

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 28 OCTOBER 2009

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSIONERS

OUTCOME OF ‘LIGHT TOUCH REVIEW’ ON BINGE DRINKING UNDERTAKEN BY MR MAX HUNT CC

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the findings of the ‘light touch review’ undertaken by Mr Max Hunt CC into the issue of Binge Drinking.

Outcome of the Review

2. The outcome of the review is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The findings of the review were considered by the Scrutiny Commissioners at their meeting on 5th October. At that meeting the Commissioners were advised that since the review had been undertaken the Total Place Drugs and Alcohol Theme Programme Team had decided that the next phase of the project which would be more detailed work (‘deep dive’) around four key areas. These are:
 - Prevention of drugs and alcohol misuse by young people
 - Reducing availability of alcohol and more effective enforcement, ie making more effective use of licensing and other statutory and criminal justice powers
 - Developing a more coherent and joined up commissioning and treatment system, particularly for alcohol treatment
 - Reducing the impact of alcohol misuse on A&E Services

The Way Forward/Recommendation

3. In the light of the information in paragraph 2 above, the Scrutiny Commissioners, on advice from Mr Hunt considered the following three options regarding the way forward:-
 - To proceed with a Panel now,
 - To proceed with a Panel later in 2010 or
 - To decide whether or not to establish a Panel later in 2010.

The Commissioners RECOMMEND:-

- a) **That the findings of the 'light touch review' undertaken by Mr Hunt should be welcomed and noted and that the need for a Panel should be considered when the outcome of the Total Place 'deep dive' was available in early 2010.**
- b) **That a report on the Total Place Project be submitted to a future meeting of the Commission.**

Background Papers

Minutes of the Scrutiny Commission held on 1 September 2009

Attached report from Mr Hunt

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equal Opportunities Implications

4. There are no specific equal opportunities implications in relation to binge drinking, although misuse of alcohol plays a significant part in domestic violence where women are much more likely to be victims.

Crime and Disorder Implications

5. There are significant crime and disorder implications which are highlighted in the Review.