

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

### 10 November 2014

Item 5(a)

Alcohol Related Violent  
Crime Study

**Portfolio(s):** Adult Social Care  
Housing and Environment  
Leisure, Culture and  
Tourism  
Community Engagement

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Lesley Spillard  
Cllr John Harrison  
Cllr Eddie Darke  
Cllr Carole Burdis

**Report from:** Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

**Wards affected:** All

#### **PART 1**

##### **1.1 Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to present the recommendations of the Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee in relation to its study into Alcohol Related Violent Crime.

In accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Cabinet is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee within two months. In providing this response Cabinet is asked to state whether or not it accepts each recommendations and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

##### **1.2 Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that Cabinet consider and formulate a response to the recommendations presented to them as a result of the overview, scrutiny and policy development review of alcohol related violent crime.

##### **1.3 Forward plan:**

The report was included in the forward plan for the period 3 November 2014 – 31 March 2015 under the matters arising from Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee and its sub committees heading.

## 1.4 Council plan and policy framework

The report contributes towards the following priorities of the 2014-18 Our North Tyneside Plan:

Our People will:

Be cared for and kept safe if they become vulnerable

Be listened to by services that respond better and faster to their needs.

## 1.5 Information:

### Background information

- 1.5.1 As part of the Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee work programme 2013/14, Members agreed to carry out a review in relation to the commissioning of public health services.
- 1.5.2 At the initial scoping meeting with the Director of Public Health, Members were informed that alcohol misuse and its associated issues was a key priority for the Council. In order to keep the review focussed and manageable it was agreed to investigate alcohol related violent crime, with an emphasis on domestic abuse.
- 1.5.3 The main objective was to examine the effectiveness of strategies, interventions and support in place by the Council and its partners to tackle the issue of alcohol related violent crime and domestic abuse, and to identify gaps in service and areas for improvement.
- 1.5.4 During the review the sub-group identified several areas that they wanted to investigate in more detail. These included; intervention and support services, prevention and educational awareness, licensing and workplace policies.
- 1.5.5 Members held a series of evidence gathering meetings with expert witnesses between February and September 2014, and they also met with victims of domestic abuse to hear first hand their experiences with the interventions and support services provided by the Council and its partners.
- 1.5.6 Although it became apparent during the review that there wasn't a clear link between alcohol misuse and domestic abuse, what was evident was that when alcohol is present it exacerbates an already volatile situation resulting in increased rates of violence and more serious injury to the victim. Therefore tackling alcohol misuse would inevitably have a positive impact on the number and severity of domestic abuse incidents.
- 1.5.7 As a result of the study the sub-group have identified 12 recommendations for submission to Cabinet, they are:-

**Recommendation 1:** That Cabinet ask the Domestic Abuse Strategic Commissioning Group to investigate ways of increasing the IDVA capacity in North Tyneside so that it is more in line with the recommended level.

**Recommendation 2:** That Cabinet request that the Chief Executive of Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust explores the funding options to reinstate the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) post located in North Tyneside General Hospital's A&E Department.

**Recommendation 3:** That Cabinet ask the Interim Housing Services Manager to explore the possibility of allocating up to two homes being built as part of the Quality Homes for Older People project, to be used for temporary emergency accommodation for older people fleeing domestic abuse.

**Recommendation 4:** That Cabinet ask the Director of Public Health to continue exploring a potential model and commission a Perpetrator Programme in North Tyneside.

**Recommendation 5:** That Cabinet ask the Head of Environment and Leisure to explore the possibility of providing leisure centre passes to victims of domestic abuse and their children whilst they are staying at the Harbour refuge, and extending this to victims of domestic abuse and their children accessing an outreach service.

**Recommendation 6:** That Cabinet ask the Family Partner Team to ensure that when they identify families with alcohol problems and/or domestic abuse they are referred to the appropriate service.

**Recommendation 7:** That Cabinet ask the Director of Public Health to investigate the feasibility of establishing a pilot project to work with young people involved in alcohol related violence.

**Recommendation 8:** That Cabinet ask relevant officers to raise awareness of the support and help available to children and young people who are living in families where alcohol and domestic abuse is hidden, through providing information in young people's newsletters and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education programmes.

**Recommendation 9:** That Cabinet ask the Director of Public Health to focus on alcohol related violence, in particular domestic abuse and the impact this has on family relationships and children during alcohol awareness week.

**Recommendation 10:** That Cabinet ask the Director of Public Health to produce a public health statement relating to alcohol misuse for inclusion in the Licensing Policy and where relevant any other Council policies.

**Recommendation 11:** That the Elected Mayor and Director of Public Health continue to lobby and support the introduction of national minimum pricing.

**Recommendation 12:** That Cabinet ask the Public Protection Manager to include an annual article in the resident's newsletter 'Our North Tyneside' to raise public awareness of the alcohol exclusion zones in North Tyneside.

The full report which outlines the key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review is attached at Appendix 1.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

### Option 1

Cabinet may accept the recommendation set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

## Option 2

Cabinet may not accept the recommendation set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

## Option 3

Cabinet may accept part of the recommendation as set out in paragraph 1.2 above and reject the rest.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

### **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended by Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

This option will meet the statutory duty of Cabinet to respond to overview, scrutiny and policy development recommendations within 2 months of receiving them.

In providing its response Cabinet is asked to provide reasons for any recommendations which are not approved. Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee feel that accepting the recommendations set out in the report will help to alleviate the issues associated with alcohol related violent crime, in particular domestic abuse.

### **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Report : Alcohol Related Violent Crime

### **1.9 Contact officers:**

Sharon Ranadé, Scrutiny Advisor (0191) 643 5614  
Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager (0191) 643 7038

### **1.10 Background information:**

- 1) Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Report: Alcohol Related Violent Crime
- 2) North Tyneside Council Constitution

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

The financial implications associated with each recommendation will be included in Cabinet's response to this report.

### **2.2 Legal**

There are no legal implications at this stage.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

Members consulted with officers of the Council and Northumbria Police and also met with victims of domestic abuse in completing this work.

## **2.4 Human rights**

There are no direct issues relating to human rights arising from this report.

## **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no direct issues relating to equalities and diversity arising from this report.

## **2.6 Risk management**

There are no direct issues relating to risk arising from this report.

## **2.7 Crime and disorder**

There are no direct issues relating to crime and disorder arising from this report.

## **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

There are no direct issues relating to environment and sustainability arising from this report.

## **PART 3**

The following officers and Members have been sent a copy of the report for their information:

- Chief Executive
- Mayor/Cabinet Member
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer