

Public Health Team  
Merrion House  
Leeds City Council  
LS1 8DD

Entertainment Licencing  
Leeds City Council

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Application for Off-Licence, 254 Dewbury Road, Leeds LS11 6JQ, an application to sell alcohol everyday 07:00-23:00.**

With regard to the above application, I would like to bring to your attention the negative impact granting the alcohol off-licence application would have on the local community. This would be with particular regard to the potential harm to children, crime and disorder and public safety.

Leeds City Council has produced a matrix to estimate alcohol harm for each Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) in Leeds. Each MSOA is given an overall score which places the MSOA into a comparative city-wide risk rating. There are 107 MSOA's in Leeds. LS11 6JQ was awarded an overall harm from alcohol related risk as **9th out of 107 LSOAs**, putting it within the very high risk of alcohol-related harm category.

Analysis of the individual scores on the matrix contribute to creating a fuller picture of the local community and will be highlighted forthwith with reference to the criteria.

Vera's Flavours is situated along a main throughfare through Hunslet called Dewsbury Road. Just off this road are residential housing and is home to a high population of children and young people.

The area close to Vera's Flavours has a high number of young people not in education or employment; it is ranked **14 out of 107 MSOA's**. Viewed alongside the number of looked after children and young people, which is ranked as **27 out of 107 MSOA's** in Leeds, we have intelligence highlighting a high number of children and young people who are more vulnerable to harm. These children and young people will have experienced trauma within the family home severe enough to warrant their removal from that family home. Their life experience will undoubtedly be skewed from the norm which often results in the young person engaging in harmful behaviours, one of which is alcohol drinking. Furthermore, this road is a busy walking route of primary aged school children and their parents with 3 schools within close walking distance.

A further consideration is the number of premises selling alcohol in the area. This area ranks as **6 out of 107 MSOA** for having a high number of off-licenses, this equates to **29 licenced premises** along Dewsbury Road alone. Furthermore there are also on-licence premises which this area is ranked as being **40 out of 107 MSOA's**. This gives an indication of the level of saturation of an area for selling alcohol. This information is relevant when considering the likelihood of harm to children and young people and public safety, essentially, how accessible is alcohol within an area. Within this immediate area there are many choices available to purchase alcohol meaning there is already a high level of alcohol accessibility within the area.

Table 1 illustrates the suite of indicators analysed to create the alcohol harm matrix.

Indicator	MSOA Category	Rank
Alcoholic liver disease mortality rate	Very high	1
Alcohol related harm hospital stays (narrow, age std. rate)	Very high	2
Alcohol specific emergency admission count	Very high	6
Litter complaints	Very high	6
Off Licence premises count	Very high	6
Drunk and disorderly, count	Very high	8
Deprivation Score	Very high	9
Ambulance callouts related to alcohol, count	High	12
Crime where alcohol flagged, count	High	13
NEET (not in education or training)	High	14
Violent crime where alcohol flagged, count	High	15
Population aged 16 and under	High	21
Alcohol treatment, all episode counts	High	21
Antisocial behaviour - alcohol related, count	High	22
Noise complaints	Medium	24
Looked after children	Medium	27
Stroke emergency hospital admissions ( age std. rate)	Medium	29
Licensing risk score	Medium	38
On Licence premises count	Medium	40
AUDIT tests scoring 16 or more (higher risk)	Medium	42
Not achieving English & Maths strong pass	Medium	49

Data sets relating to crime where alcohol was a factor include anti-social behaviour where alcohol was flagged (excluding violent crime), violent crime, and drunk and disorderly. All data sets are ranked as being high. These indicators suggest a risk to public safety as well as high levels of crime and disorder in existence in the community. This will be exacerbated by the increased accessibility of alcohol.

Although not directly related to licencing objectives the top 3 datasets are included because they show the harm that alcohol is causing to people that live in this area. In addition, there is a high number of people receiving alcohol treatment. These indicators show that there may be a high number of alcohol dependent people living here. Furthermore, ambulance callouts where alcohol is a factor is also high.

The intelligence provided above relates to the potential harm caused by alcohol within an area and viewed together creates an understanding of why this area was ranked as being an area of Leeds at high risk of alcohol related harm.

In summary extending the accessibility of alcohol in the area is highly likely to add to the burden of ensuring public safety in the local area, moreover, there is a high population of vulnerable children and young people living within the area who will bear the brunt of increased accessibility to alcohol.

I would therefore urge the licensing subcommittee to refuse this application to extend this licence, to avoid the potential harm to children, additional crime and disorder offences and maintain public safety.

Yours Faithfully

Nicola Kelly-Johnson

Advanced Health Improvement Specialist

Public Health