



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 16 February 2010

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry: The role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health (Session 3 – promoting sensible alcohol consumption)

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce the third session of the Scrutiny Board's inquiry aimed at considering the role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health.
- 1.2 The third session of the inquiry will focus on promoting responsible alcohol consumption and reducing alcohol related harm.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 22 September 2009, the Scrutiny Board (Health) agreed terms of reference for the above inquiry. In this regard, the Board agreed to consider arrangements relating to four specific areas of public health, namely:
- Improving sexual health and reducing the level of teenage pregnancies;
 - Reversing the rise in levels of obesity and promoting an increase in the levels of physical activity;
 - Promoting responsible alcohol consumption; and,
 - Reducing the level of smoking;
- 2.2 In considering the promotion of good public health, the overall purpose of the inquiry is to make an assessment of the role of the Council and its partners in developing, supporting and delivering targets associated with improving specific aspects of public health.

Health and Wellbeing

- 2.3 Based on the outcomes and priorities agreed by the Council and its partners, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan (2009 – 2012) is part of the broader Leeds Strategic Plan: It concentrates on the main high level actions necessary to help deliver the agreed strategic outcomes and priorities. These high level actions are detailed in the attached action plan for the improvement priorities (Appendix 1). Actions associated with reducing alcohol related harm are detailed in action plan number 3 in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 At previous meetings (20 October 2009, 15 December 2009 and 26 January 2010), the Scrutiny Board heard from a range of witnesses relating to other aspects of the Board's inquiry – namely, improving sexual health and reducing the level of teenage pregnancies; and, reversing the rise in levels of obesity and promoting an increase in the levels of physical activity.

House of Commons – Health Committee

- 2.5 Over recent years, the impact of alcohol consumption on people's health has been the subject of much public debate and formed the basis of a number of reports – including over 20 scrutiny inquiry reports¹. Most recently, in January 2010 the House of Commons Health Committee (select committee) published a report on Alcohol, which considered a number of aspects including education, marketing and licensing.
- 2.6 The summary statement and other extracts from that report are attached at Appendix 2.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)

- 2.7 At its meeting on 15 December 2009, the Scrutiny Board was advised of the work of NICE – as the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on promoting good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health.
- 2.8 The following public health and clinical guidance relating to alcohol has been produced:
- School based interventions on alcohol (PH7) – attached at Appendix 3
 - Antenatal Care (CG62).
- 2.9 It should also be noted that the following guidance is currently under development:
- Personal, social and health education focusing on sex and relationships and alcohol education;
 - Alcohol use disorders – preventing harmful drinking;
 - Alcohol use disorders – clinical management;
 - Alcohol dependency and harmful alcohol use;
 - Pregnancy and complex social factors

¹ Reports published and accessible through the library of scrutiny reports detailed on the Centre for Public Scrutiny website:

http://www.cfps.org.uk/scrutiny-exchange/library/search-library/index.php?start=3&search=1&lib_issue=7&lib_title=alcohol&lib_region=&lib_la=&lib_year=&lib_org=&lib_stage=Complete

NHS Yorkshire and the Humber – Health Ambitions

- 2.10 Healthy Ambitions (published in May 2008) is a five to ten years strategic service framework for the Yorkshire and Humber region. Healthy Ambitions identifies the following pathways, which represent a significant programme to be delivered both regionally and locally:
- Staying Healthy
 - Maternity and the Newborn
 - Long term conditions
 - Children
 - Planned Care
 - Acute Episode
 - Mental Health
 - End of Life
- 2.11 Delivering Healthy Ambitions (published in March 2009) sets out the overall framework for delivery across Yorkshire and Humber region. In particular, this identifies those areas that need to be taken forward regionally and those which need to be taken forward locally.
- 2.12 The Staying Healthy Clinical Pathway Group identified that the 3 biggest threats to health over the next decade across the Yorkshire and Humber region are:
- Alcohol abuse
 - Rising levels of obesity
 - Smoking
- 2.13 A summary of the recommendations associated with the Staying Healthy Pathway is attached at Appendix 4.

3.0 The role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health: Session 3 – promoting responsible alcohol consumption

- 3.1 In line with the agreed terms of reference, the aim of this part of the inquiry is to consider issues associated with promoting responsible alcohol consumption, such as:
- The role of the Council in terms of licensing policy and associated enforcement/control procedures.
 - The role of the Council and its NHS health partners in developing and delivering an alcohol strategy that:
 - Raises general public awareness of the health risks associated with alcohol consumption.
 - Identifies and targets those groups most at risk from the affects of alcohol abuse, ensuring they have access to the most appropriate services and treatments.
 - Assesses the quality and effectiveness of services and treatments associated with reducing alcohol related harm.
 - The social responsibility role of breweries, retailers and licensees and how this shapes the consumption of alcohol in Leeds.

- 3.2 A briefing note, providing information regarding the role of the Licensing Authority (Leeds City Council) under the Licensing Act 2003, is provided at Appendix 5.
- 3.3 A number of representatives from the Council and its partners have been invited to attend this session of the Board's inquiry.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are asked to consider the details presented in this report and associated appendices, and those matters discussed at the meeting and:
- (i) Identify any specific areas/ issues to be included in the Board's scrutiny inquiry report; and,
 - (ii) Determine any specific matters where additional information may be required and/or where further scrutiny may be needed.

5.0 Background Documents

House of Commons Health Committee - Alcohol – first report of session 2009/10 (January 2010).
NHS Yorkshire and the Humber: Delivering Healthy Ambitions: Update on Acute Pathway and SHA Work Programme for 2009/10 (July 2009)
NHS Yorkshire and the Humber – Delivering Health Ambitions (March 2009)
High Quality Care for All – NHS Next Stage Review final report (June 2008)
NHS Yorkshire and the Humber – Health Ambitions (May 2008)