



PAPER A

POLICY COMMISSION FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

Date and time

THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2008 AT 6.00 PM

Venue

COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, FLOOR 4, COUNTY HALL

Commission

Cllrs Heather Humby (Chair); Henry Adams; Susan Scoccia; Arthur Taylor.

Officers Present

Simon Dear; Jill Laurence-Tilley; Stuart Love; Heather Lovell; Zoryna O'Donnell ; Yvonne Price; April Ross; Mandy Sellers.

Stakeholders

Apologies

Cllrs Diana Tuson; David Williams; Jilly Wood.

Notes of evidence

Election of a Chairman for the Day

Due to the absence of the Chairman, it was necessary to elect a Chairman for the day.

Resolved:

THAT Cllr Heather Humby be elected Chairman for the day.

1. **Notes of Evidence**

The Notes of evidence arising at the meeting held on [4 September 2008](#) were agreed (Paper A).

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

3. **Public Question Time**

There were no public questions received

4. **Crime and Disorder and Fear of Crime Enquiry**

Evidence was received about the Drug Action Team from Mandy Sellers, Commissioner for Safer Communities, Drug Action Team, IWC

- 4.1 One of the roles of the Council was to provide support for members of the community who became exposed to drugs and addictions.
- 4.2 Four levels of drug taking was identified;
 - 4.2.1. Low Level, when people start experimenting.
 - 4.2.2. More Problematic, but not yet fully dependant on drugs
 - 4.2.3. Dependant, on drugs and disengaged with society.
 - 4.2.4. In Patient, requiring detoxification and rehabilitation.
- 4.3 It was stated that there are an estimated 432 to 621 problem drug users aged between 15-64, and an estimated 203 and 367 injecting drug users aged from 15 – 64 on the Island.
- 4.4 At 31 March 2008 546 people were in treatment aged from 13 years and above with an 87% retention rate on the 12 week programme provided by the Council, which was the best result in the South East.
- 4.5 Numbers of Class A drug suppliers are in single figures each month, but it was noted that these are the ones which were caught.
- 4.6 Statistics on the Isle of Wight Festival and Bestival indicate that stimulants ecstasy and cocaine were mainly found, but no heroin. Cllr Cunningham and Cllr Scoccia declared a personal interest at this stage as they were both on the Licensing Committee.
- 4.7 The Festivals' impact on the Islands cocaine statistics were noted, and it was further reported that the Metropolitan Police had been to the Island to see how the drugs operation was carried out here at our festivals, as they will use some of this practice at their London events.
- 4.8 Alcohol addiction on the Island was explained by use of a diagram highlighting the impact of alcohol on people's lives and the community. It was recognised by the Commission that alcohol and its harmful effects now play a big part in our culture.
- 4.9 Binge drinking was on the increase with the definition given as 9 units of alcohol being consumed without having a two day break, and it was recognised that collecting this data was difficult as data assessing the number of home drinkers was not available.
- 4.10 The National Harms Analysis caused by alcohol misuse shows costs of £1.7bn to Health, £7.3bn to Crime and Public Disorder, £6.4bn to the Workplace, but the costs could not be quantified on the effects to Family and Social Networks.
- 4.11 The drug budget for the Island is £1.5 million but there was no special budget for

alcohol misuse.

- 4.12 The Drug Action Team was looking into developing street pastors and volunteers to act as an early detection link to the service, alongside their association with the criminal justices service, children service and schools.
- 4.13 It was noted that there are hot spots of drug and alcohol misuse in Ryde, Newport and Cowes towns, in bed-sit areas.
- 4.14 Compared to the mainland it was considered that the Island does not have major drug problem.
- 4.15 The Commission recognised the good work carried out by the Drug Action Team and noted that there was an Open Access policy across the services for early detection and follow up support.

Evidence was received about the Early Interventions Team from Simon Dear, Commissioner for Positive Activities for Young People, IWC.

- 4.16 Simon Dear, Commissioner for Positive Activities for Young People and Yvonne Price, Interim Manager for Early Interventions, advised the Commission that the Island's Early Interventions Team was a leader in the country and a model of excellence. It was recognised that it was a very rewarding exercise it was noted that it is one which requires extra support and funding.
- 4.17 Information from FIZ (Family Information Zone), schools and through word of mouth had proved successfully in bringing the Early Interventions service to the attention of those who are in need.
- 4.18 Through the Open Access Policy it should be possible for anyone with a concern to contact the Early Interventions Team.
- 4.19 It was noted that for every £1 invested in early intervention there was a saving of £3.37 in the long term.
- 4.20 Each youth offence was estimated to cost between £4,000 and £5,000, it was noted that prevention pays.
- 4.21 A parenting strategy was in place to support parents with behavioural situations, which provided guidance and understanding for both carers and children.
- 4.22 The Commission was very impressed with the excellent work that the Early Interventions Team had achieved.

Evidence was received from Heather Lovell, Head of Public Health Strategy & Partnerships, Isle of Wight NHS PCT.

- 4.23 Heather Lovell advised the Commission that St Mary's Accident & Emergency Department had recorded a lot of data on assaults and could show that there was a profile of attendees related to the night time economy.

- 4.24 It was noted that from 2001 to 2007 there was an annual average of 600 assaults recorded.
- 4.25 The national evidence suggests that 50% of these assaults were alcohol related with 31% of these patients requiring further NHS treatment.
- 4.26 73% of males and particularly young males account for the highest incidents of assault, with 34% of these aged 15-24 and 47% aged 15-34. Females account for 27% of assaults but it was noted that these figures are on the increase.
- 4.27 It was recorded that there was a clear pattern of attendances increasing at weekends and at night time.
- 4.28 In gathering this information the Accident & Emergency department had recorded where the assaults took place and what weapons were used. The highest location recorded was in the street or public place and at bars, pubs and clubs. There was also a high incident rate within the home which may be related to domestic violence.
- 4.29 The summary of weapons used shows that punching and hitting score the highest followed by kicking and stamping, it was noted that knife crime was minimal on the Island and there was no gun crime recorded.
- 4.30 It was noted that there was a supportive policy at Accident & Emergency around attacks on staff, and it was recognised that close working between the police and Primary Care Trust ensured that any incidents were dealt with promptly and recorded.
- 4.31 Some preventative measures were in place with the use of poly carbonate cups instead of glass in public places and festivals.

5. **Members Question Time**

There were no member's questions.

Chairman