

WOMEN'S SAFETY CHARTER

INFORMATION NOTE OF THE LICENSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY MANAGER

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 As part of the Community Safety Partnership's (CSP) priority of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), a multi-agency CSP VAWG sub-group is leading on the introduction of a Women's Safety Charter for licensed premises in North Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 The intention is for all licensed premises to sign-up to the charter so that women and girls know that there will be a consistent approach across the district to any concerns related to sexual harassment or fear of violence in or outside licensed premises. This will promote the message that North Hertfordshire licensed venues are a safe environment for women and girls.

2. STEPS TO DATE

- 2.1 A CSP multi-agency sub-group already exists, chaired by the local police inspector, and will consider the first steps in its next meeting.
- 2.2 A copy of the Safety Charter produced by Southwark Council has been provided to the sub-group.

3. INFORMATION TO NOTE

- 3.1 A number of schemes already exist in some licensed premises such as 'Ask Angela', and some premises employ door supervisors as added protection for customers. The door supervisors also act as a deterrent against inappropriate behaviour. Other schemes have been trialled over recent years, for example beer mats with messages about inappropriate behaviour and reporting methods, however district-wide consistency has never been achieved.
- 3.2 It is intended to initially trial the charter in Hitchin as there is an active Pubwatch which already supports a number of initiatives and has an effective barring process for inappropriate behaviour. Work will be undertaken to introduce a Pubwatch in the other towns as part of the wider roll-out of the charter.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The sub-group are keen to receive any information and/or suggestions for inclusion in the Safety Charter and would welcome feedback from the Cabinet Panel. Suggestions for organisations/individuals that could assist the sub-group are also welcome.
- 4.2 Depending on the final content of the charter, funding may be sought from the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver appropriate training to staff of licensed premises in support of the charter objectives.

5. CONTACT OFFICERS

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