



CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20TH MARCH 2014

SUBJECT: SAFER CAERPHILLY AFTER DARK

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the Safer Caerphilly After Dark initiative launched since the last meeting.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Safer Caerphilly After Dark initiative was conceived as a response to tackling issues in the Night Time Economy in our two busiest towns, Blackwood and Caerphilly.
- 2.2 The scheme brings together members of Gwent Police, the Local Authority, door staff, bar persons, the Street Pastors, late night food outlets and taxi drivers.
- 2.3 The scheme was launched on the 2nd December 2013 by the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner, Ian Johnston.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 'Caerphilly Delivers' – Safer Caerphilly, one in which all residents:
- Are safe, and feel safe, inside their home and out in the community.
 - Are reassured, listened to by community safety agencies and encouraged to report any crime and disorder issues they may have.
 - Need to feel safe and independent and when they need additional support, or where they have additional needs, they should be able to access support from community safety and safeguarding agencies.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Safer Caerphilly After Dark scheme involves numerous agencies and staff groups, including volunteer agencies, with the agreed aims to:
- Reduce Night Time Economy (NTE) related crime (specifically violence, damage and hate crime).
 - Improve communication with NTE agencies and coordinate action.
 - Making Caerphilly and Blackwood town centres safer places to visit.

4.2 The scheme launched in the run-up to the Christmas festivity period and continues in operation. It will receive additional focus at peak times of the year for increased NTE activity e.g. during the Six Nations campaign, bank holidays, Christmas and New Year periods.

4.3 Key involvement of agencies is summarised on below:

Agency	Activity
Gwent Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of a dedicated NTE PC to work within the Police Licensing Team covering all areas of the authority • Early evening engagement with premises and staff over Friday and Saturday evenings as part of the Townsafe initiative. • Regular visits by the Police Licensing Team to premises identified as being the source of problems. • Promotion of membership of Pub Watch on-line. • Use of body worn CCTV cameras as part of Townsafe. • Analytical review of NTE crime as part of Tuesday tactical assessment. • Weekly briefing document to Townsafe officers.
Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Wardens engaged in early evening visits with Gwent Police Community Safety officers. • CCTV focusing on town centres and providing early notification of escalating problems to Force Control. • Test purchasing for underage sales and co-ordination of multi-agency premises inspections. • Monitoring of Stornet radio system used by selected town centre premises. • Partnership and communications support to scheme and its members. • Disseminate to public “Stay Safe” messages through press, social media, posters and resources.
Street Pastors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of problems encountered to the After Dark agencies for intelligence purposes. • Continued reassurance and promotion of personal safety to late night revellers. • Dissemination of After Dark resources to the public
SIA licensed Door Staff, Bar Staff, Late Night Food Outlets, Taxi Drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of role as “guardians” in the NTE. • Promotion of the “Who is looking after you After Dark?” campaign. • Prominent use of logo and branded items. • Regular liaison of SIA door staff and Gwent Police Officers.
Day After Alcohol Project – substance misuse agency (Families First funded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals received from Gwent Police Custody Unit and local A & E Departments of those affected by alcohol. • Intensive Alcohol interventions provided.

4.4 In order to raise the profile of the initiative as specific to the NTE a new partnership identity was developed by the local authority and Gwent Police Communications Teams. The branding has been used in items such as beer mats, bar runners, window stickers, posters, bottle savers, mints, torches, nail files and Six Nations fixture cards. These have been “drip-fed” into premises to build recognition of the brand. In addition to SIA door staff have been

provided with umbrellas and thermal mugs as a highly visible recognition of the wider partnership landscape. Street Pastors are supported with After Dark branded water and lollipops to people found to be suffering the effects of alcohol.

- 4.5 In a partnership between Gwent Police and the local authority an After Dark liveried vehicle is now in use by key Gwent Police staff at licensed premise visits and is highly visible as part of Townsafe operations.
- 4.6 A range of press releases have received media coverage since the launch, the latest two being connected with the start of the Six Nations and the use of local authority and body worn CCTV in catching offenders. Between 20 and 30 Safer Caerphilly After Dark social media messages have been disseminated by the local authority, Gwent Police and the Officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 4.7 While it is too early to judge the success of the initiative, a full 12 months operation may be required for full evaluation; there were some slight reductions in NTE offences over the Christmas period. The initiative will continue throughout 2014 – 15.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

6. CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 This report has been sent to the consultees listed below. There are no comments that have not been reflected in the report.

Author: Kathryn Peters, Community Safety Manager.
Consultees: Councillor Hefin David, Chair Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee
Councillor David Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services
Councillor Jean Summers, Vice Chair, Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee
Superintendent Marc Budden, Safer Caerphilly Strategic Lead and Delivery Group Chair
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Vice Chair Delivery Group
Chief Inspector Paul Staniforth, Caerphilly Local Policing Unit
Inspector Gareth Lintern, LPU Partnership Inspector
Jacqui Morgan, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager
Lynne Bosanko-Williams, Families First Co-ordinator