

## **Appendix 5**

### **Salient Points of Meetings**

**January 2009**

#### **Sussex Police**

##### **Chief Inspector Coates Inspector Wainwright**

- Significant proportion of youth related anti social behaviour and crime is alcohol related
- There needs to be better marketing of positive actions to tackle alcohol related enforcement work. This would promote the good works of the Police and Partners, for example the Borough Council, Trading Standards
- Issues involving the promotion of drunkenness and the binge drinking culture, "happy hours," buy one get one free promotions and other "all inclusive" drinks promotions.
- Intelligence sharing Forums – Licensing Action Group, Joint Action Group and other Partnership activities are key in targeting resources and tackling youth alcohol related disorder and ensuring a multi faceted approach to the resolution of issues.
- There are seasonal patterns of behaviour – with peaks and troughs at the weekend, half term and school holidays
- There is already significant investment in diversionary activities, much of which is Town Centre focussed. Work is ongoing via various partnership groups to identify suitable activities and venues to offer youth focussed diversionary activities.
- Increasing use of Police powers to tackle under age drinking and sales, to include:
  - Specific operations such as Operation Blitz, Operation Sledge to tackle underage drinking and related anti social behaviour/crime.
  - Test Purchasing Operations within pubs
  - Police Community Support Officers and School Liaison Officers in schools to target negative youth activity and to educate regarding alcohol consumption and misuse. This also provides a source of information to help target activity.
  - Use of dispersal powers
  - Use of powers under the Licensing Act 2003 regarding sales to underage persons, proxy purchasers and compliance with the law.

- Implementation of the Bottlewatch Scheme – protective marking of alcohol by off licences to enable items to be tracked back to the “point of sale” where found in possession of under age persons.

It was recognised that there was a need to gain better statistical information from accident and emergency data to better target resources and to help inform actions. Again, the themes of enforcement, education, treatment and diversion.

**Sophie Mohns – Underage Sales Co-ordinator, Eastbourne**  
**John Peerless – Head of Trading Standards, Brighton & Hove**

John Peerless spoken to regarding underage sales in Brighton and Hove Scrutiny Review being undertaken in the City focussing on the health implications of underage drinking.

Key issues experienced by Trading Standards in both Brighton and Hove and Eastbourne:

- Proxy purchasing is a key way in which under eighteens appear to be obtaining alcohol.
- Encouragingly, in the past 12 months, significant work has been undertaken by Sophie Mohns, Eastbourne Underage Sales Co-Ordinator in relation to educating licensees regarding proxy purchasing, refusals registers and accepting provenance forms of identification as well as inter- related issues. This is in relation to all forms of age restricted products: for example, knives, alcohol, cigarettes.
- Adoption of the Challenge 21/Challenge 25 age policy
- Various Test Purchasing Operations – resulting in over the past 12 months an excellent failure rate of only 2% of off licence retail outlets tested.
- Investigation of the Community Alcohol Partnership – promoting partnership working with statutory partners, businesses and the wider community in tackling youth related alcohol disorder and related sales/marketing of alcohol.

**Bob Gough  
Crime Reduction Partnership**

The themes raised largely mirrored that of the Police in relation to the key themes of enforcement, education, treatment and diversion in relation to the issues surrounding alcohol misuse.

There has been significant investment in youth related activities in conjunction with the Youth Development Service, with the CRP assisting in funding for diversionary activities.

There is already significant work being undertaken in the Borough, including the Devonshire Project, Anti Social Behaviour Action Plan, Youth Crime Prevention Strategy and this work needs to be continued and expanded.

- It was felt that there should be more enforcement of the Licensing Act 2003, including covert operations
- There should be free service provision and activities for young people – for example, free bus travel, free sporting activities
- There needs to be further exploration of suitable venues for young people
- There was a perception that parental supply of alcohol to under eighteens is an issue, alongside the issues of proxy purchasing
- Further investment is needed in youth outreach work.
- There is some degree of duplication of roles with ESCC.

**Eastbourne Borough Council**  
**Natasha Scully – Youth Worker**

**January 2009**

**East Sussex County Council**  
**Nicky Millward – Community Safety**

There are some key themes expressed by both the County Council and Borough Council, again focussing on:

- Health and treatment
- Enforcement
- Diversion
- Education

Other issues discussed included:

- Youth provision and suitable venue (Co-Cos Under eighteen nights)
- Alternative activities to drinking need to be further explored across the Borough

How and why young people obtain drink/drink alcohol:

- Proxy purchasing
- Cheap alcohol which makes it more accessible
- Peer pressure
- Lack of facilities and activities

There is a need to further harmonise activities of ESCC and Eastbourne Borough Council.