

**At a meeting of the COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Heron in the Chair

Councillors Ball, Copeland, Ellis, Emerson, Maddison, Scaplehorn, J. Scott, Timmins and J. Walton

**Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence submitted.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2010**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Reference from Cabinet – 3 November 2010 – Licensing Act 2003 – Approval of Amendments to the Council's Licensing Policy Statement**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek the advice and consideration of the Committee on a report considered by the Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2010 which set out the revised Licensing Policy Statement which was to be re-published on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2011. The Statement of Licensing Policy is an Article 4 Plan requiring full Council approval.

Members' views would assist the Council in its obligation to review the Statement of Licensing Policy in order to fulfil its statutory duty.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Tom Terrett, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, presented the report and advised members that their concerns over the cumulative impact policy had been considered and investigations had been made with the Council's legal officers and

the relevant guidance available. Unfortunately it was still the case that there was a necessity of evidence needed before a Premises Licence could be rejected on grounds of saturation in a particular area.

Mr. Terrett also advised that the Government had issued a consultation exercise as they believed the Act was too liberal and that Councils should have more say on the issue, so it is hoped that Members will see a more favourable policy in the future.

Councillor Maddison enquired if retailers were notified if they had passed test purchases when carried out.

Mr. Terrett advised that retailers were not notified if they had passed a test purchase to prevent the retailers from reviewing CCTV and identifying the child volunteer. It was also advised that procedures were in place and measures were taken so that the volunteer would not have to attend Court.

In response to Councillor J. Scott's query, Mr. Terrett advised that the other statutory bodies that could make representations at a Licensing Sub-Committee included Trading Standards, Planning, Environmental Health and also interested parties.

Councillor J. Scott commented on a particular application where a Church had submitted concerns, yet these could not be considered as the Church were not a statutory body and the Members felt powerless in making the decision. Councillor J. Scott enquired when the Authority could say enough is enough.

Mr. Terrett advised that there had to be evidence of existing problems occurring in a particular area, for this the Police representations were key. If there were 10 premises in one area that were not causing any problems, there would be no reason not to grant a further Premises Licence.

Councillor Ellis enquired what plans there were to tackle children obtaining alcohol from parents or friends as the figures were quite disturbing.

Leanne Davis, Drug and Alcohol Strategy Manager, advised of the alcohol awareness week carried out in November which included a campaign directed at parents to show that purchasing alcohol for children was not acceptable. The campaign would continue to be rolled out until Christmas.

In response to Councillor Ellis' query, Ms. Davis advised that an update on the effectiveness of the campaign would be provided at a future meeting of the Committee.

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Change in the Order of Business**

The Chairman advised that he would be taking Item 7 of the Agenda at this juncture to allow the presenting officers to attend to other duties.

## **Cardiff Model Implementation within City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust**

City Hospitals Sunderland submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an overview of how the Cardiff Model was being implemented within Sunderland Royal Hospital.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Davis, Cain Thomason, Alcohol/Cardiff Co-ordinator, and Dr. Kate Lambert presented the report and also provided a Powerpoint presentation.

Councillor Maddison enquired if the collection of data slowed down the response time in treating the patient.

Dr. Lambert advised that it did not slow down the treatment response times as the details required could be gathered within minutes and the staff would prioritise depending on the situation, i.e. if the patient had chest pains and such like.

Councillor Timmins referred to the ICT problems faced and commented that it was vital to solve these issues in the initial stages.

Mr. Thomason advised that striving for data completeness was a challenge.

Ms. Davis commented that Sunderland Royal Hospital was able to write new programmes into its software and was ahead of the game in that respect. In relation to partnership working, they had the vault system where information could be overlaid with the Police data and once other areas, such as Gateshead started to use the system their data could be shared also.

Councillor Scaplehorn enquired if there were any figures available on the brief interventions.

Dr. Lambert advised that the brief interventions had been successful with good evidence showing that it reduced people's use of alcohol.

Councillor Scaplehorn enquired if they were hopeful to introduce the model at walk in centres.

Mr. Thomason advised that there was not a specific date to introduce the model at walk in centres but they were currently holding talks with South Tyneside at present. Funding was in place, but the IT was not. Once the IT was up and running, the easier the data could be gathered.

In response to the Chairman's enquiry, Dr. Lambert advised there were no plans in the foreseeable future to gather data from doctors' surgeries as the numbers would generally be very small.

Mr. Thomason advised they were hoping to receive data from the Eye Infirmary also.

Councillor Copeland enquired if there were procedures in place to identify patients admitted through alcohol related domestic violence.

Dr. Lambert advised that the procedures may not be as good as such areas like Durham, for instance, but Sunderland did have a Domestic Violence Lead Nurse in position. There wasn't a referral agency that they could signpost patients to but they did liaise with organisations such as Wearside Women in Need.

Councillor Copeland enquired if the Police were a good source for information of people at risk.

Ms. Davis advised that the Police had links and processes in place so that they could refer people to Wearside Women in Need and other such services.

The Chairman having thanked the presenting officers it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Marketing and Communications to tackle Alcohol Related Violence in the Night Time Economy**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with information on the types of marketing and communications activity being carried out by the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) to help tackle alcohol related violence in the night time economy and improve feelings of safety.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Julie Smith, Community Safety Manager, presented the report and was on hand to answer Members' queries.

In relation to the Safer Communities Survey and the feedback from the campaign on where improvements had been made, Councillor J. Walton enquired as to how the statistics had been gathered.

Ms. Smith advised that the statistics were compiled via a postal survey and had moved to a single survey which was used by a number of organisations. There had been a 30-35% response to the survey and they would be changing the method to a phone survey which would be even more statistically reliable.

Councillor Ball referred to the £11,430 costs of the campaign and commented that she believed this to be a small amount in comparison to the costs of dealing with the result of alcohol related crimes and injuries. Councillor Ball also enquired if the campaign DVDs had been played at schools.

Ms. Smith advised that the schools had participated in the making of the DVD via a competition to produce storyboards, one of the films included in the campaign had been made by the schoolchildren. There was also a screen at Shiney Row Campus

which showed the Safer Sunderland Partnership TV Network and could be moved to other areas when available.

Councillor Maddison enquired if participation in the Best Bar None Scheme could be added as a condition in the granting of a Premises Licence.

Mr. Terrett advised that participation could not be made compulsory as part of the conditions and unless it was voluntary the scheme would not be particularly effective.

Ms. Davis commented that additional criteria had been added to the scheme this year, with participants having to be continually assessed, with the possibility of their accreditation being stopped if standards had fallen.

In response to Councillor Copeland's query Ms. Davis advised that the Drink Banning Order process was quite long due to the huge amount of evidence that was gathered but that the Council had learned a great deal from the Orders it had made.

Councillor Copeland referred to the £500 costs involved in the issuing of a Drinks Banning Order and felt this would save money in the longer term as it would reduce the amount of ASB occurring.

In response to Councillor J. Walton's enquiry, Ms. Davis advised that a number of additional pubs had signed up for the polycarbonate glass scheme and this qualified them for extra points under the Best Bar None Scheme as an added incentive.

4. RESOLVED that Members endorse the marketing and communications approach taken by the SSP and Northumbria Police to help tackle alcohol related violence in the night time economy and improve feeling of safety in the City.

### **Sunderland Street Pastors**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with information about the Street Pastors and how the scheme operated within Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Dave Burke and Julie Dodson presented the report and briefed the Committee on a typical night that the Street Pastors could encounter.

Councillor Scaplehorn commented that the Street Pastors did a fabulous job with the service they provided and that they deserved a huge amount of credit.

Councillor Copeland suggested that when the Members visited the City Centre as part of the Policy Review, that they also observe the Street Pastors for a period during the night.

Mr. Burke advised that he would love for the Members to accompany the Street Pastors whilst they performed their service.

The Chairman advised that the health and safety aspects would need to be investigated but it was a possibility to observe the Street Pastors also.

Ms. Smith informed the Committee that she had requested Cain Thomason to look at the amount of hospital admissions from wounds to people's feet on a night out as part of the Cardiff Model Study.

Councillor Maddison enquired as to the Street Pastors position with regards to funding.

Mr. Burke advised that they were funded up until April 2011 and had been well provided for by the Council and Northumbria Police but were still in need of extra resource as they employed a part time co-ordinator.

The Chairman thanked the Street Pastors for the brilliant service that they provided and commented that consideration could be given over future funding when the budgets were being agreed.

Councillor Maddison also suggested that Community Chest could be a possible source of funding.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy: Progress**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an ongoing progress report in relation to this year's policy review around alcohol, violence and the night time economy.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Claire Harrison, Acting Scrutiny Officer, presented the report and advised of an additional Task and Finish Group scheduled for Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, if Members could confirm their attendance and also advised that the places for the City Centre night time visit had now been filled for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December.

If any other Members wished to express their interest in attending the City Centre visit, another date could be arranged in the New Year.

The Chairman also commented that there could be another possible date arranged to include the Street Pastors visit.

Ms. Davis gave an update on the Best Bar None awards and who the winners were on the night.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

## **Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the period 1 November 2010 – 28 February 2011**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 November 2010 – 28 February 2011 which relate to the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that the Committee has considered the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 November 2010 – 28 February 2011.

## **Work Programme 2010-11**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing for Members' information the current Work Programme for the Committee's work during the 2010-11 Council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) R. HERON,  
Chairman.