

SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES

SCS Aim: Reduce alcohol and drug misuse and drug related crime

Summary of issues:

- Continue the joined-up, partnership approach
- Greater control of alcohol sales, pricing and offers, as well as the number of outlets and opening hours
- Proactive work with retailers – no loss leading sales, greater penalties, underage sales
- Stop expansion of drug rehabs in North Somerset, including reducing the number of people coming to Weston for treatment
- Tougher drug enforcement
- Clear pathways into drug/alcohol treatments and better management of treatment facilities
- Early coordinated support for those leaving treatment e.g. housing, employment etc
- Early intervention and support services for young people and those growing up in families where there are substance misuse issues
- Education and awareness raising in schools of effects and support available e.g. YOT
- Understand causes of alcohol and drug misuse
- Provide alternative activities for young people
- Consider issues in rural areas too

Control - alcohol

- Proactive approach to penalising suppliers selling alcohol to under 25s for their responsibility for local alcohol related crime
- No 'Buy one get one free' – cheap all you can drink nights!
- Greater control on 'booze' pricing and 'buy one get one free'
- Stop every corner shop and supermarket selling alcohol – should only be sold by off-licences and public houses
- Supermarkets to be more aware of the consequences of their irresponsibility
- Alcohol – night time economy – more react than prevent
- Minimum pricing?
- Work with retailers/supermarkets – no loss leading sales
- Designing out crime – S17 considerations and licensing policy. Ensuring no heavy concentration of licensed premises
- Locally price alcohol i.e. not cheaper than water
- Manage the supply of alcohol through clubs and bars better
- Restrict access to alcohol
- Raise legal age on alcohol to 21
- More responsible selling of alcohol and actions against shop keepers
- Supermarket should be charged a special alcohol tax to compensate for their ability to discount cost of alcohol
- Licensing laws – reduce opening hours
- Cheap outlets

Control - drug

- Make sure those cured of drug abuse don't stay in Weston

- Stop expansion of drug rehab centres in North Somerset
- Drugs enforcement – national picture and WsM – manage people coming to the town
- Tougher sentences for drug dealers
- Review/legalise drugs
- Faster court action against perpetrators of drug related issues

Control – both

- Increase penalties for suppliers
- Reduce number of people coming to Weston for treatment
- Cooperation with councils across the country to reduce uncontrolled rehab referrals
- We shouldn't be soft with offenders, especially suppliers
- The legal system needs to be overhauled in order to cope

Support services

- Support services for young people – give support at earliest possible opportunity
- More care of drug offenders
- Better management of drug treatment facilities (including outside agencies/probation services sending non-locals for treatment)
- Clear pathways onto drug/alcohol treatments – resettle and rehabilitate
- Access to alcohol treatment
- International benchmarking what works
- Better support services for children and young people growing up in families where there are drug and alcohol issues.
- COSMIC project could be developed further – increase its capacity
- Return to original policy for providers
- Earlier intervention during rehabilitation regarding housing and support availability not wait until they come out
- Support for young people in rural areas – soft drugs and alcohol
- Targeted work with offenders, ongoing support
- Services for those exiting drug services, e.g. housing, employment etc.
- Engagement of all service providers in delivering high quality services to alcohol and drug clients
- Accredited drug and alcohol services
- System relocated referrals after treatments
- Improve linkages between service providers across treatment and into third/fourth stage
- Support networks to become initiated – e.g. PCSO or youth worker
- Improve access to services
- GP, clinician involvement in new approaches
- Early education of impact at schools
- Less Weston centric services
- Introduce an integrated offender management system

Education

- Youth offending team – make more people, parents & parents, aware of them

- Raise awareness about safe drinking with young people – though education, discussions etc at primary school level – cooperation with parents
- More early education on drugs
- Education – schools other areas, drugs/aids
- Education - early intervention
- Promote greater understanding of the causes of alcohol and drug abuse
- Volunteering opportunities for those in recovery
- More education
- Safe drinking – work with schools and parents
- Use young people as role model advocates showing no need for drugs and alcohol
- Drug/alcohol awareness, schools, young people, better role models
- Education and prevention at school
- More accurate awareness about the effects of drugs – young people should not be misled with emotive ‘adverts’/ statements of harm
- Get adults out and about setting example
- Increase and target awareness of the implications/effects of alcohol and drug misuse on the community
- Famous and other well known personalities have a big responsibility to set examples
- Education – schools and parents
- More awareness of effects
- Early education
- Talk about alcohol issues with school children, raise awareness
- Importance of education and example
- Challenge some of the norms for young people and others
- Improved local awareness of problem – it is real
- Improve alcohol education in schools
- Education issues – what are the root causes leading to drug and alcohol misuse? – Family issues, peer pressure
- Capture and spread best practice across provider organisations

Other activities

- Bowling alley
- Club for emerging bands
- What is the alternative to alcohol and drugs for young people/disengaged people who say ‘why should I stop drinking and taking drugs – I like it?’
- Look at alternatives for them to do, is there anything? Particularly in rural villages?
- More support to youth groups and support to organisations such as Sisters of the Church in St Pauls and voluntary communities
- Provide alternative challenging facilities for young people

Other

- Offender to repay where crime committed through drug taking
- Joined up partnership approach to continue
- Partnership approach
- Stop rewarding failure
- Cost of such crime

- Control of supply?
- Investigate the underlying causes – education, lack of achievement, peer pressure, and put activities in place to stop gangsters ‘going off the rails’
- Can lessons be learnt from the reduction in smoking to help reduce intake of alcohol and drugs
- Parents should be targeted regards their children drinking
- Family environment too often blamed for drugs/alcohol
- Police need support of judges and magistrates to carry through their policies
- Use existing tax pool for education/treatment
- Increase tax – use money for treatment and prevention
- Legalise and tax drugs – use money for treatment and providing good support
- Social stigma of smoking = social stigma of drinking
- More focus on people drinking at home, opportunities Senior Community Link (SCL)
- Links with employment and training
- Better access to optimal scripts
- Fund on a polluter pays principle – ring fence an area of alcohol duty into drug/alcohol education and health/policing
- Increased duty will impact on young binge drinkers through economics
- Learn lessons from accreditation scheme and implement learnings
- Determine pockets of problem – why here?, how? (access to alcohol)
- Influence media about acceptability of consuming too much alcohol
- Look at rural alcohol problems as well as the towns
- Try and get drink drivers off the road throughout the year
- Influence behavioural cultural change
- Make planning decisions more difficult for treatment providers to build new schemes
- Use S106 funding to provide drug and alcohol services and facilities for offenders/users
- Ensure key influencers within North Somerset have necessary skills/knowledge to have a meaningful impact
- Review prevention strategies in order to focus resources on most effective activities
- Redress the balance between drug and alcohol commissioned services – given that drug treatment services current gets the lion’s share of funding

SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES

SCS Aim: Support the development of the voluntary and community sectors

Summary of issues:

- Improve publicity within outside organisations, including benefits to employer and employee
- Encourage a more positive image/role/aspiration of volunteering
- Volunteers are a great resource but need training, support and encouragement

- Encourage different sections of the community to become volunteers e.g. older people
- VCS can help NSC and NSP achieve aims
- Improve networking across sector – especially smaller groups not 'connected' to VANS
- Increase financial capacity of sector - recognition that grant income is diminishing
- Job shadowing/senior staff to be seconded into VCS organisation – gain experience and understand support required
- Support and resources from public agencies e.g. IT support, printing, knowledge transfer

Communication

- Better publicity within NSC itself
- Raise employer's awareness of benefits of volunteering so they can be more sympathetic towards employees who volunteer e.g. time off for initial training etc.
- Communicate support available and improve engagement

Volunteers

- More encouragement and support for volunteers
- Agencies can form their own volunteers to help with their aims
- Need to use volunteers, a great resource but volunteers need to be skilled
- Encourage more sections of community to become volunteers – especially 'older people' – great in number and with a range of ability
- Change attitude to volunteering – give it a more positive image/role/aspiration
- Making the development sustainable – training, linking and networking groups, volunteers need training
- In the same way as paid workers enjoy recognition, volunteers need support and recognition, feedback and respect
- Don't make assumptions, educate/communicate, provide support, encouragement, don't overload volunteers, local community joint voluntary forums
- Getting more people involved with voluntary work, to reduce costs of professionals – but also giving volunteers backing in training and support

Coordination

- Third sector coordination to meet shared aims of the council and NSP
- Ensure that VCS work is more aligned to the priorities of the area/SCS/LAA
- Formation of NS voluntary/community sector 'assembly' to enable inter sector support
- Implementation of 'village agents' scheme across North Somerset (particularly Chew valley) to provide single point of contact for isolated people in village and rural communities, signpost people at risk to agencies and voluntary organisations where support/advice can be sought. Avon Fire & Rescue to provide training

- Need to get small VCS groups that do not 'belong' or contact VANS etc. or receive any funding from NSC (some work on this done in 2009 via NSC and churches and parish councils)
- Decide priorities and focus on them

Experience

- Secondment of senior staff into the sector so that can experience and thus support the need

Funding

- Pump priming
- Access to performance reward grant funding
- Provide minimum of 3-year SLA's to voluntary and community organisations with good track record
- Coordinate applications for funding
- Share training
- Funding – a little goes a long way
- Voluntary groups will have to embrace the idea they will have to self fund more by raising their own and not depending so much on grants i.e. by coffee mornings, work days, car washing etc
- Provide funding, advice and training for organisations and individuals involved in the VCS
- External funding for third sector infrastructure development and more skills development for third sector
- More income generation schemes/streams – recognition that grant income is diminishing
- How much does support cost? What is the budget?
- Increase financial capacity of voluntary organisations, more efficiency

General Support

- More central support
- Public awareness and support from business community
- Encourage local private sector sponsorship either in-kind or cash
- Link officers from NSC
- Supporting and encouraging the involvement of the voluntary sector
- Working together with all training etc Encourage those with skills to give more freely and not charge so much as 'experts'
- Encourage those supplying services to not 'charge-up' in expectation of grant money being available
- Support and resources, volunteers from big 5 public sector bodies to sector, coordinated. Nothing too small – IT support, printing, knowledge transfer
- Job shadowing placements with public sector organisations by third sector volunteers
- Full implementation of Compact should be in place and form the structure for consultations/behaviours by the NSP
- Access to public sector training courses for community and third sector colleagues
- Link people/champions within statutory authorities so that voluntary sector only needs to speak to one person re problems/finance etc

Difficulties

- Recognition of the constraints community transport has to work under
- Recognition of the contribution community transport already makes

Other

- Groups need to work in partnership
- Work with charity schemes that will help to reduce crime and therefore the cost of policing and impact on community
- Extension of Bobby van schemes through partnership with insurance sector
- Research the wants and needs of residents to ensure that appropriate services are provided
- Audit of resources and skills already in place in the sector in NS and available from NSP to the sector as contributions/volunteers
- Promote good practice and ideas that have led to good results elsewhere
- Promote the understanding of good value for money
- Ensure balanced sector representation at all levels of partnership
- Database for third sector involvement
- Support in-kind from NSC e.g. publicity, promotion, rather than in hard monetary terms
- NS Compact – does it have any impact/effect
- Preventative services are cheaper than crisis intervention
- One service often means many types of support
- Stop reinventing the wheel
- COMPACT was set up but doesn't seem to get a mention
- Recognition that third sector works in partnership with other organisations (non-threatening)
- Listen to needs of the people
- Cost effective
- Recognise that if councils are saving huge amounts of monies through third sector they should contribute
- Measurability – how to identify impact of third sector
- Recognise the VCS as quality provision of services to the individual and community
- Understand how the VCS is organised and the need for infrastructure and capacity building activity
- Commit to core funding particular services with outcomes
- Look at the VCS as serious partner in the delivery of the SCS and local services
- Map the current level of provision and identify possible services and contribution to SCS