

Non-Executive Report of the: Licensing Committee 17 th December 2020	
Report of: David Tolley, Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards Directorate of Place	Classification: Unrestricted
Update on the Community & Alcohol Partnership and Best Bar None Scheme	

Originating Officer(s)	Vincent Fajilagmago Licensing Officer – Licensing and Safety
Wards affected	Whole Borough

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) initiative in the North East Quarter of the Borough and Best Bar None (BBN) Scheme within the borough 2019-2020 to end of October 2020.
- 1.2 Both initiatives seek to reduce alcohol related harm across the borough and as a result lower alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour. They are both funded by the Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) within the Council, who fund a post to manage and run these initiatives.

2 Recommendations:

The Licensing Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 To note the work that has been undertaken by the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) and Best Bar None scheme (BBN).

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 To provide members of the Licensing Committee with and update on the achievements of the BBN and CAP in 2019/20 and 2020/21 (to end of October 2020). This is a noting report.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 None. Both schemes are non-statutory schemes that reduce alcohol related crime and ASB. The advantages of the cost saving strategies and opportunities revealed in the report will not be reaped to benefit of the local authority and the local community.

- 4.2 Both schemes provide additional benefits beside the main purpose of reducing alcohol related harm within the borough, such as effective and responsive relationship between the licensed premises and Council services and external agencies and council teams to help prevent alcohol related harm.

5. **DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

Best Bar None Award

- 5.1 The Best Bar None (BBN) Award seeks to raise standards within premises licensed for 'on sales' of alcohol. Applicants wishing to achieve the award must demonstrate to assessors that they are above the minimum standard for compliance with licensing, health and food safety and legislation including applicants having to achieve a Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Score of 4 or above.
- 5.2 The BBN system of assessment awards a score and premises will go into certain categories according to their score. Premises with outstanding and high scores are acknowledged as the best in their respective categories during an award ceremony.

Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)

- 5.3 The Community Alcohol Partnership has a prescribed yet flexible method to address identified issues through education, engagement and enforcement.
- 5.4 The current CAP is focussed on the North East Quarter of Tower Hamlets including Bow East, Bow West, Bromley North Bromley South, Mile End and Lansbury.

Example of Partnership Work - Pre-Covid-19

- 5.5 In December 2019, issues were identified around young people and anti-social behaviour in the Lanfranc Estate from one of the CAP partners - Spotlight Youth Services. From this information the CAP able to make achieve the following:
- Set up a meeting with Council Members Cllr Whitehead and Deputy Mayor Asma Begum and CAP Partners this created a mediation v rigid penalty systems plan to tackle the issues.
 - Assist in arranging an independent translator and finding a family member that could understand the issue on behalf of the family.
 - Achieve engagement with the cohort identified as causing issues within 7 days from the meeting.
 - Work with the Off Licensed Trade in the area and encourage engagement with them and the cohort.

- Change the culture between the Police and Cohort from a “Them and Us perspective to one of engagement and flexible approaches further assisted to deescalate tensions between regulators and the cohort.
- Ensured better ‘visible partnership’ between residents and Officers so as to learn about the issues affecting them.
- Allow partnership work around the young people outside of the controlled environment of the meeting room and the school, which has led to better engagement.
- ‘Partnership presence’ fully engaged 18 young people on the mobile Bus from Community Response and focused on 5 young people in need of immediate support through the engagement.

CAP During COVID-19

5.6 The following points were actions were undertaken to help the schools and the community:

- Connecting to the CAP national office allowed supporting resources to become available to local schools for students studying at home. See Appendix 1.
- Development of an online resource for licensed premises to ensure they have up to date information in respect of the regulations that apply to them.

What went well

- 5.7 The creation of the online portal for documents is a resource allowing service to function during a pandemic, become futureproof and raise the standards of licensed premises in the borough.
- 5.8 The CAP recognises the exemplary Partnership and Youth work by Spotlight Youth Services and Community Response in the work that has taken place in Bow East and West.
- 5.9 The CAP officer would also like to recognise the report by the Youth Service submitted to Cabinet 29th July 2020 offering a ‘detached youth officer that will undertake street-based youth work with hard to reach groups of young people, who have been identified, for example, by the community, police, community safety and schools. Across the four quadrants the detached teams will work in partnership with the community to provide a youth offer in places where young people congregate’.
- 5.10 The CAP recognises and welcomes the Youth Service and its offer of detached Youth Work, which matches many of the recommendations of the CAP reports over the years. This partnership, potential and opportunities can benefit the community and young people for years to come.

Learning Points

- 5.11 Embracing technology allows continuity of service and at the same time allow innovation for improvement to the service. This will allow licensed premises to learn and train, it will also strengthen enforcement in cases of under aged sales for alcohol, acid and knives.
- 5.12 The CAP has taken advantage of cycling opportunities bringing this to other parts of the CAP area and connecting it to the reparation programme for Young Offenders.
- 5.13 The CAP has been providing many solutions over the years, each year bringing strategies for inside and outside the CAP area. This can lead to multiple CAP areas across the borough.

Best Bar None 2019/2020 and 2020/21 (end of October 2020)

- 5.14 2019-2020 has marked the most successful year for the Best Bar None scheme in Tower Hamlets regarding the number of accreditations.
- 5.15 A total of 53 venues applied to the Best Bar None scheme for 2019/2020 this is approximately a 20% rise in applications to the scheme. This can be seen in Appendix 2.
- 5.16 41 venues were awarded the National Standard in Tower Hamlets. This is an increase of approximately 13 % from the previous year of venues awarded Best Bar None Status as seen in Appendix 3.
- 5.17 Best Non-Alcohol drinks category had been added to encourage more options for non-alcohol drinkers and got the licensed trade to start to promote more non-alcoholic drinks across the borough. Further to this National sponsors of the BBN provided the reception as well as Non-alcohol products.
- 5.18 Free Annual training including WAVE training and Counter Terrorism continued for 2019/20 with the addition of conflict management workshop planned. This encourages a safe and well-run night-time economy in the borough.
- 5.19 A list of the winners of each category can be found in Appendix 4.

Best Bar None during COVID-19

- 5.20 The relationship and contact details gained via the BBN scheme enabled the Council to reach out on the evening prior to lockdown in March 2020 to encourage premises to close or close early that weekend thus following central government advice.
- 5.21 Virtual pub watches allowed services such as Licensing, Licensing Police, Health & Safety and Public Health to join the meetings. This and other

engagement with the members of the scheme and Pub Watches enable the Council to keep them abreast of the continuing changes to the legislation and restrictions as the pandemic progressed.

Conclusion

- 5.22 Both CAP and BBN have been effective and popular to its users reducing alcohol related harm and assist in the Council's Covid Response.
- 5.23 The CAP is a leading model of partnership for engaging hard to reach young people, licensed premises and community work with high efficiency in Tower Hamlets. Other partnership models in the same areas are not as established, experienced or effective.
- 5.24 The CAP Partnership national resources have been able to aid schools during the lockdown period.
- 5.25 The popularity and presence of the BBN scheme has enabled it to reach its highest number of applications and accreditations to date.
- 5.26 The relationship of the BBN officer has been vital to the open communication of updates to licensed premises during the coronavirus pandemic.
- 5.27 Having the ability to email from the Licensing work system that can get past the security wall is vital for mass communication to all businesses. Embracing technology that can allow this to happen will aid the whole service.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications.

7 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Best Value implications: Ensuring that fees are obtained from regulated commercial activity.
- 7.2 Environmental considerations: There are no environmental implications
- 7.3 Crime reduction: One of the key licensing objectives of the Council ensure that it does not licence premises that are liable to be a source of crime and disorder. The Council supports and assists with crime and disorder reduction by controlling those who manage premises open to members of the public and imposing conditions on relevant premises licences. Illegal activity has been proven to occur at the premises.
- 7.4 Safeguarding: There is a positive safeguarding impact. We also identify premises that may be selling to underage customers and are then able to take preventative measures.

7.5 Risk Management: The Council will be at risk of legal challenge if its processes are not transparent and evidentially based.

8 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

8.1 There are no financial implications emanating from this report which provides an update on the progress of the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) initiative in the North East Quarter of the Borough and Best Bar None (BBN) Scheme within the borough 2019- 2020 to end of October 2020. All costs associated with completing these initiatives are contained within existing budgetary provision.

9 LEGAL COMMENTS

Any legal implications are addressed in the body of the report. See paragraph 7.3

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1

Educational Materials offered to secondary schools

SMASHED online

<https://www.smashed-online.com/login/index.php> - course log in

<http://smashedproject.org/access-smashed-online/> - info

Inspired by the touring theatre programme, SMASHED online is an e-learning version of Smashed for UK students aged 12-14 who cannot experience it live. The course is fully linked to the PSHE Associations Programme of Study for the age group.

Alcohol Education Trust (AET)

<https://www.talkaboutalcohol.com> web resource containing information and interactive games for young people.

<https://alcoholeducationtrust.org/teacher-area/getting-started/> Teachers and other educators can download a workbook containing lesson plans and activities for alcohol education lessons.

BBC Just a few drinks

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01qnr62/clips> young people talk about their experiences of alcohol.

Drinkaware

<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/professionals#educator> free lesson plans and activities for educators.

Parent Resources

Drinkaware

<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/advice/underage-drinking/how-to-talk-about-alcohol> information and videos on how to talk to your child about alcohol.

Alcohol Education Trust (AET)

<https://alcoholeducationtrust.org/parent-area/> information and leaflets to download for parents.

Alcohol Awareness Week

Alcohol Change uk

<https://alcoholchange.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/alcohol-awareness-week-1/about-alcohol-awareness-week/take-part-in-alcohol-awareness-week>

information and campaign resources to support alcohol awareness week in November.

Appendix 2

Numbers of applications and accreditations for Best Bar None

BBN	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Applications	8	22	40	40	44	53
Awarded	8	9	17	27	36	41
Dropout	0	13	23	13	8	12

Appendix 3

List of Accredited Venues for BBN 2019-2020

28West
Backyard Comedy Club
Big Chill Brick Lane
Boisdale
Café 1001
Commercial Tavern
East London Liquor Company
Hawkmoor
Hilton Canary Wharf
Holiday Inn
Horn of Plenty
Howling Hops
Juju's Bar & Stage
Ninety One Living Room
The Boiler House
Leonardo Royal Hotel
London Cocktail Club Paradise Row
London Cocktail Club Sclater Street
Medieval Banquet
Novotel Hotel
Draper

The Griff Inn
Queen of Adelaide
Jack's Shack
Casa Blue
Redchurch Bar
Silver Barracuda
Silver Sturgeon
Star Bethnal Green
Ten Bells
The Alchemist
The Buxton
The Crate
The Culpeper
The Electric Shuffle
The Henry Addington
The Ivy
The Ship
White Hart Brew Pub
Wilton's Music Hall
93 Feet East

Appendix 4

The winners of each category

2020	Most Improved	The Culpeper
2020	Best Newcomer	Novotel Hotel Canary Wharf
2020	Community Award	The Ship
	Best of Brick Lane	
2020	Best Pub	The Culpeper
2020	Best Bar	The Big Chill Brick Lane
2020	Best Restaurant	Hawksmoor
	Best of Canary Wharf	
2020	Best Pub	Henry Addington
2020	Best Bar	28 West
2020	Best Restaurant	Boisdale
	Best of the Rest	
2020	Best Pub	Star of Bethnal Green
2020	Best Bar	Back Yard Comedy Club
2020	Best Restaurant	Medeival Banquet
	Best of the Best	
2020	Best Pub	Henry Addington
2020	Best Bar	The Big Chill Brick Lane
2020	Best Restaurant	Medeival Banquet
2020	Best Hotel	Novotel Hotel Canary Wharf
2020	Best Non Alcohol Offer	Boisdale