

**LICENSING COMMITTEE
SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES WORKING GROUP**

3RD SEPTEMBER 2010

PRESENT Councillors Armitage and Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE

S Holden – Principal Project Officer

P Carville – Principal Licensing, Officer Entertainment Licensing

Chief Inspector J McNeill – West Yorkshire Police

Professor T Sanders – University of Leeds

M Heap – Principal Enforcement Officer, Taxi & Private Hire Licensing

R Des Forges - Solicitor

H Gray - Clerk

APOLOGIES Councillors R D Feldman and Grayshon
Ms N Raper, Section Head Entertainment Licensing
Chief Inspector V Francis, West Yorkshire Police

6 WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Armitage welcomed all present, particularly the representatives of the expert panel and brief introductions were made

7 MINUTES

AGREED – The minutes of the previous WG meeting on 16th July 2010 were agreed as a correct record

8 SUBMISSIONS FROM THE EXPERT PANEL

Members considered the submission of Professor T Sanders who provided information setting out the background and findings so far from her research on lap dancing in England. Members noted the key findings and issues relating to the Clubs; dancers and their work history; and customers.

Members then heard from Chief Inspector J McNeil who discussed crime and disorder issues and safety matters with the WG. He provided an overview of statistics showing incidents which were associated with the 8 lap dancing clubs in Leeds, but noted the statistics were no worse than other types of clubs in the city centre.

The WG then heard submissions from Mr M Heap, LCC Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Section who discussed concerns regarding the use of chauffer services by clubs to transport customers, for free, to the clubs. It was noted that the use of the vehicles would be monitored by the Section and a further report would be presented to the WG in due course. Members commented that promotional activities associated with the vehicles were of interest to them in the light of the new legislation.

Detailed discussion followed on issues relating to:

- Welfare of dancers and their working conditions, including the arbitrary fines which may be implemented by venues. Members would wish to ensure fines were not disproportionate, were clear and were fair.
- Reporting of crime and concern that incidents were not reported to the police. The WG commented that incidents were unreported either because dancers were not aware or did not trust the process or because of fear.
- The number of dancers per club per night (10 Sun to Wed and 30/40 Thur to Sat) and the number of people involved in the industry in Leeds (3000)

AGREED - The WG identified the following as matters to consider for the new policy document:

- To require clubs to create an induction pack for new dancers. The Pack to contain
 - Copy of LCC conditions included on the LD club licence
 - Information on how to seek insurance
 - Information on how to report incidents to West Yorkshire Police
- To consider the prohibition of private booths
- To require LD clubs to display the list of financial penalties levied against dancers
- To require LD clubs to keep a Register of any financial penalties levied against a dancer, the amount and cause. The Register to be made available to an appropriate and authorised officer on request
- To require participation in the local Pubwatch scheme

9 UPDATE

NOTED - Further to minute 5 of the previous meeting a map showing the location of existing LD Clubs currently licensed under the LA 2003 in Leeds was provided to Members

10 WORK PROGRAMME

Site visit - Members confirmed their intention to make site visits to venues in Leeds and considered the most appropriate time during the process of adopting a policy to undertake this duty. It was noted that a recent "Dispatches" programme had included an investigation into lap dancing in London and it was suggested that Members could view the DVD of the programme in preparation

AGREED – To request officers to draw up proposals for the site visit having regard to the Work Programme and to secure a copy of the Dispatches DVD

11 TIMETABLE/PROJECT PLAN

PREVIOUSLY AGREED:

Overall:

To undertake discussions with the experts at an early stage

To commit to undertaking a site visit

To draft a policy prior to going out to public consultation

Short Term

To request a map showing the location of existing LD Clubs currently licensed under the LA 2003 in Leeds

To place emphasis on regulation of LD Clubs in the first instance

Long Term:

Public consultation period January to March 2011

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED - Friday 15th October 2010 at 10.00 am in the Civic Hall, Leeds