

Response from Nigel Hindle, Chief Superintendent, Portsmouth OCU Commander to the recommendations in the report of alcohol-related hospital admissions.

Dear Councillor Stagg,

Thank you for sharing this important piece of work. You asked me to respond to recommendations 15, 21 and 26.

Overall, I am very keen to focus resources on tackling alcohol related crime and disorder. With the highest priority being domestic violence which accounts for 25% of violent crime. I am chairing a strategy meeting on 22nd February to develop an action plan to deliver improvements during 2011/12 and beyond. These actions will be consistent with the Safer Portsmouth Partnership activity. I have already increased resources in the Domestic Abuse Unit and transferred £20,000 to support the Early Intervention Project. Our Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been enhanced to focus on youth related violence and our tactical approach to policing the night time economy will change on 11th March. This will result in better use of non custodial disposals, a greater focus on enforcing licensing laws, particularly premises admitting and serving drunks.

In relation to the recommendations, I have the following to report:

Recommendation 15.

Robust enforcement action be put in place by the licensing department and the police to reinforce the message of what is and what is not acceptable.

Support the introduction of a late-night levy on licensed premises' takings as being considered in the Government's consultation document Rebalancing the Licensing Act.

As stated above, there will be a new tactical approach to dealing with the night time economy starting on 11th March. This will involve:

Custody Strategy - Custody & Prosecution Interview Teams resource management, reducing waiting times, evidence and review, investigative response, street bail clinics

Use of alternative disposals - Fixed Penalty Notices, Section 27 dispersal and street bailing

Officer Guidance - Officer booklets, briefing packs on Night Time Economy

Licensing objectives - Proactively targeting licensing issues through the full time licensing team

Communication Strategy - (Internal and External) focusing on the effects of alcohol misuse and the need for officers to record where suspects have been drinking prior to committing offences

Recommendation 21.

Improvements be made by the ambulance and police services to the way that information is recorded and collated to provide the evidence base for dealing with alcohol-related incidents.

These services provide monthly data relating to incidents in night time economy areas to the Safer Portsmouth Partnership.

A renewed leadership focus on officers recording when offences are affected by misuse of alcohol (they record through our force Record Management System (RMS), which has a specific field that must be completed to show a causal influence).

Recommendation 26.

Safer Portsmouth Partnership consider introducing a client data collection or case management system.

Agencies involved in alcohol-related issues make better use of their own IT systems to accurately record information that can be used to enforce licensing. For example a police running log similar to that used for major events, to record incidents throughout the evening, which can later be analysed to build up a solid evidence base against persistent individuals or premises.

This is a duplicate of recommendation 21. There is currently only one system that all partners could use - Safety Net - otherwise, there is a focus on using the existing police system (RMS) to record this information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Nigel Hindle, Chief Superintendent
Portsmouth OCU Commander
Hampshire Constabulary
Fratton Police Station | Kingston Crescent | Portsmouth | PO2 8BU