

Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel

11 June 2014

Task Group update

Purpose

1. To provide an update on recent task group activity and propose any decisions requiring Panel approval.

Licensing Task Group

2. On 6 March 2014 the Police and Crime Panel discussed which topic would be most appropriate for consideration by its next dedicated task group. Licensing was agreed as the next topic and the Licensing Task Group was established.

Membership

3. Several members expressed an interest in taking part. It has subsequently been agreed that Amanda Newbery, Independent Member of the Panel, will not take part as a member due to the potential for her status as a licensee being perceived as a conflict of interest. She will therefore play a role as a witness. The task group membership is proposed as follows:

Cllr Richard Britton (elected as chairman by the task group)
Cllr Brian Ford
Cllr Chris Caswill
Cllr Linda Packard

Terms of Reference

4. The task group held their first meeting on 1st May and considered the project's scope and their methodology. The task group wish to adopt the following terms of reference, which closely reflect the aspirations in the Police and Crime Plan 2013-17 in regards to licensing:
 - 1 To investigate how Wiltshire Police, working with partners as appropriate,
 - ensures that only responsible applicants are licensed by local authority licensing committees;
 - encourages and supports the responsible management of licensed premises;
 - identifies licensed premises that are being managed irresponsibly;
 - takes a "firm approach" with licensed premises identified as being managed irresponsibly.

- 2 If it is identified that these measured could be improved, to make recommendations regarding how this can be achieved to support the objective in the Police and Crime Plan 2013-17 of reducing the harm caused by irresponsible licensed premises.

Key activity

5. The task group are in the process of understanding the Police's role and responsibilities throughout the licensing process, in terms of:
 - a) The license application process;
 - b) Monitoring licensed premises;
 - c) Cracking down on the irresponsible management of licensed premises.
6. Members will be meeting with the Commissioner on 9th July and are currently preparing questions which will be submitted in advance.

Proposal

7. The Police and Crime Panel are asked to:
 1. **Note the update provided;**
 2. **Approve the membership of the Licensing Task Group as follows:**

Richard Britton
Brian Ford
Chris Caswill
Linda Packard
 3. **Approve the terms of reference of the Licensing Task Group as set out in the report.**

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