



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL
Committee Report

Agenda Item 6

Report of: Chief Licensing Officer, Head of Licensing

Date: 16th January 2014

Subject: **Licensing Act 2003**
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Work

Author of Report: Claire Bower – 203 7751

Summary: To provide Members with a summary of the multi-agency safeguarding work being carried out in Sheffield.

Recommendations: That Members note the subject of the work and acknowledge the support offered to local businesses

Background Papers: Appendices

Category of Report: OPEN

Licensing Act 2003

MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING WORK

1.0 PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a summary of the training and support schemes delivered to businesses in Sheffield by responsible authorities on the subject of safeguarding children.
- 1.2 Representatives of the relevant responsible authorities will be in attendance at the hearing to provide Members with the detail of the schemes.
- 1.3 The expected outcomes of this report are:-
 - To give Members an understanding of the work carried out in Sheffield in order to support local businesses on the subject of underage alcohol sales under the Licensing Act 2003 and other areas of the licensed trade on wider child safeguarding issues.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF THE WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN

2.1 Multi-agency - “Safeguarding Children at Licensed Premises” Workshop

- 2.1.1 The ‘Tackling Underage Sales Strategic Group’ is a multi-agency working group which concentrates specifically on under age alcohol sales identified through test purchasing operations and tackling issues with licensed premises in the city selling alcohol to underage children.
- 2.1.2 The group agreed a Test Purchasing Strategy for dealing with and educating premises that failed test purchase operations and the strategy was approved by the licensing committee at its policy meeting in August 2011.
- 2.1.3 The strategy is attached at **Appendix ‘A’** and shows where licence holders would be engaged in the workshop.
- 2.1.4 Further information on the content of the workshop will be provided at the meeting.

2.2 Responsible Authorities – “Bailment Scheme”

- 2.2.1 In response to requests from the licensed trade, the responsible authorities have developed a ‘bailment scheme’ to prevent young people using false identification to access adult venues or to purchase alcohol underage.
- 2.2.2 This consists of security staff being trained to confiscate suspected false ID and report to the police, alongside educational resources having been developed to educate young people about the legal consequences and personal risks of using false ID.
- 2.2.3 Further information on the scheme will be provided at the meeting.

2.3 Responsible Authorities – Partnership Work with other Areas of the Licensed Trade on Safeguarding Issues

- 2.3.1 Responsible authorities are also working in partnership with other areas of the licensed trade (taxi/private hire, hospitality and other businesses), training them to identify risks such as child sexual exploitation, human trafficking and risks relating to dangerous or inappropriate adult behaviour.
- 2.3.2 Similar training sessions are delivered to the taxi/private hire trade as part of the BTec course undertaken by new applicants for driver licences. The safeguarding training supports drivers to recognise vulnerable passengers (adults and children) and provide them with a safe and appropriate service.
- 2.3.3 Since June 2013, awareness training has been delivered to the hospitality trade as part of the national ‘Say Something If You See Something’ campaign which aims to protect children from sexual exploitation and prevent hotels from being misused by criminals as part of this activity. Officers representing the Sheffield responsible authorities were invited to speak at Westminster in September 2013 to promote this campaign and other local authorities have adopted the Sheffield approach on this issue.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That members note the availability of the training and the support provided for local businesses.

Steve Lonnia
Chief Licensing Officer (Head of Licensing)
Licensing Services

January 2014/CB

APPENDIX 'A'

Tackling Underage Sales Strategic Group

TEST PURCHASE STRATEGY PROCESS

1. First Failure

Option of:

- Fixed Penalty Notice (£80)

Or

- Disposal if offender enrolls and pays to attend responsible retail of alcohol course (approx £60)

Plus

- Offered multi-agency training "Safeguarding Children at Licensed Premises" workshop (free)

2a. Second Failure (within 3 months of first failure - considered persistent)

Consider prosecution/discuss voluntary closure/review licence

2b. Second Failure (after 3 months of first failure within 12 months of first failure)

Option of:

- Fixed Penalty Notice (£80)

Or

- Disposal if offender enrolls and pays to attend responsible retail of alcohol course (approx £60)

Plus

- *Expected* to attend multi-agency training "Safeguarding Children at Licensed Premises" workshop (free)

3. Third Failure

Automatic review application