

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

19th February 2009

Recommendations from the Community Services Scrutiny Committee 4th February 2009

Alcohol & Substance Misuse Review Panel

The Alcohol and Substance Misuse Review Panel was established by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 6th August 2008 to investigate the need for Alcohol Restriction Zones (ARZ's) in the district, problems relating to underage drinking and to consult with relevant partners on substance abuse issues.

The creation of the Review Panel resulted from a motion to Council on 16th July 2008 requesting that alcohol restriction zones be instigated in several parks within the District.

During the review process the panel considered evidence from a range of expert witnesses including:

- i) Police Divisional Intelligence Analyst
- ii) Trading Standards (Worcestershire County Council)
- iii) Kidderminster Licensees Association
- iv) Chairman of Bewdley Pubwatch Scheme
- v) Head of Property and Operational Services
- vi) Wyre Forest District Council Licensing Section
- vii) Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team

In addition to this, all Members of the Review Panel also participated in a Friday or Saturday night tour of the District with Local Policing Teams.

The Review Panel also consulted with:

- i) District Councillors
- ii) County Councillors
- iii) Parish Councillors
- iv) PACT Chairmen

Please note that the recommendations outlined below pertain to the alcohol element of the review process, further recommendations will be put forward following consideration of evidence relating to substance misuse.

Recommended to Cabinet:

1. The local MP be requested to approach Government to put forward the following questions for a response from Government:
 - ii) Is the Government aware of the issues relating to the sale of cheap alcohol?
 - iii) Has the Government got any plans to tackle the sale of cheap alcohol?

- iv) Has the Government any comments on the actions of retailers, such as Wetherspoons, selling cut price alcohol?
 - v) Is the Government aware that many young people, under 18, do not directly purchase alcohol, but get it through proxy alcohol sales?
 - vi) Are there any plans to address proxy alcohol sales?
2. No further ARZ's be created in the District as the Police have sufficient powers to control underage drinking, and the control of anti social behaviour and on street drinking could be addressed via other means.
 3. Training on drug and alcohol awareness be made available to all District Council Members, to be provided free of charge through the Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team.
 4. An education programme throughout schools and colleges be adopted, coupled with publicity in the local media to address misconceptions relating to ARZ's.