

## Safer Halton Partnership

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in the Boardroom, Municipal Building, Widnes.

### Present:

D Parr	Chief Executive
S Bell	Public Health
E Anwar	Public Health
M Andrews	Community Safety
S Boycott	Cheshire Police
Cllr D Cargill	Community Safety Portfolio Holder
J Duff	Faith Representative
D Gordon	Community Safety – Cheshire Police
D Downer	Policy & Performance – Communities
S Henshaw	Cheshire Fire & Rescue
C Patino	Community & Environment
Cllr D Thompson	PPB Chair Police Crime Panel Representative
J Williams	Commissioning – Communities
R Langdale-Smith	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire
D Perchard	HBC Trading Standards

### Apologies:

L Crane	Integrated Youth Support
G Jones	Youth Offending Team

	ACTION
<b>1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
David Parr welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.	

<p><b>2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>Minutes of last meeting agreed as a true record.</p> <p>E Anwar gave information regarding the issue of the cumulative health impact linked to licencing hours and the links between sex crime and alcohol. Details on a joint campaign appear in the attached report.</p> <p>An update was provided on the issues regarding mini-motos. Assistance has been offered on finding an alternative venue following the unsuccessful expression of interest.</p> <p>C Patino provided an update regarding King George’s Field with information on estimated costs of £100k for fencing (provided by Paul Wright).</p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy report was attached as a link.</p>	
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<p><b>3. SUBSTANCE MISUSE: LEGAL HIGHS</b></p> <p>Briefing: John Williams, Commissioning Manager and Elspeth Anwar, Specialty Registrar in Public Health</p> <p>This report provides the board with an overview of novel psychoactive substances, an estimate of the scale of the problem nationally and locally, their potential and recorded harms, and makes recommendations for local actions to reduce harms due to NPS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall drug use has reduced in the UK. However, a significant recent development has been the increasing range of new and easily available Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), also known as “legal highs”. These chemical substances are newly created, and hence, are not automatically controlled under legislation.</li> <li>• In the UK NPS can be purchased on the internet, via dealers on the streets and in clubs and pubs, and in shops. Test purchasing has found that NPS can contain legal substances, illegal substances, or a mixture of both.</li> <li>• Currently there is very little national or local data on prevalence of use. Surveys suggest that NPS use among the general population tend to be low compared to use of other illicit drugs. However, use among younger age groups and some sub-sections of the population, e.g. regular clubbers, may be higher.</li> <li>• Evidence of potential harms is limited, but indications are that the health implications of NPS can be just as serious as illicit drugs including a range of physical and psychological symptoms.</li> <li>• Responses to NPS include legislation, control measures, prevention, and harm reduction initiatives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendations for local responses to NPS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to gather intelligence on the prevalence of use and harms related to NPS use within Halton.</li> <li>2. Work in partnership to identify and ensure local sellers of legal highs are complying with the current legal framework (as per Home Office guidelines for local authorities in tackling</li> </ol>	

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<p>NPS).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Ensure local prevention work with both young people and adults, including education around NPS and the potential risks of their usage.</li> <li>4. Ensure local treatment services follow emerging best practice guidelines on the identification and treatment of those who misuse NPS.</li> <li>5. Lobby Government for changes in national legislation to stop "legal highs" being sold in shops.</li> </ol> <p>The number of NPS available is constantly changing and growing. A record number of 81 substances were identified for the first time in Europe in 2013, an increase on previous years. This means the number of identified NPS now exceeds the total number of psychoactive substances currently controlled by the international drug conventions. Whilst generally there has been an increase in the number of novel NPS detected, it is important to note that the vast majority are permutations of groups of similar substances and many have not yet been identified in the UK.</p> <p>Attention was drawn to the page 11 of the report which provided definitions for further reference (Drugs Wheel).</p> <p>Cllr D Cargill asked what the local position was regarding NPS. He commented that until we know what is being used locally, it would be difficult to make progress.</p> <p>Discussion held around other LA's work with NPS and what Halton could do to raise awareness in schools and local businesses. Information was provided on the work being done by Trading Standards with test purchases planned.</p> <p>Cllr D Thompson commented on the statistics regarding deaths having doubled in two years being a serious issue. Suggested that anyone searched entering the Stadium found with NPS should not be admitted and that computers at libraries in Halton blocked to prevent searches for NPS. Cllr Thompson asked if a more detailed breakdown (by area) could be provided regarding the 60 deaths nationally. J Williams to provide.</p> <p>D Gordon has recently chaired a school meeting and NPS has been added to the standing agenda in recognition of how serious the issues are.</p> <p>J Williams and S Bell to investigate how the Commissioning Toolkit for Active Substance (attached below) issued by Public Health England will work.</p> <p>S Henshaw asked how deaths from NSP compare to deaths from ecstasy use. E Anwar suggested the figures were probably lower but would investigate further and advise.</p> <p>D Parr recommended that the report should be presented to the Safer PPB to further re-enforce.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/nps-a-toolkit-for-substance-misuse-commissioners.pdf">http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/nps-a-toolkit-for-substance-misuse-commissioners.pdf</a></p>	<p><b>JW</b></p> <p><b>JW &amp; SB</b></p> <p><b>EA</b></p> <p><b>JW &amp; EA</b></p>
<p><b>4. TASK GROUP UPDATES</b></p> <p>The partnership received the following Task Group Updates:</p> <p><b>a) ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION GROUP</b></p>	

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<p>Group informed of a change in ASB legislation which came into force on 20<sup>th</sup> October which proved useful regarding mischief night and bonfire night. Section 27 notices would be reported differently in future reports as a result of the recent reforms.</p> <p><b>Report (Q2) summarised:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 Direction to Leave notices issued (7 in Runcorn and 7 in Widnes)</li> <li>• The Quayside was voluntarily closed by the DPS following several licencing breaches.</li> <li>• Following a serious incident at the Lounge, Widnes, the Premises Licence Holder and DPS have agreed a three-month plan.</li> <li>• Two premises investigated and observed following allegations licencing breaches.</li> <li>• The Doctors in Widnes is under new management and the new DPS would appear to be knowledgeable and committed to supporting Pub Watch.</li> </ul> <p>ACPO partnership week took place on Monday 15th September 2014 with a National Week of Alcohol Action (Operation Dingwall) with the Police, HBC Licencing Enforcement Officers and Cheshire Fire Safety Officers working in partnership.</p> <p>A planned Passive Drugs operation was cancelled due to other operational commitments arising.</p> <p>CCTV has been replaced at the Quayside following events witnessed during the ACPO Enforcement Week. There are plans to upgrade the storage of images at the Quayside and the New Devonshire. New CCTV has also been installed at Tandoori Nights.</p> <p>ArcAngel was launched at a further two venues in Widnes which was very well supported by The Mayor and reported locally in the press.</p> <p>Activity underway to promote the Pub Watch scheme to try and increase numbers of attendees.</p> <p>Information was provided on the Designated Driver Promotion and with Licencing Team actively promoting this initiative which has received a positive response.</p> <p><b>b) QUARTERLY ALCOHOL UPDATE</b></p> <p>It was stated that Partnership work has improved as a result of the Safer Halton Partnership meetings. Details were given on the Halton Alcohol strategy 2014-2019 which sets out our local 5-year plan aimed at rebalancing the relationship Halton has with alcohol.</p> <p>The strategy builds upon the effective work of partners locally and encompasses three key areas - harm to health, harm to crime and community safety.</p> <p><b>Summary of key achievements in Q2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A LAAA shared learning event was held in September and was a good opportunity to meet with other participating areas and build upon best practice.</li> <li>• A plan was outlined to ask 20 people from Halton to share their relationship with alcohol to run for nine weeks from January 2015. There will be an advertising campaign via CRI to ask for local people to take part.</li> <li>• An update was given on Statement of Licencing Policy. Public Health will be briefing the Licencing Committee around their role in the licencing process and the alcohol</li> </ul>	

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<p>reduction agenda. Attention was drawn to the Late Night Levy and how Public Health's vision aligns with alcohol policy.</p> <p>D Parr commented on a Regional Sub Executive Meeting for Cheshire and Warrington where licencing policies were discussed. A collaborative approach was needed to ensure that one area changing their policy did not result in people simply going to a neighbouring area without a Late Night Levy in place.</p> <p>As new provision has been introduced regarding the Minimum Unit Price enabling Local Authorities to include additional information in local policies, this was an opportunity to support Licencing Policy. All four authorities supported this approach and it was suggested that Merseyside should also be included.</p> <p>Guy Kilminster is taking this forward and D Parr consulted the group for support. Cheshire forum reluctant to apply as lack of government support and felt there were other options. Rob Polhill driving this forward as a consistent approach is important.</p> <p>S Boycott gave details of a Cheshire-wide meeting to include local licensees providing information on the benefits of Late Night Levees. E Anwar to provide details of a meeting in January which could accommodate this.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding acceptable behaviour in pubs with a suggestion that regulation rather than the unit price of alcohol was the key. D Parr commented on the possibility of licensees signing up to appropriate standards.</p> <p>E Anwar drew attention to a booklet which was handed out to the group. The booklet described research relating to the effects of drinking on Children and a quiz undertaken by PH showed that children recognised logos advertising alcohol from adverts. Large retailers (Tesco) are keen to support local schemes as part of their corporate responsibility targets.</p> <p>S Bell commented on the statistics on page 29 of the Alcohol Update paper and that alcohol admissions had decreased bringing Halton in line with NW average but still too high. D Parr stated that the statistics are impressive but asked whether we would be creating other problems by making alcohol more expensive.</p> <p>Attention was drawn to the report detailing statistics on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The availability of alcohol to young people via older siblings/friends.</li> <li>• Cannabis usage, and the strength/availability, which demonstrated no significant increase despite recent spike (which resulted from an awareness campaign).</li> <li>• Alcohol admissions have increased nationally and locally amongst older women with liver conditions.</li> <li>• A Drinkwise campaign to increase awareness of the harm of pre-conception drinking and during pregnancy.</li> <li>• Dry January is being launched and there will be an App available to help people manage their progress. Consideration will be given to how many reminder emails are sent to people who sign up for the campaign.</li> <li>• A&amp;E admissions being targeted with a fast-track detox – a take-home drug to help people stop drinking which is similar to stop smoking aids and decreases the desire to drink.</li> <li>• CRI and Windsor Clinic demonstrating good results with 78 new referrals conducted by CRI. There is a commitment to longer-term alcohol liaison nurses at Whiston and Warrington who are currently on rolling one-year contracts to try and increase to</li> </ul>	<p>EA</p>

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<p>three-year contracts.</p> <p>Cllr Cargill asked for the source of the research on P.31 (graph). E Anwar explained that they are national figures and are mapped onto Halton's figures.</p> <p>D Parr gave details of a planned meeting in December to brief the Chair of the Regulatory Committee and take the public health Councillor Loftus to ensure licencing policy is informed by the discussions are having now. Important to recognise progress being made and needs to continue.</p> <p><b>c) ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</b></p> <p>M Andrews provided details about Quarter 2 which is the busiest period over summer. There was an equal split between adults and children with nuisance motorbikes statistics low but as a result of a lot of work put in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting period showed a 19.1% reduction in ASB incidents across Halton during Q2 compared to 2013.</li> <li>• RESPECT (partnership public facing brand for tackling ASB) week which took place during the summer with the most powerful interventions including prominent activity in Widnes and Halewood working with private landlords taking positive action regarding their tenants.</li> <li>• Attention was drawn to a case study about victim support activity in the attached report.</li> <li>• Civil injunction due in late January to replace ASBOs. Ongoing activity is taking place to link in different partners with these new powers.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Cargill noted that the Anti-Social Behaviour bill went to the Executive Board on 20<sup>th</sup> November and was well received.</p> <p>The Executive Board want to target six prolific offenders with new legislation. D Parr has found that the new legislation is applicable to travellers following consultation with Legal. Should Anti-social behaviour occur on traveller sites, HBC can apply closure order powers. D Parr to discuss further with S Boycott regarding the need for Policing if closure orders are issued.</p> <p><b>d) DOMESTIC ABUSE</b></p> <p>Summary of report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAREC cases with Halton currently at a NI 32 performance level of 29% compared with 33% in Quarter 2 2013. Increased reporting levels as a result of good publicity work leading to an extra 100 reports year-on-year.</li> </ul> <p>D Parr recommended a change in the way MAREC is reported to give a true reflection of the Halton population. Reporting should be on a population-based criteria to prevent distortion on population versus numbers and ensure that all statistics on crime are based on equitable measures. Police are looking at a needs-based policing and there is a need to ensure the right</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DP/SB</b></p>

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<p>information is reported without distortion so that the correct allocations are made across Cheshire.</p> <p>D Parr requested that ACC attend next meeting to present regional statistics and provide a geographical understanding on where Halton is positioned. There is a need to prepare for future and ensure our statistics show an accurate picture across the Cheshire force area. The existing Partnership around the Community Safety agenda means that the PCC can make informed decisions on what is actually happening in Halton as opposed to what appears to be happening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent advocates are a well-used resource and feedback is positive from people who have used the service. 'Clare's Law' is being used and four protective orders are in place. The RASAC continues to provide a positive service.</li> <li>• Consultation is currently underway regarding Domestic Abuse considering new powers to include mental and coercive abuse as a criminal offence.</li> <li>• There are a number of events leading up to Christmas including White Ribbon week.</li> </ul> <p>J Duff made comments regarding the Refuge and the positive feedback received about the improvements.</p> <p>Information was provided about a project following on from the PPB scrutiny review launched to commission two shops in Runcorn and Widnes advertising the Domestic Abuse service on the back of every receipt. Argos in Runcorn and the 99p shop in Widnes have been selected. This is a new and innovative scheme and the funding of £5/6k for 3 months is from existing resources.</p> <p>Cllr Cargill commented on the graph appearing on page 47 which appears to show a spike of MARAC cases for Cheshire East. M Andrews explained this was due to a change in the way information was recorded.</p> <p><b>e) SUBSTANCE MISUSE</b></p> <p>Performance continues to rise with Halton rated 5<sup>th</sup> in the NW for engagement for all drug users 18+. CRI has worked hard resulting in a move from red and to leading the Regional performance targets (top 10%). Hep B &amp; C, incentives programmes have been introduced to ensure service users receive the appropriate vaccine and reduce the risk of contracting Hep B &amp; C. S Bell explained that work was underway to encourage people to complete the course and prevent infection.</p> <p>This year's (5<sup>th</sup>) Recovery walk in Manchester had the largest attendance to date and was well supported with CRI taking 20 service users. Service users from CRI also attended the Homeless Games in Liverpool with three of Halton peer mentors and service users winning medals.</p> <p>A Graduate programme was launched at St Pauls and 12 CRI Halton service users attending the Peer Mentoring accredited programme.</p> <p>Performance-related and cosmetic enhancing substances continue to emerge as an ongoing issue.</p> <p>D Parr commented on the good work and progress.</p> <p><b>f) PARTNERSHIP TASKING &amp; CO-ORDINATION</b></p>	

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<p>D Gordon presented the crime statistics for Quarter 2 with an increase compared to Q1, however there had been an overall decrease year-on-year.</p> <p>Dundalk Road was identified as an area in need of assistance relating to anti-social behaviour. A multi-agency action plan had been drawn up and a great deal of work was carried out during the summer resulting in improvements despite the shooting incident in October.</p> <p>Attention was drawn to the attached report detailing Motorcycles &amp; Mini-Motos, Paramount Foods, Respect Week, Operation Staysafe and the Hough Green Football Project.</p> <p>The Safer Schools Officer recently appointed had been very well received and ongoing activity was proving successful.</p> <p>It was highlighted that burglaries year-to-date were 27% down, showing significant improvement. Despite the period including Mischief Night/Bonfire Night, ASB was 12% down.</p> <p>D Parr raised the reported suggestion that crime figures could be down because of under reporting.</p> <p>S Boycott outlined the strong stance taken by HMIC and reports and audits are carried out to ensure officers are fully aware. Halton is one of the lowest areas of home watch co-ordination; operation grammar resulted in an increase in reporting of anti-social behaviour. Leaflets were produced informing the public of what to look out for regarding organised crime. More leaflets have just been printed and are available to other agencies.</p> <p><b>g) HATE CRIMES &amp; COMMUNITY TENSIONS</b></p> <p><b>Hate Crimes</b></p> <p>There were 35 hate incidents reported in Runcorn and Widnes in Quarter 2 and 29 hate crimes.</p> <p>CLlr Thompson asked what 'other' category represented and R Langdale-Smith explained this referred to 'goths' etc.</p> <p><b>Gypsy/Traveller Matters</b></p> <p>There were 13 unauthorised Traveller encampments in Halton in Q2. The majority of these encampments were related to the same group of Travellers who had previously been evicted from the Runcorn Transit site.</p>	
<p><b>5. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER</b></p> <p>R Langdale-Smith reported on a mediation service which was supporting 48 cases and included a restorative justice service to link in with other forces.</p>	
<p><b>6. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL</b></p> <p>CLlr Thompson reported on formal/informal meetings hosted by Warrington Borough Council where some dissatisfaction expressed on the view that WBC doesn't offer value for money.</p>	



	<b>ACTION</b>
<p>A work programme had taken place focussing on domestic violence with a stakeholder event in October and fact finding to pick up tips with other areas.</p> <p>Statistics regarding performance continued to be good, but Public satisfaction could be higher. The Data integrity report gave details of Cheshire Police criticism and a 10 point action plan had been put in place to work on improvements.</p> <p>The Widnes police station move had been well received and comments had been made regarding the need for a refurbishment at Runcorn police station. S Boycott provided information regarding the planned work at Runcorn station to convert to more open plan environment. It was agreed that the building is in the right place.</p>	
<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>D Parr commented on the new format for the agenda and papers, with embedded links and PDF documents to support different technology. The Ashley House proposal/options report was attached as a link and D Parr stated that this will remain a multi-faceted service.</p> <p>The Alcohol Strategy was attached and demonstrated sustainable communities converting talk to positive action.</p> <p>D Parr commented on the high profile of child exploitation in the media and wanted to give Halton's perspective. When Rochdale came to light, Halton put measures in place to challenge our processes 18 months ahead of the Rotherham report. We have not been complacent and Gerald Meehan was asked to review our arrangements based on Rotherham and we have done that using the local safeguarding board. The resulting work is being finalised and will report to elected members on 10<sup>th</sup> December via a private meeting with information being released into public domain as appropriate in due course.</p> <p>A multi-disciplinary approach has been adopted, working in parallel with Social Workers, health professionals and police officers. There has been good support from Police and CCG as with all of our partners. The general picture is that, according to information to date, there isn't a Rotherham type issue in Halton. CSE does exist in Halton but not the same magnitude as within other authorities. Three agencies will be coming together in early December to share findings and there is a possibility of a CSE unit or virtual teams working together for the whole of Cheshire force area. Intelligence work is focussed on three areas; Asian taxi drivers, Travellers and take-aways as these are target areas under the J report. Nigel Bennan, Children's Safeguarding for the Chief Constable will be leading on this.</p> <p>There will be more updates in the New Year following the meeting in December.</p>	
<p><b>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Items for Information</p> <p>a.) Widnes Blue Lamp Report</p> <p>b.) Runcorn Blue Lamp Report</p> <p>c.) Ashley House – Proposals/Options – SMT Draft Report</p> <p>d.) Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Services: Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2014-17</p> <p>e.) Halton Alcohol Strategy: Reducing alcohol-related harm across the life course 2014-19</p> <p>f.) Alcohol Strategy Action Plan 2014-15</p>	

	<b>ACTION</b>
g.) Sustainable Communities Strategy – Year End Report 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014	

Meeting ended at 4.10 pm