

Possible CBC Actions - the following ideas and opportunities were raised by the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Drugs Review Group for the consideration of the Cabinet

General issues and opportunities

Internally CBC to:

- enforce a strict anti-drug taking policy in all CBC owned buildings, similar to the council's no smoking policy. This would include promoting this policy in council owned properties and the display of appropriate signage in prominent places.
- establish a policy and protocol which would enable council staff to report drugs and alcohol problems with tenants/customers, either internally or externally, to suitable agencies or support service providers.
- establish a policy and/or protocol which would see CBC refusing to deal with anyone coming into a council building (inc. all reception points) who is either intoxicated or clearly suffering adversely from the effects of drugs.
- deliver appropriate training programmes to ensure that CBC and CBH front line staff have the appropriate skills and knowledge to recognise and deal with customers and tenants with either drugs or alcohol problems and support and enable staff to take appropriate action

Externally CBC to:

- ensure that, as a principal partner on both the Cheltenham Strategic Partnership (CSP) and the Cheltenham Crime and Disorder Partnership (CDRP), these partnerships focus more efforts on tackling drugs and alcohol problems in Cheltenham. In addition to work with partners to enable a more effective Gloucestershire Substance Abuse Group.
- consider opportunities through the Local Area Agreement (LAA) funding allocation, to target more funding to support drugs and alcohol projects and awareness programmes across Cheltenham.
- ensure that all requests for Public Entertainment Licenses, and as part of these licensing conditions, place more stringent requirements on event organisers to take positive actions to combat drugs problems and to deal with intoxicated people. This would form part of the granting of the license and would enable CBCs enforcement team to take more positive enforcement action in the event of the organisers failing to apply these conditions.
- consider the current status, and enforcement, of council bye-laws to ensure that CBC can do more to combat drugs and alcohol problems on Cheltenham's streets and in its parks and green spaces.
- work to establish with the police, CDRP and drugs counselling and support service agencies an effective information sharing protocol.

Increasing Awareness

CBC aims to:

- consider opportunities to make available drugs and alcohol awareness information (i.e. leaflets, information packs, details of drugs and alcohol services and providers, etc.) to Cheltenham residents and/or visitors using :
 - the annual issue of the council tax bill

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- council led consultation and other public events
- council information points to publicly display awareness and support information.
- work with Cheltenham MAD Youth Council (MAD) and the Gloucestershire Youth Service to raise greater awareness with young people the problems of drugs and alcohol. This could include a possible event aimed at young people, and the development of an information pack aimed at families specifically to raise greater awareness of these problems.
- Healthy Communities Partnerships team and Leisure@ staff to consider possible opportunities to work more proactively with young people and local schools to promote drugs and alcohol awareness programmes, for example suing the national ‘**Just say NO**’ programme. This development could also include the participation of the council’s play ranger service and community rangers, and programmes could be promoted through the council’s holiday play scheme and via other family and fun orientated events.
- work in partnership with the town’s community regeneration partnerships and their partners to establish more effective programmes and initiatives aimed at supporting communities and individuals in taking positive action in combating and dealing with drugs and alcohol.
- work in partnership with the police and the CDRP to promote a series of high profile drugs and alcohol awareness programmes with campaign information and posters being prominently displayed across the town.

Specific CBC service responses

CBC aims to:

Housing

- CBC/CBH to consider a more sympathetic approach to re-housing addicts released from rehab away from known dealers and users.
- CBC/CBH to review its policy for housing known substance abusers and dealers away from areas already known for serious drug problems or properties located near schools or youth venues.

Parks and green spaces

- ensure that all of the council’s parks and green spaces are covered by ‘alcohol free orders’ and ensure that these orders are effectively enforced.
- consider using the council’s community rangers and street wardens to issue PNDs (fixed penalty notices) to all people found to be in breach of the council’s bye laws and its alcohol free area restrictions (possible joint initiative with the police).
- Green environment team and community rangers, with the support of a number of drugs counseling and support services agencies, to co-ordinate a series of anti-drugs and alcohol operations in CBCs parks and green spaces to target drugs and alcohol misuse and to provide park users with useful information and advice about drugs awareness and support services available to the public
- identify known problem areas in all of CBC parks and green spaces and consider installing more rubbish bins and possibly sharp bins to help tackle rubbish and public safety concerns

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- work in partnership with the police and the CDRP, and consider using the partnership's mobile CCTV cameras to carry out covert surveillance in the council's parks and green spaces to monitor drugs and alcohol misuse problems.

Licensing and enforcement

- work in partnership with the police, and other relevant partners to take more positive enforcement action against all licensed premises and/or premises where drugs taking is deemed to be a problem. This may include:
 - increased or more forceful licensing conditions on licensed premises
 - a condition requiring all licensed premises to provide more informative and effective drugs awareness training for their staff and management
 - a condition requiring certain licensed premises to make available 'Safe Areas' and/or dedicated staff/resources to support seriously intoxicated customers or customers suffering from drug reactions or side effects
 - a condition requiring all licensed premises to prominently display drugs and alcohol awareness information as well as details about how to contact drugs and alcohol counseling and support services.
- encourage licensed premises to operate a '**Put them in a cab scheme**' where licensed premises, perhaps as part of their licensing conditions, would be required to arrange for intoxicated customers and/or people suffering from adverse drug related problems, to be placed in a taxi to drive the customer home or alternatively to seek medical help
- encourage wider participation of all licensed premises in Night Safe and the Cheltenham Pub Watch Scheme, and work with partners to ensure that both schemes operate more effectively in combating and targeting serious drug problems and dealing with intoxicated customers, in all of the town's licensed premises.
- monitor and evaluate the training given to Cheltenham's door staff and ensure that door staff are given adequate and appropriate training to deal with their customers and to deal with any problems arising as a result of either a drugs or alcohol intoxication related problem.