

## SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2008

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### REDUCING ALCOHOL RELATED HARM

#### Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to respond to the request at the last meeting of the Commission on whether there was merit in establishing a five member panel on reducing alcohol related harm.

#### Proceedings at the Scrutiny Commission

2. At the last meeting the Chairman of the Commission raised as an urgent item the possibility of establishing a five member panel to look at the issue of alcohol misuse and the actions taken to address various issues which might include antisocial behaviour, health, licensing and enforcement.
3. The Commission resolved to ask officers to present a report on the role and work being undertaken by various partners and agencies on this issue so that the Commission could then consider whether a Panel was required and, if so, the scope of such a Panel.

#### Current Arrangements for addressing issues arising from Alcohol Abuse

##### Leicestershire Drug and Alcohol Action Team

4. Reducing the harm from alcohol is recognised as an area which requires the involvement of a number of partners from the statutory and non statutory sectors. To that end the Leicestershire Drugs and Alcohol Action Team, a multi agency team, was established to drive forward and co-ordinate activities of all agencies on this issue.
5. Attached as **Appendix 1** to this report is the Leicestershire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008 - 2011 entitled 'Sensible Measures'. The overall aim of the Strategy is to 'Reduce the harms associated with alcohol, in order to ensure that alcohol can be enjoyed safely and responsibly, as part of a vibrant inclusive community'. To achieve this aim the following thematic approach has been adopted:-

- a) Prevention – to provide coherent education and harm reduction programmes to prevent and reduce the negative impacts of alcohol use;
- b) Community Safety – to improve community safety by creating a safer environment in streets and town centres, significantly reducing alcohol related crime and incidents of anti social behaviour;
- c) Treatment – to commission structured (tiered) and effective community based alcohol treatment and support services for those affected by alcohol misuse, including criminal justice clients.

### Sensible Measures Action Plan

- 6. A number of activities in the strategy are being delivered by an overarching action plan. The plan sets out a number of key actions in the three themes and under the sub headings of each activity identified in Sensible Measures. The plan will be refreshed in March in time for the new financial year.
- 7. The delivery of the action plan will be coordinated by a new multi agency alcohol strategy delivery and advisory group which will be holding its first meeting in January 2009. The action plan is attached as **Appendix 2**
- 8. All aspects of the alcohol strategy are subject to a needs assessment, as part of the Strategic Assessment. The DAAT Needs Assessment process will link into the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

### Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board and Community Safety Partnerships

- 9. Leicestershire DAAT provides the overall countywide strategic direction as well as overseeing the strategic delivery of the treatment and prevention themes. The Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board in conjunction with the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships will oversee delivery of the majority of activities under the Community Safety theme. A copy of the CDRP Alcohol Strategy Toolkit which has been developed to assist each CDRP to deliver the Community Safety theme of the Strategy is attached as **Appendix 3**.

### Links with the sub regional Community Safety Programme Board and its Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Group

- 10. The County Council is also a member of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Group which is currently hosted by Leicestershire County and Rutland NHS and chaired by its Chief Executive. The Group was set up by the sub regional Community Safety Programme Board and has the remit to develop opportunities to

coordinate strategic responses to reduce alcohol related harms across the sub region. The Group is currently overseeing:

- the development of a sub regional communications strategy
- a sub regional approach to tier one and two training
- The creation of an improved data base and information sharing system with Leicester Royal Infirmary to be to analyse alcohol related admissions to A&E, as well as making more effective use of other agencies' data such as the Ambulance Service, Police and Probation Service in mapping geographical hotspots in relation to alcohol misuse.

### Youth Alcohol Action Plan

11. As part of the Children's Plan the Government published a joint Youth Alcohol Action Plan which sought to address the problem of drinking by young people. Attached at **Appendix 4** is the joint response by the County Council and Police to this document. A number of the actions identified from this piece of work have been embedded into the current alcohol strategy action plan to address the five key objectives outlined by the Government.

### **Mainstreaming Actions into Key Plans**

12. Member will note from the tables in the Strategy at Appendix 1, that a number of the key actions and activities relate directly or in some part to the delivery of a number of the 35 indicators in the Local Area Agreement. Progress on the LAA is reported on regularly and the annual review will chart progress made.
13. The NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland has also included as one of their top ten priority outcomes for its commissioning strategy 'the need to reduce hospital admissions for alcohol related harm'.

### **Conclusions**

14. Members of the Commission will note from the attached documents that the issue of alcohol misuse and the impact it causes have been recognised as a key concern which requires a multi agency response. The Leicestershire DAAT and Safer Communities Strategy Board (assisted by the local CDRPs), as well as the LLR Community Safety Programme Board are bringing together activity on this issue so that not only the harm alcohol caused to individuals and their families is addressed but the impact of alcohol misuse on wider society particularly in terms of crime and anti social behaviour is also addressed. The Health Service is actively involved as a key partner and has significantly increased the priority given to this area of work. All of this work and activity, however, is still at a relatively early stage of development and delivery.

15. In the light of the information now provided the Commission is asked to consider whether there is merit in establishing a Panel to look into this issue at this stage and if so, identify what the Panel is being set up to achieve.

**Background papers**

16. These are attached as Appendices to the report

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

17. None specifically

**Relevant Impact Assessments**

Equal Opportunities Implications

19. None specifically

Crime and Disorder Implications

20. Alcohol misuse increases the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour and a number of strategies are in place seek to address this issue.

**Appendices**

Appendix 1	'Sensible Measures' – Leicestershire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008 -11
Appendix 2	Sensible Measures – Action Plan October 2008 – April 2009
Appendix 3	CDRP Alcohol Strategy Toolkit
Appendix 4	Youth Alcohol Action Plan – Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Police Response – Summary Document

**Officers to contact**

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