

Exploring Responses to Alcohol and Crime – Northern Ireland View

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Presentation Aims

- “ Setting the scene
- “ The strategic direction
- “ Regional projects
- “ Local delivery - Belfast Community Safety Partnership
- “ Next steps

Community Safety Unit

- Safer Communities Directorate
- Role of Community Safety Unit
- Consists of 3 branches:
 - ” Crime Reduction
 - ” Partnership Development
 - ” Strategy Implementation and Research

Statistical information: 2010

- “ Over 32,000 arrested in Northern Ireland
- “ 44% (over 14,000), alcohol was involved
- “ Alcohol was a factor for approximately 66% of all arrests on a Saturday and Sunday night

- “ Compared to 2009 the number of arrests fell by 1% but those involving alcohol has reduced by 5%.
- “ Crime levels in the same period decreased by 7%
- “ Overall costs to NI - £900m per annum

Legislative Powers

- “ The Policing and Crime Act 2009
- “ DSD Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Act 2011
- “ Test Purchasing
- “ Drinking Bye-Laws

New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs - (NSD)

- DHSSPS lead on the NI response to tackling the issue of illicit drugs and alcohol through the New Strategic Direction (NSD) for Alcohol and Drugs
- First published in 2006
- The key aim is to reduce the level of alcohol and drug related harm in Northern Ireland

NSD Phase 2

2011- 2016

- The current NSD (2006 . 2011) has been reviewed by public consultation
- Phase 2 of the NSD outlines a number of **key priorities** including:
 - ” targeting alcohol
 - ” drug related crime
 - ” underage drinking and
 - ” reducing the availability of drugs.

Criminal Justice Contribution

Inputs from DoJ Agencies in respect of:

➤ Alcohol

- “ New interventions with offenders
- “ Domestic Violence

➤ Level of intervention

- “ Provision of schemes at local level to tackle ASB

➤ Parental responsibility

- “ Targeted advice and awareness raising
- “ Youth Conferencing

Regional Projects

- “ You, Your Child & Alcohol
- “ Purple Flag
- “ Anti-social Behaviour projects
 - “ a reduction of over 20% in ASB incidents since 2008.

Addressing Young People's Drinking in Northern Ireland

- “ Targets those under age 17 and those 18 to 25 year olds.
- “ Focuses on reducing young people's demand for alcohol by;
 - restricting supply
 - providing treatment and support.
- “ The plan is heavily focussed on local solutions to a local problem.

Belfast Community Safety Partnership

Despite the official statistics showing a fall in crime, Belfast Community Safety Partnership recognises that tackling crime and antisocial behaviour remain top priorities for our city.

BCSP Background

- “ Established 2004 Led by Belfast City Council . Number of partners
- “ 4 key themes identified by partnership and local communities
 - Antisocial Behaviour
 - Alcohol and Substance Misuse
 - Hate Crime and Cohesion
 - Fear of Crime
- “ Public Survey - tackling alcohol and substance misuse identified as a top priority.

Alcohol Projects

Delivered through Get Home Safe Partnership

- “ **Joint enforcement**
- “ **Off Sales Code of Practice**
- “ **Off Sales Staff Training**
- “ **Bar Staff Training**
- “ **Licensed Premises Group**
- “ **Information Sharing Protocol**
- “ **Belfast Nite Zones**
- “ **Get Home Safe Marketing Campaign**

All projects involve partnership working with local and business communities

Joint Enforcement

“ Enforcement of Belfast City Council's alcohol bye-laws

Year (April- March)	Number of Prosecutions
2006-2007	156
2007-2008	229
2008-2009	481
2009-2010	581
2010-2011	368

Local Community Joint Enforcement

” Friday and Saturday nights in local communities

Year	Number of Operations	Health Units of Alcohol Seized
2008-2009	164	7,570
2009-2010	172	13,552
2010-2011	188	3,438

Events - Joint Enforcement

- “ St Patrick's Day
- “ Fresher's week
- “ Halloween
- “ July Parades
- “ Music Events
- “ Sporting Events





Alcohol seized 12th
July 2009

Alcohol
Seized 12th
July 2010



Alcohol seized
in one night of
joint
enforcement in
West Belfast
2008

Off Sales Code of Practice

- . Reduce sales to under 18s.
- . Raise awareness of the issues of underage drinking.
- . Reduce sales to adults buying alcohol for under 18s.
- . Reduce the number of incidents of alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour.



code of practice - code of practice - code of practice - code of practice - code of practice

Off-Licence Code of Practice

The legalities

- It is an offence for someone under 18 to buy alcohol.
- It is against the law for someone to pretend to be 18 or over so they can go into or drink alcohol in licensed premises.
- Those under 18 can only be present in an off-licence if they are with an adult.
- It is an offence for someone to purchase alcohol on behalf of a person under the age of 18.
- It is an offence for the holder of a licence or his/her staff to sell alcohol to a person under 18.
- It is an offence for anyone to buy alcohol from an off-licence for a person who is drunk.
- The consumption of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 provides the police with the powers to confiscate alcohol from young people.
- Belfast City Council has a bye-law in place which prohibits the consumption of alcohol by any person (regardless of age) in designated areas throughout the city. The maximum penalty is £500.

Health

The issue of under 18s drinking is not just a social one but also a health issue. Young people who drink before the legal age (and those who binge drink into adulthood) are more at risk of the following:

- Damage to vital organs such as the liver, heart, brain and stomach + high blood pressure.
- Lower libido + cancer.

Research shows that the sooner young people start drinking the more significant impact it has on their health. It can, and does, lead to unhealthy drinking which can also lead to high dependency in adulthood.

ARE YOU 18?

For further information please contact

The code of practice is administered by:
The Belfast Community Safety Team
Belfast City Council
Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast BT2 8BP
Tel: 028 9032 0000

Contact the PSNI on 0945 600 9000 or in an emergency 999

ARE YOU 18?

Guide to Customers

Off-Licence Code of Practice

ARE YOU 18?

Did you know it is an offence to:

- Buy alcohol for a person under the age of 18
- Buy alcohol if you are under 18 years of age
- Claim to be over 18

Maximum fine £5,000
and/or imprisonment for up to six months

This off-licence has signed up to a voluntary code of practice and, in doing so, has agreed to the following:

- Staff will not sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18 or to those perceived to be buying for people under 18.
- Although it is legal to sell alcohol to anyone over 18, staff will ask for identification from anyone not known to be over 18 and who looks to be younger than 21.

The following forms of identification will be acceptable:

- Driving licence with photo card
- Valid passport
- Electoral registration card

Staff will question, and if appropriate, refuse anyone who is buying large quantities of alcohol or those who have bought alcohol on more than one occasion on one day.

- Alcohol will not be sold to a drunk person.
- Staff will behave with and cooperate with local police and council officials.
- A poster will be displayed in a prominent location within the sales area.
- Staff will receive training on the contents of the code of practice.

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Off Sales and Bar Staff Training

- “ Free training
- “ 2010 - 2011: 59 off-sales staff trained
101 bar staff trained
- “ Delivered in association with Pubs of Ulster
- “ Topics covered;
 - Legal Responsibilities
 - Alcohol Awareness
 - Responsible Retailing
 - Dealing with Aggressive Customers



Local Community Representatives from "Street by Street" Project in East Belfast who undertook training.

Licensed Premises Group

- “ Members - PSNI and BCC staff
- “ Discuss breaches of liquor and entertainment licences
- “ Consulted on liquor licence and entertainment licence applications
- “ Develop action plans with %problem premises+
- “ Brief Licensing Committee

Information Sharing Protocol

- “ Offender details formally shared between licensed premises
- “ Licensed premises can choose whether or not to permit entry into their premises based on the information received.

Belfast Nite Zones

- “ 4 in Belfast City Centre
- “ Operational Friday and Saturday nights 22.00-02.00
- “ Emergency Contact Points
- “ Taxi Rank
- “ Taxi Marshal
- “ Street Pastors
- “ CCTV relayed to PSNI control room



MARSHALLED TAXI RANK

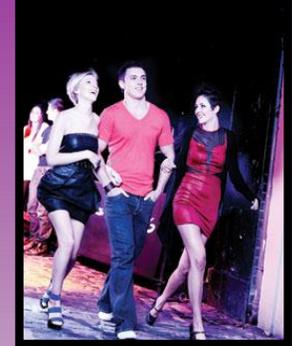


TAXI WRAPPED IN GET HOME SAFE IMAGERY



STREET PASTORS ON PATROL

Get Home Safe Marketing Campaign



- “ Delivered twice a year
- “ Targets 18 - 25 year olds
- “ Adshels, washrooms, mirror stickers, beer mats, radio, Facebook, Twitter
- “ Website www.gethomesafe.org
- “ 2 taxis wrapped in GHS imagery



GET HOME SAFE TIPS

- “ Plan your journey home in advance
- “ Drink responsibly
- “ Stick with your friends
- “ Never leave your drink unattended
- “ Don't accept drinks from strangers



Resources for Alcohol Theme Projects

- “ 1 Community Safety co-ordinator
- “ 2 Full time project staff:
 - Get Home Safe Project Officer
 - Alcohol Misuse Project Officer
- “ Approx 20 staff in volunteer pool for joint enforcement
- “ Allocated budget - £131,400

Next Steps

- Launch of the new Community Safety Strategy
- Introduction of PCSPs
- Reducing Offending Strategic Framework