

Report of the Head of Elections, Licensing and Registration

Report to Licensing Committee

Date: 1 November 2016

**Subject: Deputation to Full Council 14th September 2016
Student Safety in Leeds**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. A deputation was made before the meeting of Full Council on the 14th September 2016 by students of the Leeds Beckett University, concerning student safety in Leeds, in particular sexual harassment, and calling for the Council to support consent education in the city's bars and clubs.

Recommendations

2. That the Chair of the Licensing Committee, and/or the Executive Member writes to the originators of the deputation in acknowledgement of their submission with a recommendation that the Leeds Beckett University and Leeds University Union co-ordinate a partnership approach to this project.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Leeds University Union 'We've got Your Back' campaign that pledged to make Leeds a city with a zero tolerance stance on all incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault, and the future plans for taking a similar campaign forward.

2 Background information

2.1 A deputation was made to Full Council in September by representatives of Leeds Beckett Students Union concerning student safety in Leeds, and requested that:

‘In order to protect those of us who are suffering disproportionate harassment and assault we need measures in place to attempt to tackle these things, we cannot stand by when we know the numbers of women and men who will come into our city and face assault year on year. Therefore call for the following things:

That Leeds City Council uses its powers where possible in order that Consent education is available in main bars and clubs in Leeds City centre by clearly displayed consent posters with consent knowledge and places of support. Also, we call for members of staff in bars and clubs to be briefed on consent and members of staff to take reports seriously and to act on them. But generally what we are asking for is to take women’s and non-binary people’s safety seriously and to act on it so that we can have a safer and more equal Leeds’.

2.2 Although the recommendation of Full Council was to refer the matter to the Director of Environment and Housing for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member, it has subsequently been redirected to Citizens and Communities.

3 Main issues

3.1 In 2014 the Leeds University Union (LUU) presented to the City Centre Community Safety Partnership the ‘We’ve Got Your Back’ campaign that pledged to make Leeds a city with a zero tolerance stance on all incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault.

3.2 The campaign was supported by the community safety partnership, and promoted to the city’s bars and clubs.

3.3 LUU delivered external training to thirty plus licensed venues, with input from Pubwatch and BACIL (Business Against Crime in Leeds). The content of training included:

- Definition and awareness of sexual harassment and assault
- Created an understanding of how these issues can affect students
- Explained why it is important that such issues are tackled in venues
- Helped venues to put a procedure in place to help potential victims

3.4 Venues were provided with the ‘We’ve Got Your Back’ logo to show that they had received training and know what to do if an incident occurred.

3.5 The training was funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire’s Safer Communities Fund, and the University of Leeds Footsteps Fund.

3.6 The campaign ceased, due to absence of future funding.

- 3.7 The LUU now intend to restart the campaign, which through a series of training and marketing opportunities will enable venues and key personnel to increase their skill sets in reducing levels of zero tolerance towards sexual harassment throughout the city.
- 3.8 Running alongside zero tolerance will be the Wonder Water project which links together the very strong correlation between sexual harassment and binge drinking.
- 3.9 The success of the project will be subject to funding. LUU have pledged a sum of money and it is reported that Leeds BID has also expressed an interest.
- 3.10 Similar to previous, the project will be of benefit to all persons visiting licensed premises and not students alone, with particular focus on those premises in the nighttime economy that host popular nights and sporting fixtures.
- 3.11 The project will complement the mandatory training that door security staff must complete in order to achieve their Security Industry Authority registration. This training is taken over four full days and includes topics such as communication skills and customer care, and dealing with vulnerable individuals.
- 3.12 The appropriate route for taking this project forward would be via the Leeds University Colleges and Crime Reduction Partnership and the City Centre Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 3.13 The CSP has links to a variety of key stakeholders and groups, as set out in appendix A.
- 3.14 Entertainment Licensing will also support the marketing of this campaign through Pubwatch.
- 3.15 In addition to the area Pubwatch meetings, Pubwatch has a designated website which is a useful tool for providing information to all pubs, bars and clubs throughout the Leeds district. Pubwatch members can presently access a suite of anti-rape campaign posters from the website. Through our publishing rights, Entertainment Licensing may arrange for the publication of any information via this source.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The Community Safety Partnership provides a forum for consultation and engagement on matters concerning the city centre including the night time economy.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The council's statement of licensing policy (Licensing Act 2003) is developed with matters of equality, diversity and human rights taken into consideration. It sets out how the council will promote the four licensing objectives, one of such objectives

being the prevention of crime and disorder. Policies are regularly reviewed in line with the legislation. The council has completed equality, diversity, cohesion screening and impact assessments with regards to the consultation process undertaken during the review of policy.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The licensing authority must have regard for governing legislation and will be assisted by any guidance issued by the Home Office or Gambling Commission. In addition where there is an associated statement of licensing policy this will set out the principles the council will use to exercise its functions under that policy, and in making a decision the council will have regard to that policy.

4.3.2 Council Priorities and Best Council Plan

4.3.3 The licensing regime contributes to the following Best Council Plan 2015-20:

Priorities:

- Supporting economic growth and access to economic opportunities
- Keeping people safe from harm
- Supporting communities, raising aspirations
- Hosting world class events in Leeds City Council supporting a resilient, inclusive, cultural and creative sector

Outcome:

- Be safe and feel safe

Breakthrough Project:

- World class events and a vibrant city centre that all can benefit from
- Strong communities benefiting from a strong city

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 The Section encourages partnership working with internal and external services making best use of resources and information sharing.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 All information provided in this report is publicly accessible and there is no legal implication to the contents of this report.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 As this is an advisory report there are no risks associated.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 That the Chair of the Licensing Committee, and/or the Executive Member writes to the originators of the deputation in acknowledgement of their submission with a

recommendation that the Leeds Beckett University and Leeds University Union coordinate a partnership approach to this project.

Background Papers¹

None

¹ ¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.