

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 2)

On 15th February 2012, a 16+ event was held at "The Grange", this having been organised by two local teenagers.

Certain individuals who had bought tickets for the event posted messages on Facebook, which encouraged everyone attending to consume drink before going to the premises.

Consequent concern on the part of the Constabulary and the local Safeguarding Children's Board prompted a meeting on 30th January between their representatives and David Storer, the designated premises supervisor.

During this discussion, concerns were raised about:-

1. the risk of children under 18 consuming alcohol
2. the disproportionately high number of potential customers
3. the lack of a safe room to accommodate any inebriated individuals
4. the potential in general for drunkenness and disorder if the event were to take place.

It was apparent that Mr Storer had put certain measures in place, but he was left in no doubt by officers that they remained profoundly concerned as to the organisation and promotion of the event, and that the Constabulary had no option in the circumstances but to increase the resources which it would otherwise have deployed on the evening of 15th February.

On 15th February itself, many youths came into Darlington town centre with tickets for the event, from as early as two hours before the commencement time of 20.00; officers seized considerable quantities of alcohol from them and from locations where they had concealed drink. Some of the youths were clearly drunk before the event had even started.

When the premises opened, there was a crowd of several hundred youths outside, and it was readily apparent that the event was heavily over-subscribed. In consequence, many children, who had either been refused entry or had been ejected, were left milling around on the streets, and on occasion attempting to gain entry to the premises in a confined space with resultant risk of crush. Some of these individuals once again were under the influence of alcohol.

Within 20 minutes of the start of the event, a 14 year-old girl was brought to the door unconscious, due to her consumption of alcohol; her condition necessitated transport to hospital.

At 21.00, staff at the premises announced that they were closing down, and requested police assistance to deal with a number of fights which were breaking out inside. As the premises were being cleared by officers, others were still trying to get in, and fights broke out amongst the hundreds of youths who were by then on Grange Road.

A large group of the youths eventually moved on by officers progressed to McDonalds, where their number and demeanour were such as to cause the manager to request police assistance. Substantial damage was caused to the premises, with several youths being removed after displaying aggressive behaviour towards staff.

Please tick yes

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate ☒
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected ☒

IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION

Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 3)

Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent (See guidance note 4). If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.

Signature

C. Harris 01307

Date

21/4/12

Capacity

Delegated to exercise functions of Chief Officer of Police under the Licensing Act 2003.

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 5)

Post town

Post Code

Telephone number (if any)

If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional)

Notes for Guidance

1. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
2. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
3. The application form must be signed.
4. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
5. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.

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

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 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.
- 5) Where there is normally a bar, ensuring that alcohol is not on display and is locked away.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Searches on entry, to include all bags, to prevent alcohol and other illegal substances being brought onto the premises.
- 8) Where alcohol is seized from persons aged under 18 details recorded in a refusals register.
- 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 in prominent writing on any tickets issued for the event.

APPENDIX 1B, cont

- 10) 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.
- 11) Toilet checks being carried out at regular intervals and records of such checks retained.
- 12) First aid provision available at the premises.
- 13) Ensure a policy is in place to prevent under aged persons leaving and returning to the premises in order to consume alcohol outside.
- 14) Events should have a terminal hour of no later than 11.00pm.
- 15) 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

- 1) All patrons to be given a secure wristband of different colours, differentiating over 18's from under 18's.
- 2) Only one alcoholic drink to be purchased at any one time by an individual aged over 18 years of age.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.