

## Scrutiny Board (Health)

### Inquiry into the role of the Council and its partners in reducing alcohol related harm

#### Draft Terms of reference

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The negative impacts associated with high levels of alcohol consumption have a national profile across the country, often receiving frequent attention from the national and local media.
- 1.2 Alcohol related harm can be measured in many ways, including short, medium and long-term health concerns; levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour; and general economic loss.
- 1.3 In 2004, the number of deaths linked to alcohol across the Yorkshire and Humber region rose by more than 46% – the largest rise in the country. Alcohol consumption in Leeds is a particular concern with an estimated 155,000 adults drinking above the ‘safe drinking’ guidelines and an estimated 25,000 thought to be dependent. Alcohol related death rates are 45% higher in areas of high deprivation.
- 1.4 The annual cost of alcohol misuse in Leeds is estimated to be £275 million, of which £23 million is health related.
- 1.5 The reduction of alcohol related harm is a specific improvement priority within the Health and Well-being Partnership Plan<sup>1</sup> (2009-2012), supported by the Leeds Alcohol Strategy (2007-2010).

#### 2.0 Scope of the inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on:
  - The role of all partners in developing and delivering the targets associated with reducing alcohol related harm, as set out in the Leeds Health and Well-being Plan (2009-2012) and associated strategies.
  - The role of the Council in terms of licensing policy and associated enforcement/ control procedures.
    - What is the role of the Council in licensing the sale of alcohol?
    - What are the Council’s legislative powers in licensing the sale of alcohol? What scope is there for the Council to consider the health implications of alcohol consumption within its licensing role and function?
    - What is the role of the Director of Public Health in helping to inform the Council within its decision-making processes?

---

<sup>1</sup> This reflects the priorities set out in the Leeds Strategic Plan (2008-2011)

- The social responsibility role of breweries, retailers and licensees and how this shapes the consumption of alcohol in Leeds.
  - What are the social responsibilities of those organisations associated with the production and sale of alcohol, including its promotion and managed consumption across Leeds?
  - How is the consumption of alcohol promoted and managed by those responsible for its production and sale across Leeds?
- The role of the Council and its NHS health partners in:
  - Raising general public awareness of the health risks associated with alcohol consumption.
  - Identifying and targeting those groups most at risk from the affects of alcohol abuse and ensuring they have access to the most appropriate services and treatments.
  - Assessing the quality and effectiveness of services and treatments associated with reducing alcohol related harm.

2.2 The Board hopes that its findings will provide a timely and positive contribution to the management of change.

### **3.0 Comments of the relevant director and executive member**

3.1 Comments received on these draft terms of reference will be reflected in the final version.

### **4.0 Timetable for the inquiry and submission of evidence**

4.1 The inquiry will commence in October 2006 and is likely to take place over a number of sessions. Throughout the inquiry, the Board will consider any emerging issues to inform further sessions and/or the production of the final inquiry report.

4.3 The Board will aim to conclude the inquiry before April 2010, with the publication of a formal report setting out the Board's findings, conclusions and recommendations.

### **5.0 Witnesses**

5.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- Executive Board Member (Adult Health and Social Care)
- Healthier Leeds Partnership representatives (TBC)
- Director of Public Health (NHS Leeds)
- Head of Licensing and Registrations (Leeds City Council)
- Business Development Manager (Drug Action Team)
- Ministerial representative (TBC)
- Brewery representatives (TBC)
- Licensee representatives (TBC)
- Retailer (supermarket) representatives (TBC)
- Service provider representatives (alcohol services and treatments) (TBC)

**6.0 Monitoring Arrangements**

- 6.1 Following the completion of the scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.
- 6.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for monitoring the implementation of recommendations.

**7.0 Measures of success**

- 7.1 It is important to consider how the Board will deem whether its inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.
- 7.2 The Board will look to publish practical recommendations.

DRAFT