

Summary of Proposals – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003

Proposal 1 - Insert the following paragraph:

3.0.8 Within the context of promoting the four licensing objectives, the Licensing Authority expects applicants to propose licensing conditions to mitigate the impact their premises may have on the health and well-being of their customers, the neighbourhood and the wider community

Proposal 2 - Expand 3.1.9 to include:

- I. Train staff to recognise and understand the signs of drug misuse in people so that practical steps can be taken to deal with instances that occur
- II. Have appropriately trained staff to deal with drug related incidents
- III. Display appropriate drug safety awareness information to customers
- IV. Provide a first aid room and first aid equipment, including a defibrillator in larger venues
- V. Deploy staff trained to assist with medical incidents
- VI. Implement an appropriate banning policy

Proposal 3 - Add 3.1.15 Industry Partnership Schemes:

The licensing authority would encourage active participation in schemes such as Pub Watch, Off-Watch, Best Bar None (if available in the area) as contributing to the prevention of crime and disorder licensing objective

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Proposal 4 - Add 3.1.16 Irresponsible promotions:

Banning the irresponsible promotion of alcohol in on-licensed premises was one of five measures brought in by Government in 2010. The others were banning the dispensing of alcohol directly into the mouths of customers; making free tap water available; ensuring age verification policies are in place and offering smaller servings of beer, wine and spirits.

In Denbighshire, the decision on what is and is not an irresponsible promotion will be made on a case by case basis taking all the circumstances into account and with reference to other Responsible Authorities when necessary.

Proposal 5 - Add 3.5 Public Health:

The Local Health Board is responsible for making representations and observations on licence applications. The Health Board will also use information provided by Public Health Wales in order to inform their decision making. Public Health is not yet a licensing objective by the licensing authority believes that public health has much to add to licensing in relation to the local populations' alcohol related health needs. Health bodies such as Public Health have unique access to data not available to other responsible authorities which may inform licensing decisions. Public Health is useful in providing evidence of alcohol related harm particularly in relation to cumulative impact policies.

Public Health data reveals that:

14 Percent of adults in Denbighshire drink above the recommended average weekly consumption of alcohol (National Survey for Wales, 2019)

In 2019-2020 there were 394.3 alcohol-specific hospital admissions and 1919.2 alcohol attributable hospital admissions (European Age Standardise Rate per 100,000 population) for individuals resident in Denbighshire (Public Health Wales 2020)

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Proposal 6 - Add 11.6 - Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015:

This Act requires Local Authorities in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems, such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change. The Act clearly supports and actively promotes the licensing objectives. This Act links specifically to the prevention of crime and disorder and public nuisance. It recognises that there is a need to create appropriate soundscapes – the right acoustic environment in the right time and place. The Local Authority will consider the management of noise and soundscapes and in particular the five ways of working contained under this Act namely,

- I. Long term – the importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs,
- II. Integration,
- III. Involvement,
- IV. Collaboration and
- V. Prevention. Welsh Government has produced a [‘Noise and Soundscape Action Plan for 2018-2023’](#)

The Licensing Authority will also have cognisance to the following legislation when it decides to discharge its responsibilities under the Licensing Act. This list is not exhaustive:-

- I. Environmental Protection Act 1990 which deals with noise and nuisance
- II. Regulatory Reform Order 2005 which deals with fire safety
- III. Highways Act 1980 which deals with pavement café licences.

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Proposal 7 - Amend Appendix 3: Alcohol and Health in Wales

Alcohol use and its consequences remain a major public health challenge in Wales, the UK and elsewhere. The harmful use of alcohol ranks among the top five risk factors for disease, disability and death throughout the world.

- I. The proportion of adults drinking alcohol above the weekly guidelines (average weekly consumption above 14 units) has remained at a similar level since 2016. Data published by Public Health Wales Observatory in 2019 reveals that 19 percent of adults (aged 16 years and over) drink above the weekly guidelines compared to 20 percent in 2016.
- II. Rates of alcohol consumption by gender show that 25.8 percent of men drink above weekly guidelines compared to 12.7 percent of women and people aged 45 to 65 drink more frequently than any other age group (Public Health Observatory, 2019).
- III. Since 2009-10, the percentage alcohol specific hospital admissions involving individuals over the age of 50 has risen by almost 23 percent (Public Health Wales, 2020).
- IV. Alcohol hospital admissions are strongly linked to deprivation. The proportion of all patients admitted for alcohol-specific conditions living in the most deprived areas was 2.7 times higher than those from the least deprived areas (Public Health Wales, 2020).
- V. Mortality from alcohol specific conditions has steadily increased since 2013. However, the number of admissions fell by 7 percent in 2019 compared to the year before (Public Health Wales, 2020).

Alcohol plays an important and positive role in social and family life and contributes to employment and economic development locally. However, social traditions and economic benefits should not mask the fact that alcohol is a toxic substance that can have a detrimental effect on physical and mental health and wellbeing.

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Drinking Levels and Patterns

There's no guaranteed safe level of drinking, but drinking below the recommended daily limits, means the risks of harm to health are low. Even drinking less than lower risk levels is not advisable in some circumstances. It is not only the amount of alcohol consumed that increases the risk of harm.

Binge drinking, which refers to a pattern of drinking in which a person consumes at least twice the daily recommended amount of alcohol in a single drinking session, can cause acute intoxication and lead to problems such as accidents, injury and violence. Most common in younger age groups, binge drinking is often associated with 'pre-loading'. Preloading is a term that relates to people, particularly young people, drinking alcohol at home or in streets before going on to pubs and clubs. It has been associated with higher overall alcohol consumption and a greater likelihood of being involved in a violent incident. People pre-load on alcohol because it's much cheaper to buy in the supermarket or other off licence than in a pub or bar.

The Licensing Authority can consider representations from health bodies acting as responsible authorities. The health bodies can provide information that is relevant to the promotion of the licensing objective of public safety, which includes the prevention of accidents and injuries and other immediate harms that can result from alcohol consumption such as unconsciousness or alcohol poisoning. For example, drunkenness can lead to accidents and injuries from violence resulting in attendances at emergency departments and the use of ambulance services. In some cases, these will also involve breaches of the crime and disorder licensing objective. In respect of the protection of children from harm there is a duty to protect them from moral, physical and psychological harm and therefore there is lots of potential for health bodies to add value. Under 18 alcohol-related A&E attendances may relate to the objective to protect children from harm and underage or proxy sales of alcohol will have implications for both the crime and disorder and protecting children from harm objectives. Health teams can provide supporting evidence, for example in relation to the effects that drinking alcohol has on the adolescent body. In some areas, the main barrier to health bodies acting effectively as a

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responsible authority is that the evidence that they need to support a representation is not routinely collected or available in their area.

Wrexham Council and its partners, Wrexham Maelor Hospital, North Wales Police, Welsh Ambulance Service and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board are currently working on a pilot project to improve data collection and sharing. It is intended to implement this across the whole of North Wales. The data collected should assist greatly in targeting enforcement where it is needed, informing licensing policy and contributing to the licensing decision making process.