

Cheltenham Borough Council
Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
5 July 2004

Alcohol Misuse Amongst Young People
Report of the Assistant Director Public Protection

1. Executive Summary and recommendation

1.1 The Gloucestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee recently considered a report on alcohol misuse amongst young people. The objective of the project was to consider existing initiatives aimed at reducing alcohol misuse amongst young people in Gloucestershire, identify gaps in service provision and recommend possible initiatives that would improve available services and reduce alcohol misuse. An executive summary of the report is attached as Appendix A.

1.2 I therefore recommend that the committee:

1.2.1 endorses the recommendations of the County report; and

1.2.2 having regard to recommendation 7.14.i of the County report and para 3.3 of this report, requests the County Council to play a full and active role in developing this council's licensing policy statement and its subsequent enforcement.

1.3 Summary of implications

1.3.1 Financial None as a consequence of this report

1.3.2 Legal None as a consequence of this report

1.3.3 Human Resources None as a consequence of this report

1.3.4 Equal opportunities, social justice and anti-poverty None as a consequence of this report

1.3.5 Environmental None as a consequence of this report

1.4 Links to Business Plan and Corporate Objectives

1.4.1 The misuse of alcohol by young people is regularly implicated in antisocial behaviour and, therefore, clearly impacts upon the council's corporate priority of reducing crime

and disorder and the fear of crime in our communities.

1.5 Statement on Risk

1.5.1 There are no specifically identified linkages to the corporate risk register.

2. Introduction

2.1 The Gloucestershire County Council's strategic Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up a sub group to look into the health damaging effects of alcohol misuse amongst young people. Details of sub group membership, objectives and terms of reference are contained in the appended executive summary.

3. Background

3.1 Alcohol abuse has in recent years progressed rapidly to the top of the national political agenda and is often referred to by the press as 'Britain's binge drinking culture'. There are good reasons for alcohol misuse to feature so prominently as there are clearly identified linkages to personal health problems, associated costs to the National Health Service and increasing crime and antisocial behaviour in our towns and cities.

3.2 While the County's report concentrated on the health effects, it is felt that these cannot be disassociated from the other downside of alcohol misuse in respect of crime and disorder and antisocial behaviour, and the greater harm such activities have on the community at large. This has been recognised at a national level with the recent publication of the government's alcohol harm reduction strategy and in this council's own emerging night time economy strategy (for approval at Cabinet on 6 July 2004). It is also likely to feature in the Cheltenham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership's crime reduction strategy for 2005-2008.

3.3 Clearly it is in the interests of this authority to support the recommendations of the County Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is equally in the County's interests to support this authority in implementing the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 and working towards the key aims of the night time economy strategy. The County Council, as a key stakeholder, has a major part to play in the development of the council's policy statement required under the Act. Its services will also play a major part in the enforcement of their provisions eg Trading Standards in the sale of alcohol to minors, Social Services and Education in health promotion and proof of age initiatives.

4. Consultation

4.1 Officers of the borough council together with the Secretary to the Cheltenham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Background Papers

*Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny
Committee: Alcohol misuse amongst young people*

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Accountability	To be confirmed
Scrutiny Function	Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee

A copy of the consultation checklist is held in democratic Services and is available on request