

Report to: Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel (HOSP)

Report title: Progress report on the Review of alcohol-related hospital admissions

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1.0 Purpose of the report:

This report will provide an update on the progress made by Portsmouth City Council in achieving the recommendations made by the HOSP in their 2010/11 Review of alcohol-related hospital admissions.

2.0 Background:

Throughout 2010 the HOSP completed an in-depth review of alcohol-related hospital admissions in Portsmouth. The report provided a comprehensive view of the causes of Portsmouth's above average rate of admissions and broader problems linked to alcohol.

The report laid out a wide range of conclusions and made recommendations linked to these. In total 13 of these conclusions and associated recommendations directly related to the work of Portsmouth City Council.

The recommendations varied from training appropriate frontline staff to delivering alcohol advice, increasing alcohol education in schools, prohibiting staff from consuming alcohol during working hours and increasing the capacity of treatment services to support people with an alcohol dependency.

3.0 Progress to date

Significant progress have been in a number of the areas, most notably in the work the Health Improvement Development Service have delivered with schools; training delivered to frontline staff and the increase in the capacity of treatment services to support alcohol dependant patients.

Progress has not been made in including alcohol harm reduction across all of PCC's service plans; the staff alcohol policy was not amended; and progress has been slow in following the Purple Flag accreditation process.

A summary of the recommendations and the progress is included within Appendix 1.

4.0 Conclusion

Some progress has been made in delivering the recommendations made by the HOSP in January 2011, however there is still work to be done. The continued support of the HOSP, and Members, in championing these recommendations would aid further progress.

Appendix 1			
Conclusions (relevant to PCC)	Recommendation	Lead Officer	Comment
<p>4. The effect of alcohol misuse is far reaching. All council services have a role to play in either prevention, signposting/referral to treatment or enforcement.</p>	<p>Recognition and dealing with alcohol misuse be part of all the Council's service plans and policies.</p> <p>All frontline services that deal with clients with alcohol issues be trained in Identification and Brief Advice. Social care, housing, community wardens amongst others.</p> <p>A Councillor be appointed Alcohol Awareness Champion</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Leader of the Council, City solicitor and strategic director</p>	<p>No progress in this area</p> <p>Training has been delivered to some but not all staff across a range of areas, including: Sure Start, Adult Mental Health, Older Persons, Schools, Supported housing, Community Safety. Training is not routine.</p> <p>The Cabinet member for Community Safety has taken this lead (up to May 2012 elections)</p>
<p>5. Concerned that young adolescents in the Portsmouth area are more likely to drink alcohol and binge drink than the national average</p>	<p>Appropriate alcohol-awareness education in primary schools be introduced and the Head of Children's Services encourage head teachers of all schools to include alcohol awareness in their curriculum. This opportunity be used to build confidence amongst children without the need to hide behind the bravado of alcohol, dispelling the macho image.</p> <p>All secondary schools (both state and private) be encouraged to appoint an</p>	<p>Director of children's services and strategic director, Primary and secondary head teachers</p> <p>Principals of further education institutions</p> <p>The vice-chancellor of the University of</p>	<p>HIDS are currently piloting an alcohol awareness scheme/lessons in Paulsgrove primary schools. This will include a booklet for parents. HIDS are also delivering a self-esteem project for young people with poor social skills. HIDS have started a young carers' project, in partnership with the voluntary sector, which will work with schools to support children with substance misusing parents.</p> <p>The majority of schools do provide alcohol awareness as part of their curriculum, however some do not and others have dropped PSHE entirely.</p> <p>All state secondary, the Harbour school, some state primary and private schools have</p>

	<p>Alcohol Champion through the Health Improvement and Development Service (HIDS) scheme, which is already in place, and that the scheme be extended to include further and higher education.</p> <p>Seek to work in partnership with the Be Your Best Foundation (Rock Challenge) to promote the dangers of alcohol misuse as well as drug misuse.</p> <p>Work with HIDS and schools in respect of the public health element of alcohol misuse including increased sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies.</p> <p>In line with proposals in the Health Inequalities White Paper, Local Authorities will be instrumental in educating the public in respect of alcohol abuse, addressing health inequalities in particular. This could be through a range of options including Surestart and Children's Centre's to educate young and expectant mothers of the potential dangers.</p>		<p>appointed a Substance Misuse link officer through the HIDS scheme.</p> <p>PCC provide ongoing support to the Rock Challenge</p> <p>This is HIDS core business as the link between alcohol and sexual health is well documented.</p> <p>Social Marketing campaigns have been run, including Save Dave and 'Love Your Liver'. Alcohol education is now delivered in a range of settings, including A&E and pharmacies. The Alcohol Interventions Team currently provides alcohol advice, therapy and parenting skills groups within two Children's centres.</p>
<p>6. There is a link between affordability and consumption.</p>	<p>Monitor the progress made by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) which is currently drafting a by-law on minimum pricing. If it is successful, then the council consider introducing it in Portsmouth.</p>	<p>The Member Alcohol Awareness Champion</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and other Members on the Safer Portsmouth Partnership have written to Ministers advocating a minimum price per unit of alcohol. The Government's new Alcohol Strategy has laid out plans to seek such a minimum price.</p>
<p>7. It is important that the council has a clear staff alcohol policy that is implemented and offer</p>	<p>Portsmouth City Council lead by example by prohibiting alcohol consumption by staff and members during the working day and being under the influence of alcohol at</p>	<p>Leader of the Council Chief Executive</p>	<p>The Cabinet did not endorse this recommendation.</p>

support for employees with misuse issues.	work. The Lord Mayor be exempted from this rule and exercise their discretion in this matter.		
8. Pleased with the joint working between the planning and licensing services	The planning and licensing departments continue to work together when a premises applies for a change of use.	Director of regeneration and strategic director. City solicitor and strategic director.	These departments continue to liaise over relevant applications.
9. Pleased with the work of the Portsmouth Street Pastors and the setting up of the Safe Space centre.	The Portsmouth Street Pastors be thanked for their contribution to dealing with the night time economy. The effectiveness and the long-term service delivery of Safe Space be evaluated.	Director of Public Health	Portsmouth Street Pastors have received ongoing support, including funding from NHS Portsmouth and PCC Community Safety Safe Space was retendered in Spring 2011, this is now run by South Central Ambulance Service, operating each Friday & Saturday night from 10pm to 3am
10. Pleased that the setting up of an Off Watch scheme is being investigated.	Support be given to the scheme	Director of regeneration and strategic director	This scheme has not been established. Trading Standards would be keen to support the development of this scheme with additional resourcing.
11. Disappointed that the Tell Us Survey which asked pupils from years 6, 8 and 10 for their views about their local area and behaviour has been discontinued.	Support the Health Improvement & Development Service questionnaire that will replicate the Tell Us survey on a local level	Director of adult social services and strategic director. Director of Children's services. Head Teachers.	The HIDS schools survey has taken place in each of the previous 2 years and has seen an increase in uptake from schools and pupils.

<p>12. Pleased to note that alcohol is a clear priority set out in all local partnership documents but concerned that this is not being fully implemented.</p>	<p>Support the National Support Team's recommendation that the Local Strategic Partnership should specify the accountabilities and responsibilities for the delivery of the Alcohol Strategy for each partnership board.</p>	<p>Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Partnerships were requested to consider their responsibility for the delivery of the alcohol strategy, through the PCC Strategy Unit. The response to this was very limited with alcohol not included within many delivery plans.</p>
<p>13. Pleased with the preventative work of the CCTV Control Room Operators</p>	<p>That the licensed premises owners in the Guildhall Walk and environs contribute to install additional CCTV within the council picking up the maintenance costs thereafter</p>	<p>City Solicitor</p>	<p>Licensed premises in this area have not contributed to additional CCTV, although in future a 'Late Night Levy' could be charged against late night premises to cover such costs.</p>
<p>14. Pleased that the trees in Guildhall Walk that were obstructing the view of the CCTV cameras in that area were promptly pruned by Colas following a request by the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel Chair.</p>	<p>An annual pruning programme be introduced in areas agreed by the CCTV Control Room Manager and Colas.</p>	<p>Director of regeneration and strategic director</p>	<p>Pruning programme agreed.</p>
<p>15. Concerned that the Guildhall Walk has high levels of alcohol attributable anti-social behaviour and crime and dealing with this is costly and resource intensive.</p>	<p>Robust enforcement action be put in place by the licensing department and the police to reinforce the message of what is and is not acceptable.</p> <p>Support the introduction of a late-night levy on licensed premises' takings as being considered in the Governments consultation document Rebalancing the Licensing Act.</p>	<p>Director of Public Health in conjunction with the Chief Superintendent, Hampshire Police.</p>	<p>Robust enforcement action has been taken, with licenses reviewed and new conditions added. Violent crimes in Guildhall Walk fell by 7% in 2011/12 (to 169), however violent crimes in the city centre night time economy as a whole, increased by 4.5% (to 282).</p> <p>The late night levy is being introduced by the Government and should be available to local areas from October 2012</p>

<p>16. Concerned that there are insufficient places for the 1,057 alcohol dependant people in Portsmouth who should access treatment services per annum according to local targets.</p>	<p>Ensure that patients accessing treatment are captured on the appropriate database, as stipulated in the provider services' contracts with the Council from April 2012.</p>	<p>Director of Public Health</p>	<p>There has been a significant expansion of alcohol treatment services since 2010. The introduction of the Alcohol Specialist Nurse Service at Queen Alexandra Hospital and the expansion of the Alcohol Interventions Team mean that this target should be met in 2013. The re-modelling of the substance misuse treatment system, including the detoxification provision, will mean that more capacity will be created.</p>
<p>17. The management of the night time economy required joint working at a senior level.</p>	<p>The council and partners consider working towards Purple Flag status for the night time economy to provide a focus to tackle the long-term problems.</p> <p>The design and management of the night time economy be an integral part of the Regeneration Strategy for Portsmouth, as recommended by the National Support Team.</p>	<p>Director of regeneration and strategic director</p>	<p>The Cabinet has approved commencing the Purple Flag process. This commenced with a Purple Flag Self-Assessment which was completed on the 19th May 2012. PCC Community Safety has been given the lead on this work.</p> <p>The design and management of the night time economy is referenced in the Regeneration Strategy for Portsmouth. The issue however still seems to be perceived as mainly a community safety issue.</p>