

# THE NATIONAL ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The Government, through the Department of Health are currently consulting on the NATIONAL ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY.

All partner agencies, involved with the Drug Action Team and the Community Safety Partnership were encouraged to respond to this consultation document in December 2002.

This consultation is a critical first stage in the development of the national alcohol harm reduction strategy. Local multi-agency working to reduce alcohol related crime, violence and disorder alongside the need for provision of robust alcohol specific services are features effecting a local solution.

### RESPONSES have ranged from:

- The need for a national alcohol strategy
- Role of the NATIONAL TREATMENT AGENCY
- National targets – local implementation
- Recording the treatment, public health and criminal justice agendas
- Alcohol treatment sector – how to develop robust responsive services

### Contributing to the success of a National Strategy – The Industry View

- Meeting public expectations of what the industry can do
- What are the constraints?
- Responsibilities of the industry and the publican
- Defining and understanding a legal framework
- Business considerations and training needs
- Engaging the local community, emergency services and other key partners

### DAT's as a conduit to implementing the National Alcohol Strategy

- Interagency working
- Resource issues regarding enforcement and treatment
- Defining the remit for the local solution
- Enabling local action e.g. legislative changes

### Policy Implications Strategies and Practice

- Joined up local action
- Auditing the problems, screening, risk assessment
- Framework for local action

### Reducing alcohol related crime and disorder

- Mapping the problems
- Drinking and violence
- Key partners
- Interagency working
- A targeted approach

### Provision of specialist alcohol services

- Defining needs and requirements
- Types of misusers
- Service needs
- When to refer to other agencies
- Service needs

### Issues

- Provision of alcohol services
- Coercion
- Effective intervention
- Points of intervention
- Models of care

### Effecting a local strategy

- Developing and implementing a local strategy
- Key elements for the local strategy such as:
  - The problem of underage alcohol misuse
  - Police objections to planning applications
  - Industry responsibilities at a local level
- Resource and staffing needs

On the basis of National, Regional and local issues expressed at events throughout 2002 in relation to the need for an alcohol strategy those responses are registered have informed the Gateshead response.

At a local level we need to acknowledge the work of Alcohol Concern through their project "Networking Distant Neighbours". The Gateshead alcohol working group drawn from the Community Safety Partnership and the Drug Action Team.

The event on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2002 "Making the Links" A multi-agency alcohol forum where a variance of practitioners, service providers, police, the voluntary sector, local authority and health considered the many issues directly linked to the lack of investment into alcohol services, the particular interventions required by service users.

Dr Eilish Gilvarry, Consultant Psychiatrist Clinical Director, Plummer Court presented the case “which is the evidence base”. That presentation is attached for your information along with the informed response to the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Consultation Document.