



Licensing Committee

9 September 2015

Report title	Update on Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2015	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Ros Jervis, Public	
Originating service	Public Health	
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Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note:

1. The increase in alcohol related emergency admissions
2. Assessment of progress so far on the strategy
3. The proposal for a newly formed Substance Alliance
4. Key actions for 2015

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Licencing Committee with an update in relation to next steps for the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Licencing Committee endorsed the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011 – 2015 on 27 June 2012 and agreed to receive periodic reports. The most recent update was in September 2014.

3.0 Progress Update

Brief updates on progress against Goals one, two and four are given below, with a greater emphasis on Goal three.

3.1 ***Goal one - A whole community approach to changing alcohol habits in Wolverhampton***

In the last paper, comprehensive information on the work of Healthy Schools was provided. However, there is more work to be done in achieving a 'whole community approach' as described in the goal and there are some new opportunities on the horizon that will help to make this happen.

The new big change is that from 1st October 2015, Public Health will have commissioning responsibility for Health visiting as well as School Nursing (which they already have) and together these universal workforces make up the 'Healthy Child Programme'. These services will be going out to tender in October 2016 and provide us with a significant opportunity to boost the work that is being undertaken with families from 0-19. Responsibility for The Healthy Child Programme also requires much closer working with Early Help Teams in Children's Services. It is envisaged that this closer working, with more shared outcomes, will enable work on early identification and intervention relating to alcohol issues become much more embedded into daily practice.

Public Health is also embarking on developing a strategy for public mental well-being: keeping people well and also providing support *in the community* for people starting to struggle e.g. from anxiety and depression **before** the issue needs more specialised help. Addressing alcohol and mental well-being together will form a key part of this work.

3.2 ***Goal two - Developing a well managed night time economy***

Progress has continued to be made in respect to the majority of programmed activities within Goal two.

Since the last paper to Licensing Committee city centre businesses voted in favour of introducing a Business Improvement District (BID). Within the business plan for the BID were proposals to fund the Late Night Safe Haven for an additional 32 nights a year,

taking the total nights the facility operates to 40 nights. The funding covers the opening and staffing of the facility and also the provision of British Red Cross emergency first aid operatives and a dedicated ambulance. The additional nights commenced in May and the Late Night Safe Haven is now delivered on pay weekends, bank holidays and other nights where significant demand is expected on agencies that support the night time economy.

In April of this year the Council agreed a revised Statement of Licensing Policy. The new policy, which had been subject to extensive public consultation and reports to this Committee, extended the city centre cumulative impact zone and introduced four new cumulative impact zones at Bilston, Wednesfield, the Dudley Road and the Avion Centre. The policy also makes reference to the role of the Responsible Authorities Forum and both the Licensing Authority and Public Health in their new capacities as Responsible Authorities.

In June the Responsible Authorities Forum considered local intelligence from various sources indicating that non-compliance from a minority of off licences was contributing to a host of issues. These included street drinking and associated antisocial behaviour, serving to persons that are already drunk, serving alcohol outside their licensed hours and selling both non-duty paid and counterfeit cigarettes. To tackle these problems the Responsible Authorities Forum developed Operation Riposte. Operation Riposte was launched on 17 July 2015. This initial operation targeted seven off licences in Whitmore Reans, large quantities of illegal alcohol and cigarettes were seized from several premises and premises were also found to sell alcohol outside their normal licensing hours, licence reviews following this are pending. Operation Riposte will continue and further activities are being identified across the city through the Responsible Authorities Forum.

3.3 ***Goal three – Combating alcohol related crime and disorder and increase community safety due to alcohol misuse***

Operation Stay Safe is the deployment strategy that contains tactics for effectively policing the night time economy. This strategy is regularly updated to meet the dynamic demands created from this area of business.

The use of preventative methods is still a mainstay of the overall Alcohol Strategy. All seizures made under the powers conferred by the Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) are now collated on the Police Corvus intelligence system. This provides a single point of collation for all Officers; there has been an average of one entry per day (over the last 50 days) on the system detailing seizures, some entries relate to multiple alcohol seizures. Section 27 Dispersal (the power to disperse people involved in antisocial behaviour (ASB) where alcohol is a factor) is a power that is also available to officers, there have been 27 notices issued so far this calendar year. Officers on Wolverhampton Local Policing Unit (LPU) are now regularly wearing Lapel Cam's. Their effectiveness is monitored as part of an academic study the results of which can be reported on at a later date.

The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) staff have been deployed as part of Operation Stay Safe (to offer educational

advice), significantly during the Football World Cup. This is not a tactic that will be regularly used, however it will be considered as a tactical option for specific times of the year.

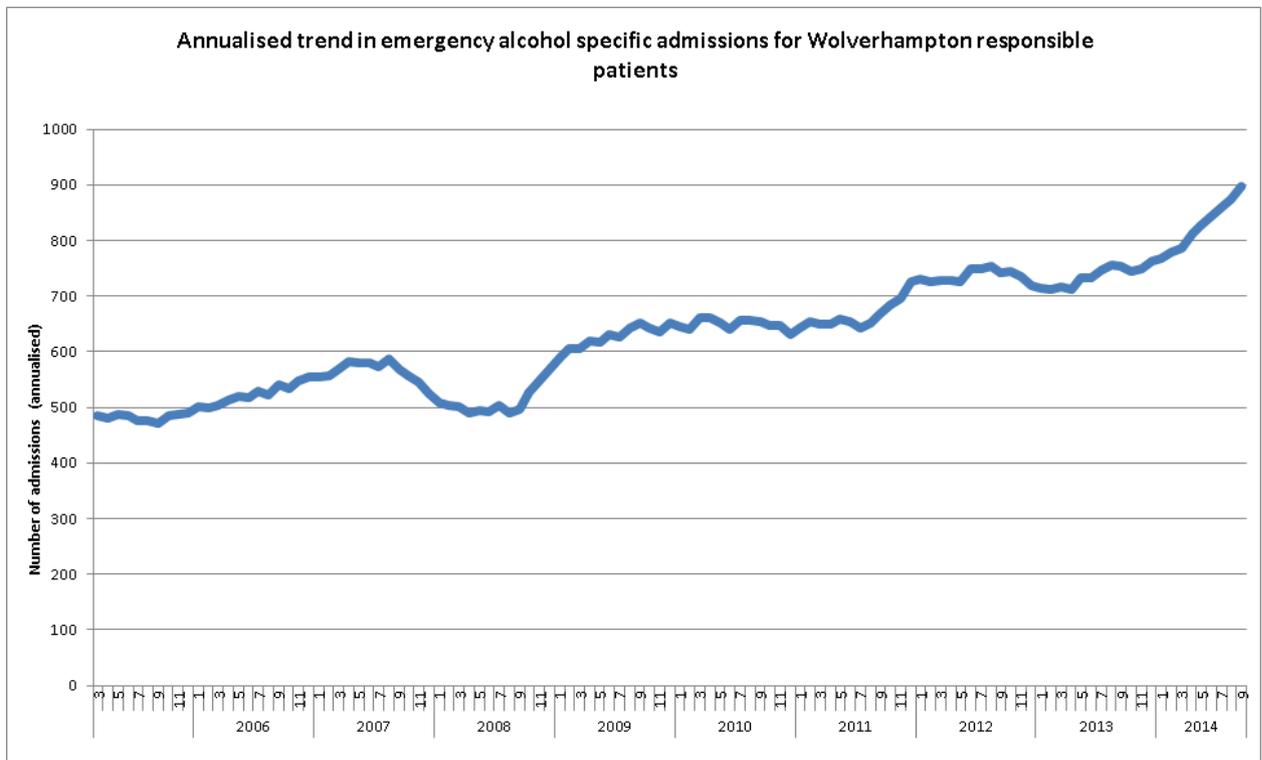
Operation Sentinel is a West Midlands Police (WMP) approach to highlight vulnerability. Alcohol is a factor in domestic violence incidents, and medium and high risk victims/offenders are offered a referral to Wolverhampton substance misuse service, and there is an outstanding task to now include standard risk subjects. The alcohol dashboard contains the relevant alcohol related statistics for Wolverhampton LPU.

3.4 **Goal four – Improving health and alcohol treatment services in Wolverhampton**

The new substance misuse service contract was awarded to Recovery Near You. Uptake of the new service by the service user group has improved but more needs to be done to address the scale of the problem in the city. Specifically, work needs to be done to address the increase in alcohol emergency admissions – see figure 1 below which shows a steady increase in emergency admissions for alcohol.

The Alcohol Liaison Team, based in the hospital, alongside Health Trainers with specific expertise in alcohol, are doing excellent work with people who are admitted to hospital with alcohol problems on identifying the issue and referring on for more specialist help if required. Public Health is boosting capacity of the Alcohol Liaison Team this year.

Public Health also intends to boost training and capacity within primary care to identify patients with alcohol problems.



3.5 New reporting arrangements

In July, the first 'Substance Alliance' meeting was held and a second meeting is scheduled for September. The idea behind this alliance is to reduce the need for the same people to attend various meetings on tobacco, and separately on alcohol, and separately on illegal drugs etc.

It is also being established to identify common issues and approaches across drugs alcohol and tobacco wherever possible, and establish discrete task and finish groups where required. These ideas are still in discussion and it is envisaged that more definitive terms of reference will be in place after the September meeting.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4.2 Any actions arising from the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy will be delivered within the existing approved budgets held under Public Health, and other mainstream budgets held by services and external agencies that are responsible for delivery of specific actions. [NM/01092015/E]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, a number of the actions contained within the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy Action Plan will require specific legal involvement on an individual, case by case, basis. [JB/28082015/V]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 The broad aims and objectives of the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy are intended to reduce the harmful impact of alcohol on health & wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are direct environmental implications arising from this report as several actions contained within the Alcohol Strategy and action plan seek to improve environmental conditions, particularly within the City Centre.

8.0 Schedule of Background Papers

Papers to Licensing Committee
REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE – Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011 –
2015. 10th September 2014