoking less affordable.

According to the HMRC, unregulated distribution networks associated with smuggling make tobacco more accessible to children and young people, and perpetuate health inequalities between different social groups. And, research in the North of England showed that over half of smokers aged 14 to 17 have been offered illicit tobacco, and that buying rates amongst these age groups are higher than amongst older smokers.

A study of smokers as part of the project identified that York's smokers consume on average 12 cigarettes a day (2 lower than the average across West Yorkshire and York). And 14% of smokers buy illicit tobacco compared with 17% for the study area as a whole. This is the equivalent in a loss of £4.5m loss of duty each year.

In 2013-14, there were no illegal sales of tobacco to the underage test purchaser in our 'test purchasing' visits conducted at retail premises.

### **Fireworks**

Businesses must register with the Council if they wish to sell and/or store fireworks. As part of this process, they are sent a guidance leaflet on all aspects of the law relating to firework sales with their registration certificate. Officers visit retailers to check storage conditions, check for the sale of 'banned' fireworks i.e. those not complying with noise limit requirements and those which are 'unsafe'. Verbal advice is given on

preventing underage sales, and checks are made to ensure the correct notices are displayed.

There were no illegal sales to our test purchasers.

### **Aerosol Paint**

Officers receive very little 'intelligence' on businesses illegally selling spray paint to children either from the public or other sources. Investigations into the problem of graffiti have indicated that the majority of the paint is believed to be stolen and many of the known offenders are 16 years or more and are therefore legally able to buy it.