
ALCOHOL TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP – FINAL REPORT

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Andy Scott,
Health and Partnerships Portfolio**

Responsible Director - Catherine Whitehead, Assistant Chief Executive

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To report the final findings of the Alcohol Review Group established by the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the indicators relating to alcohol within the Health profile for Darlington and make appropriate recommendations to Cabinet.

Summary

2. At a meeting of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 29 October 2013 it was agreed to establish a Task and Finish Review Group and all Members of that Committee were invited to participate in the Review.
3. The Review Group has met on two occasions and a wide number of issues have been discussed and considered at those meetings.
4. Other methods of investigation included consideration of the Director of Public Health's report on Alcohol Related Harm, a visit to the Community Abstinence in Recovery Centre, information highlighted in the Access to GP Appointments Review Group, a presentation to Licensing Committee on the Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit and a presentation to GOLD Health Group on the unsafe consumption of alcohol and subsequent harmful effects on the elderly.
5. At its meeting held on 7 January the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee approved the recommendations within the Final Report (**Appendix 1**) and forwarded those recommendations to Cabinet for consideration.

Recommendation

6. Cabinet be requested to :-
 - (a) Note the findings and recommendation of the Alcohol Task and Finish Review Group.
 - (b) Request Officers to continue to action the recommendations deliverable within existing resources.

Reason

7. The recommendations are supported to conclude the work undertaken by the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Review Group

Catherine Whitehead
Assistant Chief Executive

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has implications for crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	This report has implications to address Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington in relation to alcohol misuse.
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report
Diversity	This report covers issues relating to diversity in respect of hard to engage/vulnerable groups.
Wards Affected	All Wards are affected.
Groups Affected	The report impacts on multiple Groups – those misusing alcohol; their families/carers' services affected as a result of alcohol related harms.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Efficiency	There are no issues relating to Efficiency which this report needs to address.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. The Alcohol Task and Finish Review Group was established to scrutinise the indicators relating to alcohol within the Health Profile for Darlington and make appropriate recommendations to Cabinet.
9. A wide number of issues were discussed and considered at the meetings and several Members undertook a visit to the Community Abstinence in Recover Centre, Victoria Road, Darlington.
10. Licensing Committee received a presentation on the Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit and as the Chair of this Group, Councillor Newall, who is also a Member of Licensing Committee, prepared a paper on that presentation for the Group.
11. Several Members of the Group also attended a meeting of the GOLD Health Group for a presentation on the unsafe consumption of alcohol and the subsequent harmful effects on the elderly.