

LICENSING AND HOW IT IMPACTS PUBLIC HEALTH

Legal & Democratic Services Advisory Committee - 28 June 2018

Report of Chief Officer Environmental & Operational Services

Status: For Information

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report provides Members with information on how licensing can impact on the health and wellbeing of residents

This report supports the Key Aim of reducing health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Anna Firth

Contact Officer Sharon Bamborough Ext. 7325

Recommendation to the Legal & Democratic Services Advisory Committee: That the report be noted.

Introduction and Background

- 1 This Council works with key partners including Kent Public Health Team, GP Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), local health and social care providers and the voluntary sector to meet the Healthy Environment priorities within the Community Plan to reduce health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of residents.
- 2 This Council's services, public assets and local partnerships have a unique and multi-dimensional role in improving health outcomes across the wider determinants of health, health improvement and health protection with local communities.
- 3 In 2015 The King's Fund produced a new report, in partnership with the District Council Network (DCN), titled 'The district council contribution to public health: a time of challenge and opportunity'. This report outlines the greater role district councils can have on improving the health and wellbeing of local residents.
- 4 Some of the key functions delivered by this Council that can play a significant role in preventing ill health include Housing, Planning, Licensing, Environmental Health, Community Safety and Economic Development.

How Licensing fits with Health

- 5 There are several areas in which the role of licensing has a part to play in contributing towards the greater public health. These include:
 - The link between abuse of alcohol and health issues (*alcohol related illness, alcohol fuelled behaviour e.g. domestic violence*)
 - The availability of alcohol (the number of off-licences and hours of operation)
 - Safeguarding issues - alcohol related crime and disorder and violence plus red flag issues (taxis /grooming/trafficking)
 - Addiction - not just alcohol, but gambling - ensuring solid procedures and policies are in place to assist customers who may suffer
- 6 Whilst it can be easy to identify particular problems with a known premises and take action against to review the licence, it is harder to evidence a more widespread link between general areas (such as town centres) and the increase / presence of alcohol related health issues.
- 7 Sevenoaks has been selected by the Home office to take part in a pilot scheme they are running this year to test a piece of software which will plot crime and health data across our geographical area into the licensing database. This will allow real evidenced conclusions to be drawn and policies amended accordingly should particular patterns emerge. For the first time, we may be able to show a causal link between the giving of a licence and the impact it has on its locality, without needing to rely on our partners to bring issues / problems to our attention. We have provided the requested initial information to the Home Office - they will develop software for trial.
- 8 The Licensing Partnership will be running the Metropolitan Police initiative, WAVE, this year, in conjunction with Kent Police, across the four authorities. (WAVE is the Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement) - which is an initiative to remind / train the industry and officers about what more they should do to intervene and how this can have a real impact on health outcomes.
- 9 Air Quality - taxis policy should be reviewed in due course to promote greener vehicles and potentially, require their use (only) by a certain date in the future
- 10 Members will be updated at the meeting with a presentation on this work.

Key Implications

Financial

- 11 There are no financial implications for the Council associated to this report.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

12 There are no legal implications for the Council associated to this report.

Equality Assessment

13 No decision is required as part of this paper and therefore no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

14 For Members to note the work of this Council's Licensing function to contribute to the health and wellbeing of local residents.

Appendices None

Background Papers: District Council's Network - The Kings Fund Report - The district council contribution to public health: a time of challenge and opportunity:

http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/files/kf/field/field_publication_file/district-council-contribution-to-public-health-nov15.pdf

Richard Wilson
Chief Officer Environmental & Operational Services