

**Report of the Service Director Culture,  
Housing and Regulation to the  
Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board  
to be held on the 14 November 2017**

**ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

**1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report, is to provide Members with an overview of the work Licensing Enforcement Officers have undertaken to date.

**2. Background**

Members are minded to note, that Licensing Enforcement Officers have continued to proactively embark on a number of licensing enforcement operations. A summary of enforcement operations undertaken are detailed below.

**3. Current Position**

Whispers

An application to transfer the premises licence for Whispers has been received by the Licensing Section.

Following the application an objection has now been received by South Yorkshire Police.

The application will now progress to a hearing before the Statutory Licensing Board for determination.

**4. ARGUS Training**

In light of recent tragic events through the country Licensing Officers sourced counter terrorism training for all licensed premises in the town centre.

34 town centre licensees all successfully completed the ARGUS training at Barnsley Town Hall. The training was delivered by Counter Terrorism Security Advisers who used multimedia simulation and posed questions and dilemmas to participants to raise the awareness of the threat of terrorism and provided practical advice on preventing, handling and recovering from an attack.

**5. Reduce The Strength Initiative**

Officers are currently working with licensed premises in the town centre to reduce the availability of high strength cans of beer, lager and cider.

This initiative was started with a view to forming a voluntary agreement with town centre off licences not to sell cans of high strength beer, lager and cider.

Several visits have been made to off licences and officers have spoken to shop owners and managers to encourage their participation in the initiative.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> October Officers carried out a can marking operation.

90 discarded cans were recovered from Peel Parade, Pinfold Steps and Sparrow Park. Manufacturers Codes were taken from the cans and compared with codes on cans being sold in four main town centre off licenses. A number of cans matched the ones being currently sold indicating they were from the same batch.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> November a full litter pick of the same areas will be carried out and the process of identifying the main sources will again be applied.

From this Officers will speak to licensees and continue to work with them to prevent the sale of high strength beer, lager and cider in a view to reducing litter and anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

If premises can be identified as failing to work with Officers and continuing to sell high strength single cans of beer, lager and cider and thus contributing to the litter and anti-social behaviour occurring in the town centre then Officers may consider applying for a review of their premises licence.

One off licence within the town centre has already voluntarily agreed to have his premises licence conditioned to state that he will not sell beer over 6.5% strength in single cans or bottles.

## 6. Best Bar None

Best Bar None is an Accreditation Scheme with National Awards supported by the Home Office and the drinks industry which is aimed primarily at promoting responsible management and operation of alcohol licensed premises.

The scheme is being launched in Barnsley on the 14<sup>th</sup> November and will conclude in June 2018 with an award ceremony for all involved.

Officers have been trained and passed exams to become qualified assessors under the Best Bar None Scheme.

The scheme was piloted in Manchester in 2003 and found to improve standards in the Evening and Night Time Economy, with premises now competing to participate. It has since been adopted by 75 towns and cities across the UK and is now being taken up internationally.

The purpose of the Best Bar None Scheme is to:

- To reduce alcohol related crime and disorder
- To build a positive relationship between licensed trade, police and local authorities and the private sector
- To improve knowledge and skills of enforcement and regulation agencies, licensees and bar staff to help them responsibly manage licensed premises
- Process of becoming recognized by BBN includes meeting minimum standards and culminates with a high profile award night with category winners and an overall winner
- Responsible owners are recognized and able to share good practice with others
- Highlight how operating more responsibly can improve the profitability of an individual business and attractiveness of a general area

Being part of the Best Bar None Scheme

- Promotes the town or city as a safe and vibrant place to go at night.

- It shows a willingness to address alcohol related crime and anti-social behavior through the promotion of good practice and education.
- It is acknowledged by the Home Office as having a positive effect on the night time economy.
- It promotes a partnership approach to resolving issues.

**7. Immigration checks in licensed premises**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> October Licensing Officers accompanied by Immigration Enforcement Officers inspected 3 licensed premises in the town centre to ensure compliance under the Licensing Act 2003. Three premises were visited on the night. The three premises were found to be compliant under the Licensing 2003, however one individual was arrested by Immigration Officers.

**8. Proposal**

Proactive enforcement operations like these will continue to take place on a regular basis and Officers are in the process of arranging further enforcement operations with various agencies including South Yorkshire Police and The Immigration Service. Whilst offences are always unacceptable we will combat ill failings and convey the message that all individuals licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 must begin to accept responsibility for their failures and make a change.

Failure to do so, will only continue to put the safety of the public at risk when frequenting licensed premises and their surrounding areas.

**9. Background Papers**

Enforcement Officer Reports which contain exempt information are not available for public inspection

**10. Officer Contact**

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