



## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### Proposals to Address the Negative Impact of Alcohol on Our City

#### Introduction

1. This report makes three recommendations to the Edinburgh Partnership to help address alcohol the negative impact of alcohol in Edinburgh.

#### Background

2. On 19 June 2014, the Partnership received a paper setting out the challenges posed by alcohol. The paper recommended that the Partnership consider making alcohol a priority area for action the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2015-18 (SOA 5). In response, the Partnership requested that the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership hold a lunchtime seminar on 11 September to set out the challenge around alcohol, using local data.

#### Details

3. The presentation focuses on the negative impact alcohol has in the delivery of the four high level outcomes of the SOA:

Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs, and opportunities for all

Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health

Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential

Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric

4. Key data relating to the challenges of alcohol include:

alcohol costs the city £221 million annually, £81 million of which relates to economic productivity

47% of adults in Edinburgh report drinking more than the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines, compared to 43% in Scotland<sup>1</sup>

alcohol related deaths doubled between 1991-1999 and have shown a modest reduction since then

approximately 7,000 children in Edinburgh live with parents with some level of problematic alcohol use<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish Health Survey 2011

more than a quarter (26%) of serious assaults committed in a public space and 23% in a private space are alcohol aggravated<sup>3</sup>.

5. The membership of the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership, collectively and as individual agencies, has expressed concerns about the availability of alcohol across the city and the links to alcohol-related harm. This includes the sale of alcohol as a means of regenerating and developing the economy of the city. The link between availability and harm is complex and different types of harm (health/crime) are affected by license type, density and culture relating to alcohol.

## **Conclusion**

6. Alcohol related problems remain a significant challenge for Edinburgh and the main success indicators suggest the problems are increasing. The cost of managing this challenge and the harm caused to individuals, families and communities is significant. Alcohol also plays an important role in the economic development of the city, both in terms of “gap-fill sites” and as a part of the offer for tourists. However, both the benefit and harm that alcohol causes need to be understood across the Partnership and a joint approach to addressing and managing availability and harm developed.

## **Recommendation**

7. It is recommended that the Edinburgh Partnership:

identifies alcohol as a priority area for action in Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2015-18 (SOA 5)

articulates a clear vision for “alcohol in the city” as a part of the 2030 visioning exercise at the Edinburgh Partnership Family Gathering on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014; and

tasks officers across public and third sector within Planning, Economic Development, Public Health, Social Work, Education, Police, Fire Service and Licensing with developing a cross-cutting strategy and action plan on alcohol. This will enable delivery the delivery of the Alcohol and Drug Partnership’s Framework to reduce alcohol related harm.

Peter Gabbitas  
Chair of the Alcohol and Drug Partnership and  
Director of Health and Social Care

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<sup>2</sup> EADP Needs Assessment <http://edinburghadp.co.uk/Resources/EADPPublications/Pages/default.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> Police Scotland