

MEETING:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
DATE:	17 JANUARY 2012
TITLE OF REPORT:	ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY – UPDATE
REPORT BY:	Dr Sarah Aitken & Dr Alison Merry

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To note progress and next steps in relation to developing the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

Recommendation(s)

THAT: the Board notes the progress made to date in bringing workstreams together and notes proposed next steps in relation to the development of a single, unified Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for Herefordshire.

Key Points Summary

- In its work to develop a Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Board is focusing initially on alcohol harm reduction using a commissioning cycle approach.
- As the first step in this process an integrated needs assessment (INA) for alcohol harm reduction has been developed. This was discussed by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 18th October 2011.
- The alcohol INA contained a series of recommendations based on local needs, existing services and the evidence of effectiveness for interventions. These were set out using the ladder of interventions as a framework.
- Following on from this as the next step, these recommendations have now been developed into an Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy with the aim of reducing alcohol-related harm and which identifies timeframes and lead organisations alongside each recommendation.
- In addition to this work, Herefordshire Partnership's Alcohol Group has developed an action plan with the following aims:
 - Educate and raise awareness of sensible drinking;
 - Reduce violent crime linked to alcohol consumption;
 - Contribute to a reduction in alcohol related assaults presenting at A&E;

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Dr Sarah Aitken on 01432 260668

- Intervene early to prevent potential violent crime and disorder.
- An initial assessment shows that both strategic plans share the common aim of reducing alcohol-related harm - whether this be harm to health and/or harm relating to crime and disorder – and that the actions within the two plans are complementary and compatible with each other.
- Bringing these two streams of work together to create a single, unified Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy will enable Herefordshire to take a truly joined up, multi-agency approach to alcohol harm reduction across the county. Initial discussions at Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group (6th January 2012) have established the commonality between these strategic plans and the benefits of agreeing a shared strategy.
- Next steps to achieve this are as follows:
 - Joint work during February 2012 to develop a single, unified Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for Herefordshire;
 - Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy agreed and signed off by both Herefordshire Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board;
 - Completed Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy to be presented at the March 2012 meeting of the Herefordshire Health and Wellbeing Board;

Alternative Options

- 1 The Board could propose a range of alternatives.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 A single county-wide plan will enable a joined up approach to tackling alcohol harm relating to health and to crime and disorder.

Introduction and Background

- 3 The Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed to look at alcohol-related harm to health and alcohol harm reduction services. An alcohol integrated needs assessment (INA) was discussed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in October 2012. The development of an alcohol harm reduction strategy is the next step in the commissioning cycle.

Key Considerations

- 4 The recommendations from the INA form the basis of an alcohol harm reduction strategy based on the ladder of interventions. The Herefordshire Alcohol Group (Herefordshire Partnership) has also been working on plans to reduce alcohol-related harm. This paper proposes a plan for bringing these two workstreams together to create a single, unified Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for the county with a view to this being approved by both the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Herefordshire Partnership by the end of March 2012. The unified Strategy will address both harm to health and harm relating to crime and disorder. This is an opportunity for a single strategy for alcohol harm reduction to be agreed by both the Health and Wellbeing Board and Herefordshire Partnership and for a unified, multi-agency approach to alcohol harm reduction to be adopted across Herefordshire.

Community Impact

- 5 This will be address within the Strategy.

Financial Implications

6 Financial implications will be addressed within the Strategy.

Legal Implications

7 To be addressed as appropriate within the Strategy.

Risk Management

8 This will be addressed as necessary within the Strategy

Consultees

9 A range of stakeholders were consulted during the development of the INA. Initial discussions on bringing the workstreams together have taken place at Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group.

Appendices

10 None

Background Papers

- None identified.