

Nottingham City Council Declaration on Alcohol

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SUMMARY

At the Council meeting held on 16th January 2017, Nottingham City Council approved the signing of the Local Authority Declaration on Alcohol. The declaration is a statement about the Local Authority's commitment to reducing the harms from alcohol and is a pledge to take evidence-based action. It is intended that the commitments made in the declaration will result in action across the health and social care system.

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to further support the declaration through their endorsement of the Declaration, and through their organisations taking the lead and signing up to the declaration.

RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked:

- a) As a Board to endorse and support the Nottingham City Council Declaration on Alcohol
- b) On behalf of their individual organisations, to consider and support signing the Nottingham City Council Declaration on Alcohol.

1. Reasons for recommendations

Following approval of the Nottingham City Council Declaration on Alcohol on 16th January 2017 the Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and sign up to the declaration. In supporting the declaration the Board will be demonstrating cross organisational support for the commitments laid out in the declaration, making a collective statement about the importance of alcohol harm both locally and nationally.

The declaration commits the LA and other signatories to:

- Influence national government to take the most effective, evidence-based action to reduce alcohol harm, particularly via the introduction of greater regulations around the price, promotion and availability of alcohol;
- Influence national government to rebalance the Licensing Act in favour of local authorities and communities, enabling local licensing authorities to control the number, density and availability of alcohol according to local requirements;

- Develop evidence-based strategies and commissioning plans with our local communities and partners including the local NHS Acute Trust, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Police;
- Ensure that public health and community safety are accorded a high priority in all public policy-making about alcohol;
- Make best use of existing licensing powers to ensure effective management of the night-time economy;
- Raise awareness of the harm caused by alcohol to individuals and our communities, bringing it closer in public consciousness to other harmful products, such as tobacco.

2. Background

The importance of tackling alcohol misuse has been previously presented to the Board (28th September 2016). In brief, alcohol misuse is a major cause of ill health contributing to more than 60 diseases, crime and loss of productivity⁵. There is also evidence that the harms from alcohol are felt disproportionately by more deprived communities. In Nottingham City, in terms of health outcomes, alcohol related hospital admissions are higher than the national average and are also high in comparison to other core cities⁶.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

The declaration supports a number of existing plans and strategies already in place to support minimising the harms from alcohol. A toolkit to support signatories is in preparation and once commitment from local leaders has been achieved there are plans to engage other organisations and businesses in Nottingham City to sign up to the declaration.

4. Published documents referred to in compiling this report

1. Coulthard, M. Farrell, M. Singleton, N. Meltzer, H. (2002) *Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use and Mental Health*. London: The Stationery Office.
2. Mental Health Foundation (2006) Cheers? Understanding the relationship between alcohol and mental health. Available at: https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/cheers_report.pdf
3. Anderson. P. and Baumberg. B. (June 2006) *Alcohol in Europe, a public health perspective*. A report for the European Commission, P 99.
4. Nottingham City Council Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Mental Wellbeing. Available at: [http://jsna.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/insight/Strategic-Framework/Nottingham-JSNA/Adults/Mental-Wellbeing-\(2016\).aspx](http://jsna.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/insight/Strategic-Framework/Nottingham-JSNA/Adults/Mental-Wellbeing-(2016).aspx)
5. World Health Organisation (2009) *Harmful Use of Alcohol*. Available at: http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/fact_sheet_alcohol_en.pdf
6. Public Health England. Public Health Outcomes Framework. Available at: <http://www.phoutcomes.info/search/alcohol>