

Norfolk Alcohol Crime Reduction Initiatives, Norfolk Constabulary re: NTE/Alcohol related crime and disorder

Scanning: Alcohol related offending exploded in Norwich between 2000 and 2003 with violent crime increasing by 98.5%. 56% of offenders were aged 18 to 25 and 63% of those had alcohol as a contributory factor. During 2003-05 a CDRP initiative (Operation Enterprise) addressed this problem. Although successful in reducing violent crime by 33% there was still scope for improvement, with 7 injury violence offences per week remaining. Partners' assessment was that many of the initiatives eg. multi-agency licensing enforcement and standards for licensed operators were short term and further analysis was commissioned.

Analysis: Norfolk's Chief Constable engaged senior licensing chain representatives with Home Secretary Charles Clarke to explore future interventions to further reduce alcohol related offending. CDRP analysis also honed in on those in the 18-25 year age range identified as most at risk of offending and being victimised and who the licensing industry confirmed they were reliant on for most of their revenue. This identified a gap with lack of interventions to address the causes of the offending (alcohol) or to prevent those most at risk from committing further offences. The known rate of re-offending for serious alcohol related violence was 7.7%.

Response: For a more holistic response, young people and other habitual drinkers likely to or having offended accessed a group workshop intervention. The police conditional caution mechanism was used for less serious and enhanced alcohol arrest referral for more serious offences. A young persons' pub and club outreach targeted 'at risk' 18 to 25 year olds into the workshops (prior to them having committed an alcohol related offence or having become victims). Workshops facilitate groups of offenders/clients for; awareness, risks and impact of alcohol and to open routes for further help. Over the period 1/2/07 to 31/12/07, 90 offenders went through this process.

Assessment: Benchmark figures were produced for two periods prior to the introduction of the workshops.

Individuals undergoing the workshops were tracked to identify any re-offending. A comparison was then made between offending rates with the same periods after the workshops were introduced. On average there was a 4% reduction in re-offending. The average cost per person attending a workshop was reduced from £100 to £50 after the first 12 months. The average cost of offending (based on common assault) was estimated at £540. Individual case studies revealed significant benefits to the individuals in terms of health and lifestyle.