

Welcome to the third Alcohol Quarterly Newsletter for Oxfordshire. Its aim is to signpost **general information** regarding alcohol and cover specific projects or services under '**Treatment Focus**' and '**Community Area**'.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Government Response to Price and Promotion of Alcohol

The Government announced new measures to tackle irresponsible retailing practices in The Queen's Speech December 2008. A new mandatory code of practice will be implemented under the forthcoming Policing and Crime Bill 2008 to deliver the new measures. Exact details of the code will be up for consultation (expected to open in February – March 09) but in a joint press release by the Department of Health and the Home Office set out some of the proposals which included:

- Banning offers like 'all you can drink for £10'
- Ensuring you don't have to buy large quantities of alcohol in supermarkets to take advantage of the price discounts
- Customers are able to see alcohol unit content of drinks when purchasing them
- Minimum sized glasses available for customers who want them

A different consultation will seek views on proposals to extend the powers of licensing authorities to enable them to tackle drinking and alcohol-related crime and disorder locally. This could include banning promotions such as 'happy hours' or organised pub crawls, limits on advertising of discounted price offers and limiting sale of low price alcohol if it is linked to local disorder (e.g. being confiscated from under 18s).

For a copy of the press release: <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.asp?NewsAreaID=2&ReleaseID=386402>

Final report: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_091369

TREATMENT FOCUS

Alcohol Arrest Referral Service drops the 'Arrest'

The Alcohol Arrest Referral Service has dropped the 'Arrest' from its name following a shift to a wider role providing Tier 2 provisions for alcohol. The service retains a criminal justice focus but the service is now open to referrals from any agency or primary care practice. The Alcohol Referral Service works with people drinking at levels of increasing risk to their health and wellbeing through brief interventions (up to 4 sessions).

Early Identification Tool for DAAT Commissioned Alcohol Services

An Early Identification Tool has been implemented to help agencies identify which DAAT commissioned service is the most appropriate for their patients or clients before making a referral following the Alcohol Referral Service expanding its role. The tool includes the full AUDIT assessment. For copies of the Identification Tool please either contact the Alcohol Referral Service, the Alcohol Treatment Service or the Alcohol Coordinator at the DAAT.

New Alcohol Workers in the South of the county

Sally Heath is the new alcohol worker for the Alcohol Treatment Service provided by Cranstoun for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse areas. This service offers community based structured interventions over a maximum of 12 sessions for people regularly drinking excessively and that may have possible dependence on alcohol.

Contact Details for Alcohol Treatment Service:	Sally Heath (South/Vale)	01491 823119
	Lee Woodward (West)	01993 774892 /07891097615
	Heidi Hill (City)	01865 403160
	Natalie Hayter (North)	01295 273551 /07972500614

Michael Robertson has joined the Alcohol Referral Service run by SMART CJS covering South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire areas. See Alcohol Referral Service above for summary of service.

Contact Details for Alcohol Referral Service:	Michael Robertson (South/Vale/West)	07891411782
	Jose Heeley (City)	07817035106
	Richard Higgs (North)	07891361497

COMMUNITY AREA

Parent Workshops for those with Young People caught with alcohol in public spaces

In West Oxfordshire, workshops have been running for parents of young people who have alcohol confiscated off them in public areas since the end of 2007. The workshops provide alcohol awareness information and look at its impact on crime and disorder and public services. Between April and December 08, 96% of parents who completed a survey after attending the workshop said they felt confident talking to their son or daughter about alcohol including its impact on crime and disorder. Young People also attend the workshops with their parents with 89% of those completing the survey (April – December 08) saying they were more aware of the impact of alcohol on crime and disorder.

Following on from West Oxfordshire's successful initiative; South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse are planning to launch a similar scheme in early 2009. The scheme in the south of the county will also involve input from South Central Ambulance Service incorporating their 'Don't Leave a Friend to Die' campaign as well covering similar themes as West Oxfordshire. The workshops will be available to parents and carers of young people aged 13-16 stopped by police and PCSO's with alcohol in public. The young people will also be expected to attend and will participate separately from their parents or carers for the majority of the workshop.

For more information on the workshops please contact the relevant Community Safety Team:

West Oxfordshire	PC Simon Collins	01993 861 000
South Oxfordshire	Christine Mason	01491 823 000
Vale of White Horse	Karen Brown	01235 520 202

'Bottlewatch' and 'Spikies' in Cherwell

Through the Nightsafe schemes in Cherwell, two separate initiatives have been run working with the licensed trade.

For a month during September 08, the '**Bottlewatch**' initiative was used in Yarton and Begbroke following reports from the local community regarding young people purchasing alcohol. This initiative involved working with 2 identified off licences and using distinct coloured anti-tamper labels on selected alcohol products. The scheme received positive feedback from both off licences, Neighbourhood Action Group, Council and Police involved in the project. Staff at the stores were more aware of selling alcohol to underage persons and it also helped police to locate sources of where alcohol was being sold to minors. Overall the scheme is a positive tool in the reduction of alcohol related anti-social behaviour associated with young people. There are plans to use the scheme in other areas in Cherwell in early 2009.

In December 08, an awareness campaign of drink spiking took place in Kidlington, Bicester and Banbury. This initiative involved distributing posters and flyers as well as '**spikies and alcotops**' to licensed premises and the general public. It also incorporated a message on how to use licensed taxis safely. The 'spikies' are plastic toppers that fit into bottle necks of drinks to stop anything being dropped into them. Feedback from licensees was very positive.

For more information on either project please contact **Julie Wileman, Cherwell Nightsafe Officer on 01295 252535**

To provide feedback or a story to the next quarterly newsletter please contact
Sarah Pearce, Alcohol Coordinator for Oxfordshire: 01865 290 800 or sarah.pearce@oxfordshiredaat.org