

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 JULY 2019

REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND ELECTIONS

A.1 DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE IN TENDRING

(Report prepared by *Keith Simmons and Charlotte Cooper*)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To invite the Committee to receive the material provided and determine its approach to this subject as part of the work programme for the Committee.

INVITEES

None.

BACKGROUND

The Committee, at its meeting on 4 June 2018, established a Task and Finish Group on the issue of Drug and Alcohol Abuse within Tendring. The terms of reference for the Group are set out in the extract of the Minutes of that meeting at Appendix A to this report. Appendix B also sets out a Minute extract from a related matter considered by the Committee on 3 December 2018 concerning drug and alcohol support services in the District. The Committee also then considered enforcement against anti-social street drinking at its meeting on 28 February 2019. The relevant Minute for this is set out at Appendix C to this report. Councillor Newton, on behalf of the task and Finish Group gathered evidence for the review and this is set out at Appendix D to this report for consideration by the Committee.

DETAILED INFORMATION

As set out in the background section above and in Appendix A to this report, the Committee has previously determined that a review of Drug and Alcohol Abuse within Tendring District was a matter that it wished to examine. To facilitate this review, a Task and Finish Group was established.

The other Appendices to this report set out elements of support for those with drug and alcohol abuse and the approach to enforcement against anti-social street drinking as considered by this Committee in December 2018 and February 2019 and material provided by Councillor Mary Newton on the issues intended to be considered by the Task and Finish Group.

Updates have been sought on the numbers of those sleeping on the street, the number of alcohol related incidents of Domestic Violence, number of Drink driving offences and shoplifting where alcohol was stolen and the number of Licensed Premises in the District. These will be circulated at the meeting for Members to the extent that this information is available.

On 7 June 2019, a decision of the Portfolio Holders for Finance and Corporate Resources and for Health and Education (dated 16 April 2019) was published to approve a virement of £31,000 from the Revenues and Benefits staffing budget to the Community Safety budget to enable the, then, two year fixed term post of Anti-Social Behaviour Patrol Officer to be made a permanent post. The report considered by the Portfolio Holders referenced the need for ‘a dedicated officer [...] to undertake enforcement of the PSPO’. The PSPO is the Public Space Protection Order that is in place across much of Clacton Town Centre and the seafront there. The decision and supporting report are available at the following web page:

<https://tdcdemocracy.tendringdc.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2705>

The resulting advertisement for the Anti-Social Behaviour Patrol Officer is available at the following web page: <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/jobs/current-job-vacancies/anti-social-behaviour-patrol-officer>

The PSPO includes provision that no person shall within the restricted area refuse to stop drinking or hand over any containers (sealed or unsealed) which are believed to contain alcohol, when required to so by an authorised officer to prevent public nuisance or disorder.

It is also appropriate to recognise that drug and alcohol abuse, and the impact on lives as a consequence of that abuse, is a component element of the work of the Tendring Health and Wellbeing Board, the Board’s Strategy for addressing the most pressing health and wellbeing issues in the District and the ambition of the Board for improved public health outcomes. The current Strategy of the Board references alcohol-related harm hospital admissions which are particularly high in the District when compared with the position across Essex as a whole.

It is now appropriate for the Committee to consider afresh the review of drug and alcohol abuse in the District (as originally approved on 4 June 2018) and determine the way forward it now wishes to adopt.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee determines the issue of a review of drug and alcohol abuse in the District (as originally approved on 4 June 2018) in relation to the work programme of the Committee.

Extract from the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 4 June 2018

**5. REPORT OF HEAD OF LEADERSHIP SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY -
A.2.TASK AND FINISH GROUPS AND WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

[...]

It was **RESOLVED** that:

a) The Terms of Reference for Task and Finish Reviews be agreed as follows:

[...]

Review Topic: Research into Alcohol Abuse within Tendring
How does the topic fit with the Committee's Terms of Reference: Health and Wellbeing
What question is the review aiming to answer: What issues are indicated by data on alcohol usage and abuse and how can these issues be tackled?
Aim / Objectives: To undertake research into alcohol usage and abuse and assess the outcomes to determine further work to be undertaken.
Scope: It is proposed that areas for data research can include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of premises licenced for alcohol on and off sales;• Number of Street Sleepers;• GP numbers of Registered Alcoholics per population percentage;• Alcohol related hospital admissions;• Alcohol related incidents of Domestic Violence;• Number of Drink Driving arrests;• Accidents in the Home connected to alcohol consumption;• Shoplifting where alcohol was stolen.
Membership (including officer support): Councillor Alan Coley Councillor Roy Raby Councillor Val Guglielmi Councillor Mary Newton Councillor John Chittock Councillor Ivan Henderson Head of Leadership Support and Community

Timescale:

Final recommendations to be presented to the meeting of the Committee on 3 December 2018 or 4 March 2019

Extract from the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 3 December 2018

26. Drug and Alcohol Support in Tendring

Matthew Gauden, Centre Manager for Open Road, and Claire Beacham, Senior Project Manager for Phoenix Alcohol Project, attended the meeting to provide Members with an update on the drug and alcohol support in Tendring.

Members deliberated and raised questions for Matthew Gauden and Claire Beacham to answer.

It was **RESOLVED** that Matthew Gauden be requested to send to the Head of Leadership Support and Community (Karen Neath) to circulate to the Committee, a list of mutual aid organisations who work alongside Phoenix Alcohol Project and Open Road. As well as more details on the welfare support staff at Colchester Borough Council who work within HMOs.

[Note: The scheduling of the above matter for consideration was approved by the Committee at its meeting on 3 September 2018 in relation to health and well-being.]

Extract from the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 28 February 2018

44. Reference from Council - A.1 - Utilisation of available Enforcement Powers to combat Street Drinking and Anti-Social Behaviour in Clacton Town Centre

The Committee was aware that, at the meeting of the Council held on 22 January 2019, the following motion had been moved by Councillor P B Honeywood and seconded by Councillor Everett and, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.4, had stood referred to the Committee for consideration and report:

“That this Council looks forward to the new Anti-Social Patrol Officer being appointed and asks that that person works closely with the Police and the dedicated PCSO for Clacton to ensure that all available enforcement powers are utilised to combat street drinking and anti-social behaviour in Clacton Town Centre to the fullest of their ability.”

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.5 Councillor Honeywood attended the meeting and explained the motion. He then responded to Members’ questions thereon.

[...]

It was then moved by Councillor Raby, seconded by Councillor Skeels Jnr. and:-

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that Councillor Honeywood’s motion be approved in its original format.

**Review of Drug and Alcohol Abuse in Tendring District – Information provided by
Councillor Mary Netwon in February 2019**