

Report to the Health Scrutiny Overview and Scrutiny Committee

20th November 2013

Feedback from the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Responsible Bodies Group



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Introduction

The Health Scrutiny Committee have requested that an update be provided regarding the group set up by the Alcohol and Drug Executive Board which is known as the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Responsible Bodies Group. The Democratic Services Manager and Head of Environmental Health attended the last meeting of the Board which was held on 8th November 2013. A summary of the discussions which took place are included in this report.

Appendix A to the report provides a brief overview of the Licensing Act 2003 and the powers that this Act gives to the Local Authority regarding the control and sale of alcohol.

Background

Meeting of the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Responsible Bodies Group on Friday 8th November 2013.

Feedback was provided from the Chief Constable's Industry Conference and it was confirmed that an action plan would be circulated to all parties in due course. The following areas were discussed:

Training

Members discussed the need to ensure that all staff selling alcohol had been properly trained. It was thought that should training be provided the number of underage sales would be significantly reduced. The group discussed the best way of providing such training and it was agreed that Brandon Cook from Trading Standards bring a training package that had been rolled out previously to the next meeting of

the Group. Investigations would also be carried out as to whether there was any funding available for this training from public health or the parent board.

Remit of the Group

It was agreed that members from the trade should be invited to join the group. Approaches to potential board members would be made through local pub watch meetings and it was agreed that there should be one member from the north of the County, one from the south and one representing off licences.

Pre loading and off licence sales of high strength alcohol.

There had been an initiative in Ipswich in which off licences had been approached and asked if they would voluntarily stop selling beers and ciders over a certain percentage (6.5%). Approximately 70% of off licences had joined in with the project and had submitted minor variations (free of charge) to add the condition to their licence that they would not sell the alcohol. Attached to this report at **Appendix B** is the 'Reducing the Strength' document that has been issued by Ipswich.

A scheme similar to that piloted by Ipswich is now due to be considered in Newcastle under Lyme. An initial meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 19th November. The scheme will be led by Staffordshire Police.

Questions to be Addressed.

What steps can be taken by the Local Authority to promote public health through licensing.

Outcomes

Decrease in alcohol harm

Less crime and disorder

Increased public safety

Protection of children from harm

Supporting Information

Brief Overview of the Licensing Act 2003

Reducing the Strength – Ipswich example

Potential Invited Partners/Stakeholders/Residents

Staffordshire Police

Newcastle under Lyme Alcohol harm Reduction Officer

Constraints

Licensing Objectives – limited scope to object to premise licence applications and premise licence variations

Licensing Act 2003

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)

Cllr John Williams - Stronger and Healthier Neighbourhoods

Local Ward Member (if applicable)

All Wards

Background Materials

Licensing Policy 2011

Licensing Act 2003

Section 182 Guidance

Appendices

Licensing Act 2003

Reducing the Strength