

NYSP Executive

10 April 2008

Implementation of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008/11

1 Purpose of report

- The report requests that each partner identify a lead officer for the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.
- The report provides information on a proposal to appoint a coordinator to drive forward implementation of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and makes a request for partners to underwrite the costs for 2009/10.

- 2 The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008/11 was endorsed and adopted at the Combined meeting of the Local Area Agreement Management Group and NYSP Steering Group on 13 December 2007.
- 3 Implementation of the Strategy is one of the ten priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire 2008/18 agreed by the NYSP Partnership on 13 March 2008. Implementation of the Strategy is also key to North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement.
- 4 The Y&NY Safer Communities Forum are leading on the issue through a Joint Coordinating Group (JCG) chaired by Rosemary Taylor.
- 5 The JCG believes that there is a real need to consider how the Strategy is going to be resourced, managed and led. Unless there is a strong lead on the strategy many of the actions and a substantial part of the purpose of the alcohol strategy could fall by the way side.
- 6 Unfortunately not all relevant agencies have been represented at the JCG, which has made it difficult to discuss implementation of the strategy.
- 7 It is requested that each partner, including relevant directorates within the County Council, identifies a lead officer for the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy with appropriate seniority and knowledge who would actively participate in the work of the JCG.
- 8 In addition to the engagement of all partners, it is essential that there is sufficient and dedicated officer time to drive forward implementation. At the last DAAT Board meeting it was apparent the DAAT team do not have the capacity to take on the day to day management of the

strategy, although it was agreed that this was the most appropriate multi-agency team to co-ordinate the work.

- 6 The Y&YN Safer Communities Forum are currently considering allocating £50,000 in 2008/09 towards implementation of the Strategy. Subject to approval, the JCG are proposing to use £25,000 to secure sufficient and dedicated officer time through appointment of a coordinator, ideally within the DAAT team. Work on a job description and specification is in progress.
- 7 The JCG would like an appointment to be made for two years in the first instance, rather than one year, as this is likely to attract a better range of applicants. However, the Y&YN Safer Communities Forum does not have a budget for 2009/10 at this stage.
- 8 It is requested that partners agree to underwrite the costs of a dedicated coordinator post in 2009/10 (up to a maximum of £25,000) so that a two year appointment can be advertised. Subject to the Y&YN Safer Communities Forum having a budget for 2009/10, it is expected this would be a first call on the allocation towards implementation of the Strategy.

9 Recommendations

- That each partner identifies a lead officer for the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.
- That partners agree to underwrite the costs of a coordinator for 2009/10.

Rosemary Taylor
Chair of Alcohol Joint Coordinating Group (Y&NY Safer Communities Forum)
1 April 2008