

## **LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD**

**8th December 2016**

### **LSCSB UPDATE: Public Health – Local Alcohol Action Areas Proposal (LAAA2)**

#### **Background**

1. The Home Office, Public Health England (PHE) and Department of Health (DoH) recently released the opportunity for areas to submit proposals for Local Alcohol Action Areas. Up to 40 areas will be selected nationally for the 2 year programme. Proposals were required to be submitted by 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. The Home Office expects to announce areas selected in December or early January.
2. The LAAA programme has 3 core aims, areas submitting proposals were to choose to address at least one of these;
  - i) Preventing alcohol-related crime and disorder
  - ii) Reducing alcohol-related health harms
  - iii) Generating economic growth by creating a vibrant and diverse night time economy.
3. In addition, each area also selected at least one of the programmes 5 core challenges. Depending on the core aim selected the proposals are expected to have the support of the Director of Public Health, Police + Crime Commissioner/Chief Constable, and of director responsible for planning and economic development.
4. No funding is available to the programme. Successful areas will each be allocated a Support Manager from either the Home Office or PHE to contribute to the planning and review process. In addition successful areas will be expected to provide quarterly progress reports.
5. Whilst proposals are likely to be submitted by one organisation/dept there is an expectation that the proposal addresses common local issues and/or problems across the area. Strong partnership working is acknowledged as the best way to devise and develop strategies to tackle alcohol-related problems.

#### **Leicestershire's Proposal**

6. The response from Leicestershire was led by the County Council Public Health Department with support from the County Council Community Safety Team. The chosen aim was reducing alcohol-related health harms and the core challenge addressed was, 'how can local areas improve the collection, sharing and use of data between A+E Departments, local authorities and the police'.

7. Whilst hospital stays for alcohol related harm are slightly better than the England average, alcohol related health harms, (and indeed crime and disorder) remain a local priority. The rate of alcohol-related harm hospital stays is 596 (England average 641) which represents **3,964** stays per year (Leicestershire Health Profile 2016). Alcohol can also be a factor in heart disease, strokes, cancers and other health issues. In addition alcohol can significantly impact on anti-social behaviour, violent crime and domestic abuse.
8. Addressing this proposed core challenge will have the benefit of providing district authorities with data and information that will support their decision making in relation to licensing applications, agreeing Cumulative Impact Zones, and working towards Purple Flag status (already achieved by one district and in progress in a further 2 districts). It will also support Public Health in allocating resources to tackle alcohol health harms more widely.
9. Currently 'LeicesterShire Statistics + Research Online (LSR Online)' provides access to data, maps, and reports on a variety of relevant data, including crime and community safety, health and wellbeing, and neighbourhoods and communities. However, comprehensive as this is, significant gaps remain in the data and partners would find useful to address these gaps. In addition PH analysts do access some EMAS and A+E data but this is not necessarily alcohol related. There is not currently a process in place to routinely provide EMAS and A+E data to local districts to support their planning.

### **Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners**

10. If the proposal be successful the first tasks will be to identify key stakeholders and partners, and conduct an audit of available data/data sources.
11. A Project Group will be established of key individuals from partner agencies who will be instrumental in progressing agreed areas of work. This will include developing a Project Action Plan.

### **Recommendations for the Board**

12. That the Board support the programme should the proposal be successful.

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