

## Area of Action: Law and Policy Enforcement

### How we summarise this area of action...

...working to ensure that people live, work and enjoy themselves safely free from the fear of experiencing alcohol related crime or anti social behaviour

### Information to help you understand this theme:

- In Newcastle the number of licensed premises by type that sell alcohol are:

Licensed cafés	29
Restaurants	181
Pub/Restaurants	26
Pubs/late night venues	232
Hotels	42
Off licences	291
- All powers under the Licensing Act 2003 relate to the promotion and safeguarding of the 4 licensing objectives:
  - The prevention of crime and disorder
  - Public safety
  - The prevention of public nuisance
  - The protection of children from harm
- Conditions are placed on licences to safeguard these 4 licensing objectives and The Act allows the Licensing Authority to prosecute or review premises licences where premises licence holders are not upholding the objectives.
- In Newcastle there is significant intelligence led work around proxy and underage sales of alcohol - April 10 to date, 482 proxy sales visits, with a further 86 premises visited to check for underage sales with 7 sales occurring.
- The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 will come into effect next year and will overhaul the Licensing Act to give more powers to local authorities and police to tackle any premises that are causing problems, doubling the maximum fine for persistent underage sales and permitting local authorities to charge more for late-night licences to contribute towards the cost of policing the late-night economy.
- Work ongoing to link Police crime data and Accident and Emergency data from NHS to licensed premises as has been done in the Cardiff model.
- National and local attention refocused on minimum pricing policies for a unit of alcohol following the introduction of the Minimum Pricing Bill in Scotland.

### A longer description of what we have been doing under this theme:

#### Improving quality of life in relation to alcohol related crime or ASB

- Undertake a programme of compliance monitoring visits to licensed to ensure that Licensing Objectives, Premises Licence (PL) Conditions and National Mandatory Conditions are met
- Introduced new 2011 Statement of Licensing Policy to incorporating a number of new initiatives including special stress streets in the city centre
- Identify premises of concern and act to address the issues using the Licensing Act review process to condition matters/apply for license revocation or suspension
- Introduce additional “alcohol exclusion zones” as appropriate (to allow the confiscation of alcohol in public areas)

#### Supporting the licensed Trade to provide safe, high quality premises and encourage best practice

- Introduced the Responsible Retailer Award for premises selling age-restricted products
- Applied a programme to introduce polycarbonate drinks containers to higher risk premises
- Developed a “Minimum Standards Protocol” for pub crawl type events and events promotions
- Undertake regular weekend “meet and greet” activity at city hotels to provide information to visiting party groups to ensure key messages are delivered to help reduce crime and disorder

#### Promoting the responsible sale of alcohol and prevent illegal sales to those underage or drunk

- Undertaking a programme of joint operations between Newcastle City Council and Northumbria Police to address local concerns and promote public reassurance re youth drinking. (proxy sales)
- Undertaking intelligence led test purchasing operations (off- sales) and targeted underage on-sales operations to premises of concern.
- Incorporated use of *Safe Newcastle (Streetwise) Club Night Quality Mark* document into the 2011 Statement of Licensing Policy
- Have written to Minister urging national minimum pricing policy.

#### Encouraging a variety of operating styles within Licensed premises

- Undertaken a Quayside Study and as appropriate will promote implementation of recommendations
- Engaged with NE1 on the “*Live After 5*” project to encourage shoppers into the city as part of night time economy
- Continued to condition Pavement Café permissions and liquor licenses to ensure appropriate terminal hours, operating conditions, use of polycarb containers etc.
- Working with stakeholders re 2012 Olympics stadia requirements etc.