

Appendix C

Response from Leicestershire County Council Public Health

The misuse of alcohol is a significant public health challenge, and it is recognised that alcohol can contribute to a variety of harms, including health, economic, social and community harms. Alcohol contributes to more than 60 diseases and health conditions and represents 10% of the burden of disease and death in the UK, placing it in the top three lifestyle risk factors after smoking and obesity.

The availability and density of alcohol outlets are associated with increased numbers of alcohol related hospital admissions, alcohol related mortality and higher levels of alcohol consumption generally. Evidence also suggests that exposure to alcohol advertising is associated with the onset of drinking in children and increased consumption among young people who already drink.

Leicestershire County Council Public Health has responsibility for commissioning local substance misuse treatment services and to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of the population in Leicestershire. Public Health is also in a position to recognise and make links to the wider health inequalities associated with alcohol and alcohol misuse. For example, the impact of harmful drinking and alcohol dependence is much greater for those experiencing the highest levels of deprivation.

Whilst there is no public health licensing objective, Directors of Public Health are a Responsible Authority and are included in the premises licensing process to provide a health perspective and bring evidence from the health sector into licensing processes and decisions.

As a Responsible Authority, Public Health will work with the Licensing Authority and other partners to ensure the links between the density of licensed premises, alcohol availability and indicators of health-related harm inform licence decisions and promote the licensing objectives. Where there is evidence, Public Health has the ability to make representations in its own right or to support representations by other Responsible Authorities. Such representations can potentially be made on the grounds of upholding all four of the licensing objectives.

Although indicators including admissions for alcohol specific conditions are similar or below the national average for both Leicestershire and Blaby District, it is recognised that inequalities may still exist within this picture at a lower level than current available data captures.

Alcohol related harm still poses a risk to our communities and licensing policy can play an important role in contributing to reducing the levels and impact of alcohol consumption.

Applicants are therefore encouraged by the Licensing Authority and Public Health to carefully consider the health impacts of their proposed activities in relation to the licensing objectives, and for those considerations to be reflected in their applications and operating schedules.

Response from Leicestershire Police

Hi,

Thank you for this, having read through the policy, the only thing I would like you to consider is how you will implement the 'Prevent / Martins law' when it becomes law in the not too distant future.

If you have a local internal agreement that the policy can be amended / adapted should new legislation come in, then this should suffice.

Hope this makes sense.

Kind regards

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