

**Report of the Service Director Culture,
Housing and Regulation to the
Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board
to be held on the 20 December 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 was received by the Licensing Section, South Yorkshire Police objected to this application.

Prior to the hearing an agreement was reached between South Yorkshire Police and the proposed premises licence holder to ensure compliance with the licensing objectives and so the Police withdrew their objection.

The premises licence was subsequently transferred although the premises remain closed.

4. 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.

On the 15th November 19 cans were recovered by Officers from Sparrow Park, Peel Parade and the Pinfold Steps and 6 were traced back to three off licences in the town centre who Licensing Officers believe are owned by the same person. On the 15th the number of cans was less than Officers expected and this could be evidence that the situation is improving.

Officers are now working with South Yorkshire Police to progress the initiative by seizing cans from street drinkers to gain further evidence as to where the alcohol is being purchased.

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

A second off licence within the town centre has 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.

5. Immigration checks in licensed premises

On the 29th November Licensing Officers accompanied by Immigration Enforcement Officers inspected a licensed premise in the Borough as intelligence had been received that two immigration offenders were working and residing at the address.

The premises were visited and found to be compliant, there was no evidence of the offenders.

6. Test Purchase Operations

Acting on information received Licensing Officers along with South Yorkshire Police have arranged for test purchase operations to be carried out on certain off licences across the borough. Any premise that fails will be visited by Licensing Officers from the Council and SYP to speak with the Premises licence holder and offer assistance and guidance to ensure compliance in the future.

7. Best Bar None

The launch night on the 14th November was very successful with around 70 attendees. Nine town centre premises signed up to the scheme on the night. Licensing Officers will now visit those who did not attend and encourage more premises to take part in the run up to Christmas.

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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