

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PANEL - H - NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ALCOHOL STRATEGY

Monday, 21 June 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Brendan Glynane (Chair); Councillors Phil Larratt, Richard Matthews and John Yates

Chief Inspector Andy Tresias Northants Police

Nicci Marzec

- Partnership Director, Northampton Strategic Partnership

Tracy Tiff

- Scrutiny Officer

OBSERVING

Chief Superintendent Karen Dabber - Cambridgeshire Police

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Caswell.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

There were none.

4. TO SET THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW - NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ALCOHOL STRATEGY

Consideration of **Items 4 To set the Scope of the Review - Northamptonshire Alcohol Strategy 5 – Background Information** were taken together

Nicci Marzec, Partnership Director, Northampton Strategic Partnership, gave background details to the Northamptonshire Alcohol Strategy that had initially been implemented in 2006 advising that it had not been sufficiently progressed and as a consequence had been issued with a CAA red flag.

The Scrutiny Panel asked questions, made observations and heard: -

- All key partners are involved in developing the Strategy
- A Countrywide event held was held in 2009 regarding the development of the Strategy, which include a six-week stakeholder consultation.
- The Northamptonshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2010-2015 has been agreed by the Public Service Board and recommended to partners to adopt through their governance process.
- A Seminar will be held on 12th July 2010 which will discuss Alcohol related issues for Northampton and propose key themes for the Action Plan and will focus on Northampton needs profile. Those invited to attend include: -

- Community safety partnerships
 - Scrutiny Panel H
 - Licensing Trade & Association other key partners
 - Children and Young People Services
 - DAT - Providers of Alcohol Treatment
 - Health
- The Strategy contains four strategic priorities
 - Providing education and awareness
 - Managing supply and pricing of alcohol
 - Developing health and treatment services
 - Reducing alcohol related crime and disorder
- These four broad principles cut across all aspects of life and there is a need to detail how they are localised and that a response is made on a local level, for example, Northampton Borough Council using its powers to the full extent under the Licensing Act 2003 especially in relation to specific issues around Friday and Saturday evenings drinking in the town centre.
 - In response to a query about the type of evidence that hospitals will provide, the Panel heard that not all alcohol related incidents that are dealt with at Accident and Emergency data are reported to the Police. Around 50% of incidents that come through Accident and Emergency are alcohol related. A recent Government Directive informs that hospitals will have to share such information, which will provide a much more informed picture.
 - It was noted that alcohol harm has underlying social issues, which often do not become apparent until serious health problems are present
 - There has been a 109% rise in alcohol related issues hospital admissions between 2002/ 03 and 2008/ 09.
 - There has also been an increase in alcohol related issues in the 60-69 age brackets, which is a huge issue for the Health Service.
 - The Panel referred to best practice, hearing that Kent and Wolverhampton had performed well
 - The need for educating young people on alcohol harm at an appropriate young age was noted
 - An important role for this Scrutiny Panel would be to check and balance the Action Plan, challenging the outcomes. By doing this, it would ensure that Scrutiny has a real input into the Action Plan at an early stage in the process, providing Scrutiny with the opportunity to make a difference.

Following the submission of background information, the Scrutiny Panel scoped its Review. In discussing the rationale for the Review, the Scrutiny Panel felt that there would be more added value for the purpose of the Review to be amended to read "To contribute to the Northampton Alcohol Strategy Action Plan." By doing this, it would ensure that Scrutiny has a real input into the Action Plan at an early stage in the process, providing Scrutiny with the opportunity to make a difference.

The need for a further evidence-gathering meeting was noted and the date of 4th August 2010 was set. This meeting would receive the draft Action Plan and feedback from the Northampton Alcohol Harm Reduction Seminar.

AGREED: That the Scope of the Review: Northants Alcohol Strategy, as attached at Annex 1 be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 7:00 pm



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Scrutiny Panel H Northamptonshire Alcohol Strategy

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

To contribute to the Northampton Alcohol Strategy Action Plan.

2. Outcomes Required

To provide Scrutiny input into the Northampton Alcohol Strategy Action Plan

To make recommendations for improvement, as appropriate

3. Information Required

- Data from other (best practice) Local Authorities/Agencies
- Published guidance on Alcohol Harm Reduction
- Evidence from the Northampton Alcohol Harm Reduction Seminar
- Evidence from appropriate witnesses other than those providing evidence to the Northampton Alcohol Harm Reduction Seminar

4. Format of Information

- Officer reports/presentations
- Baseline data such as alcohol profile
- Draft Northampton Strategy Action Plan
- Published guidance on Alcohol Harm Reduction
- Best practice evidence external to Northampton
- Witness interviews/evidence
- Portfolio Holder evidence

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of the meetings
- Desktop research
- Officer reports/presentations
- Examples of best practice

- Site visits
- Witness Interviews/evidence: -
 - Northampton Alcohol Harm Reduction Seminar
 - Portfolio Holder (Community Engagement)
 - Sergeant Worthington (licensing)

6. Co-Options to the Review

- None at this stage. Co-option may be re-visited following attendance at the Northampton Alcohol Reduction Seminar

7 Equality Impact Screening Assessment

- Scrutiny Officer to undertake an Equality Impact Screening Assessment shortly after the Scoping meeting

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

June 2010 to November 2010

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|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 21 June 2010 | Scoping Meeting |
| 12 July 2010 | Northampton Alcohol Reduction Seminar |
| 4 August 2010 | Evidence gathering |
| 4 October 2010 | Evidence gathering |
| 29 November | Finalise Chair's report |

Various site visits will be programmed during this period if required.

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room, Guildhall

7. Responsible Officers

- Lead Officer Nicci Marzec, Partnership Director, Northampton Strategic Partnership
- Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

8. Resources and Budgets

- Nicci Marzec, Partnership Director, Northampton Strategic Partnership to provide internal advice.

10 Final report presented by:

- Completed by November 2010. Presented by the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

11 Monitoring procedure:

- Review the impact of the report after six months (approximately July 2011)