

Representor: Darlington Safeguarding Children Board

Comments: Based on the Protection of Children from Harm



**DARLINGTON
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
BOARD**

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Date : 16.05.12
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To whom it may concern,

As part of the review arrangements for 'The Grange', a focus group of Darlington Safeguarding Children Board met and agreed to submit this representation.

Firstly the Board acknowledged that it is beneficial for young people when positive events take place, however they also recognise that these events should take place safely and efficiently, ensuring that no young person is at risk of harm by attending them. The group agreed that important aspects of these safeguarding arrangements should include; events taking place in suitable venues and being promoted appropriately.

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is the key statutory body for agreeing how the organisations in the local authority will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. As part of these arrangements the Board is a responsible authority within the licensing arrangements. We work closely with partners including DBC Licensing Department and Durham Constabulary. Sgt Tim Kelly contacted the LSCB Business Unit in January 2012 to inform us of the planned event. A member of the Unit met with the Licensee and the Police to discuss the proposal and potential safeguarding children risks, as concerns were shared, the Licensee indicated the measures they would introduce. The event took place in February and following the reported incidents, a further meeting was held with the Licensee, Police and representation from the LSCB.

In discussing the content of the Board's representation to the Licensing Committee, Board members expressed a level of anxiety that despite initial advice being given by the Police and the LSCB, the event still went ahead, and the consequences are documented within the Police review.

APPENDIX 1C (cont)

As part of developing guidance for licensed premises in arranging 'under 18' events, the Board in conjunction with Durham Constabulary has developed a set of standards. These standards have been agreed by both Darlington and Durham LSCBs, and are based on identified good practice that emerged from working other premises. (Please see attached.)

We would strongly recommend that for 'The Grange', in arranging any future events, aimed at those under 18, adheres to this guidance.

In reference to February's event the Board would like to draw particular attention to the standards below;

"4. Ensure efficient entry and dispersal procedures are in place so that young people are not left in a vulnerable position outside of the premises"

"9. Any prior marketing of the event (internet, flyers, posters etc) to make it clear that no alcohol will be sold to under 18's, nobody who appears to be drunk will be allowed admission to the event and searches will take place to ensure that no alcohol is brought into the venue. Permissible ages to be printed on any tickets issued for the event."

In addition to adhering to all of the standards within the guidance, in relation to point 9 Board members would like consideration to be made that all similar events are ticketed. The tickets should clearly state that anyone under the influence of alcohol will not be allowed entry, but the Licensee needs to be mindful of their duty of care for such young people and should follow point 15.

"An area should be designated as a safe place, whereby ill or intoxicated persons, including minors, can be taken to a place of safety for medical treatment or in the case of minors until reunited with a parent, guardian or responsible adult."

The standards are being introduced across the authority and with licensed premises, and the Board should be informed of any under 18 event, at least 28 days in advance of the event. If required the Board will make future representations to the Licensing committee, if we feel any licensed setting has not considered the safeguarding implications for children and young people.



Colin Morris
LSCB Independent Chair

Guidance for the Protection of Young People Aged Under 18 who Attend Events in Licensed Premises

The protection of children from harm is one of the four licensing objectives that underpin the Licensing Act 2003. As such any events aimed at those under 18, where alcohol is for sale to adults or not, will carry a significant degree of risk. Mixed age events (where alcohol is available for sale to persons over 18 and those under 18 may also be in attendance at the event) place an even greater responsibility on licence holders to ensure the Protection of Children from Harm. Clear management plans should be in place demonstrating how the licence holder intends to control and mitigate the potential harm to individuals under 18 years of age attending these events.

Whilst every event should be assessed on its own merits the Licensing Authority, Police and Local Safeguarding Children's Board strongly recommends that a code of conduct/policy for these events is adopted to ensure that the four Licensing Objectives are complied with, in particular the Protection of Children from Harm. Measures expected to be considered include;

Under 18 Only Events

- 16) The Police Licensing Officer, Licensing Authority and Local Safeguarding Children's Board to be notified of any under 18 event at least 28 days in advance of the event. Such notification should be from the Premise Licence holders or Designated Premises Supervisor, as they would be held accountable should the event undermine any of the licensing objectives.
- 17) The premises to be covered by colour, digital CCTV which meets the requirements and expectations of the Licensing Authority and Police. The equipment to record whilst the premises are carrying out licensable activities, all recordings retained for a minimum period of 28 days and being made available upon request to the Police or Licensing Authority within a period of 7 days.
- 18) The operator ensuring that the premises have sufficient numbers of SIA registered security staff and ensuring that they are employed in the following ratio: 2 for the first 100 customers, one of which being female, 2 for the second 100 customers and 1 for every 100 customers thereafter. At least one member of security staff being employed as a floorwalker and constantly monitoring patrons for evidence of alcohol or drugs and also protecting patrons from unwanted attention or harassment.
- 19) Ensure efficient entry and dispersal procedures are in place so that young people are not left in a vulnerable position outside of the premises.
- 20) Where there is normally a bar, ensuring that alcohol is not on display and is locked away.
- 21) Ensuring that there is at least 1 hour between the conclusion of the youth event and the venue opening for the commencement of any adult entertainment.
- 22) Searches on entry, to include all bags, to prevent alcohol and other illegal substances being brought onto the premises.
- 23) Where alcohol is seized from persons aged under 18 details recorded in a refusals register.
- 24) Any prior marketing of the event (internet, flyers, posters etc) to make it clear that no alcohol will be sold to under 18's, nobody who appears to be drunk will be allowed admission to the event and searches will take place to ensure that no alcohol is brought into the venue. Permissible ages to be printed in prominent writing on any tickets issued for the event.

APPENDIX 1C (cont)

- 25) Ensure a policy is in place for dealing with under 18's who appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol which incorporates a duty of care expected to be provided.
- 26) Toilet checks being carried out at regular intervals and records of such checks retained.
- 27) First aid provision available at the premises.
- 28) Ensure a policy is in place to prevent under aged persons leaving and returning to the premises in order to consume alcohol outside.
- 29) Events should have a terminal hour of no later than 11.00pm.
- 30) An area should be designated as a safe space, whereby ill or intoxicated persons, including minors, can be taken to a place of safety for medical treatment or in the case of minors until reunited with a parent, guardian or responsible adult.

Additional Measures expected to be considered for Mixed Age Events

- 6) All patrons to be given a secure wristband of different colours, differentiating over 18's from under 18's.
- 7) Only one alcoholic drink to be purchased at any one time by an individual aged over 18 years of age.
- 8) At least 2 SIA registered security staff acting as floorwalkers to constantly monitor patrons aged under 18 years of age for evidence of alcohol or drugs and also to protect patrons from unwanted attention or harassment.
- 9) Children under 16 years of age not being admitted to the event unless accompanied by a responsible adult. Each responsible adult not being responsible for more than 4 such children.
- 10) All drinks being served in plastic or polycarbonate glasses.

It must be stressed that the above measures are not considered to be an exhaustive list and licensees are encouraged to discuss the management of any such events in detail with the responsible authorities as part of their risk management process.