Preventing nightlife violence through community partnerships

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Staff training on prevention of sexual violence

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IREFREA

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Nightlife violence

- High numbers of young people
  - Greatest risk for involvement in violence
- Alcohol and drug use
  - Increase risk taking, reduce inhibitions
- Risky environments
  - Dark, crowded, loud, anonymous
- Large concentrations of bars and clubs
  - High levels of competition
  - Rely on alcohol sales for profit
  - Strategies to attract and retain customers
- Social norms
  - Expectations, permissiveness and tolerance

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Preventing nightlife violence

Councils | Police | Licensing | Business

Effective laws and policy

- Prevent & respond to violence
- Control access to alcohol
- Ensure safety in nightlife

Professional nightlife staff

- Comply with legislation
- Support prevention
- Effective response

Safe environments

- Inside and outside bars
- Street lighting, transport
- Security

Social norms

- Support healthy behaviours
- Do not support or tolerate violence

Environment | Health | Education | Students

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Laws and policy

Density of alcohol outlets

- More bars and nightclubs
- More violence

Hours of alcohol sales

- Later / longer hours
- More violence

Alcohol prices

- Cheaper alcohol
- Higher consumption, more violence

Planning policies

Licensing policies

Alcohol taxes

Minimum alcohol prices

Rossow & Norstrom, 2011; Kypri et al, 2010, Miller et al, 2013, Fulde et al, 2015

Sydney, Australia

- Main city ‘hotspots’
  - Last drinks 3am
  - No entry to bars after 1.30am
  - No off-licensed alcohol sales after 10pm
- Reduced:
  - nightlife assaults
  - ED attendance for serious alcohol-related injury
  - hospital admissions

Menendez et al, 2015; Wilkinson et al, 2016

Enforcement

- Test purchasing
  - Underage sales of alcohol
- Compliance visits
- Targeted policing
  - Using multi-agency data to identify high risk premises
  - Multi-agency visits
  - Risk assessment
  - Advice for improvement
  - Threats of closure

Safe environments

- Certain characteristics of bars linked to harm:
  - Permissive atmosphere, crowding, lack of seating…
- Certain areas of bars linked to harm, e.g. violence:
  - Dance floor, bar areas, tables and areas of movement
- Modifiable through environmental design
- Outside:
  - Safe public transport
  - Street lighting
  - Pedestrianisation
  - Blocking access to risky spaces
  - Street drinking bans
  - CCTV

Staff training

- Training bar servers, security staff:
  - Effects of alcohol
  - Licensing legislation
  - Service refusal skills
  - Conflict management
  - Vulnerability
  - Response to violence

- As standalone measure:
  - Can change bar server knowledge
  - Little evidence for improving practice or reducing violence
- Part of multi-component programmes

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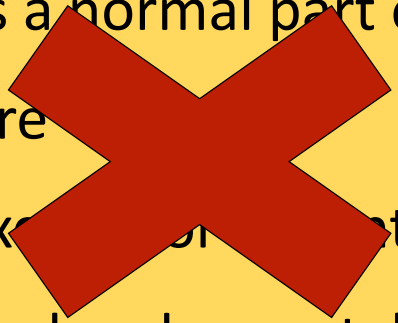
Social norms

Sexual harassment is a normal part of a night out

Women who drink are

Drunkenness is an ex t behaviour

Drunkenness is normal and acceptable in nightlife



- Young people over-estimate how much their peers drink
  - Impacts personal drinking behaviours
- In UK nightlife:
  - 75% of nightlife users thought the ‘norm’ level of drunkenness was above their ideal level
  - Half expected to get drunker than their ideal level
- Correcting mis-beliefs can reduce drinking behaviours

Community interventions

- Most effective interventions incorporate a range of measures in and out of nightlife
  - Implemented through multi-agency partnerships
- STAD Project, Sweden
  - Community partnership
  - Bar and door server training
  - Strict enforcement of licensing regulation
  - Media engagement
  - Alcohol services & family programmes
  - Research
- Benefits:
  - 29% decrease in violent crime
  - ↓ sales of alcohol to drunks (95% to 30%)
  - Saved €39 for every €1 invested

Wallin et al, 2003, 2005; Månsdotter 2007

Roll out of STAD

- By 2008, implemented in 290 Swedish municipalities
- Varying levels of implementation
- Evaluation focused on three components:
  - Training for bar servers
  - Enforcement activity
  - Community coalition (partnership working)
- Each additional component linked to 3% ↓in violence
- No effects of training or enforcement
- Only community coalition had independent impact

Partnership working in UK

- Mandatory partnership working to prevent crime and disorder
  - Community safety partnerships
    - Police
    - Local authorities
    - Health services
    - Fire and rescue authorities
    - Probation service

- Work together to protect local communities from crime and help people feel safer.
- Work out how to deal with local issues like antisocial behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse.
- Annually assess local crime priorities and consult partners and local community on how to deal with them.

Citysafe

LIVERPOOL **A SAFE CITY**

Liverpool's Community Safety Partnership

3 Year Strategic Plan

2017-2020

City Centre Joint Agency Group (JAG)

Anti-social Behaviour Group

Integrated offender management

Serious organised crime

Violence against women and girls

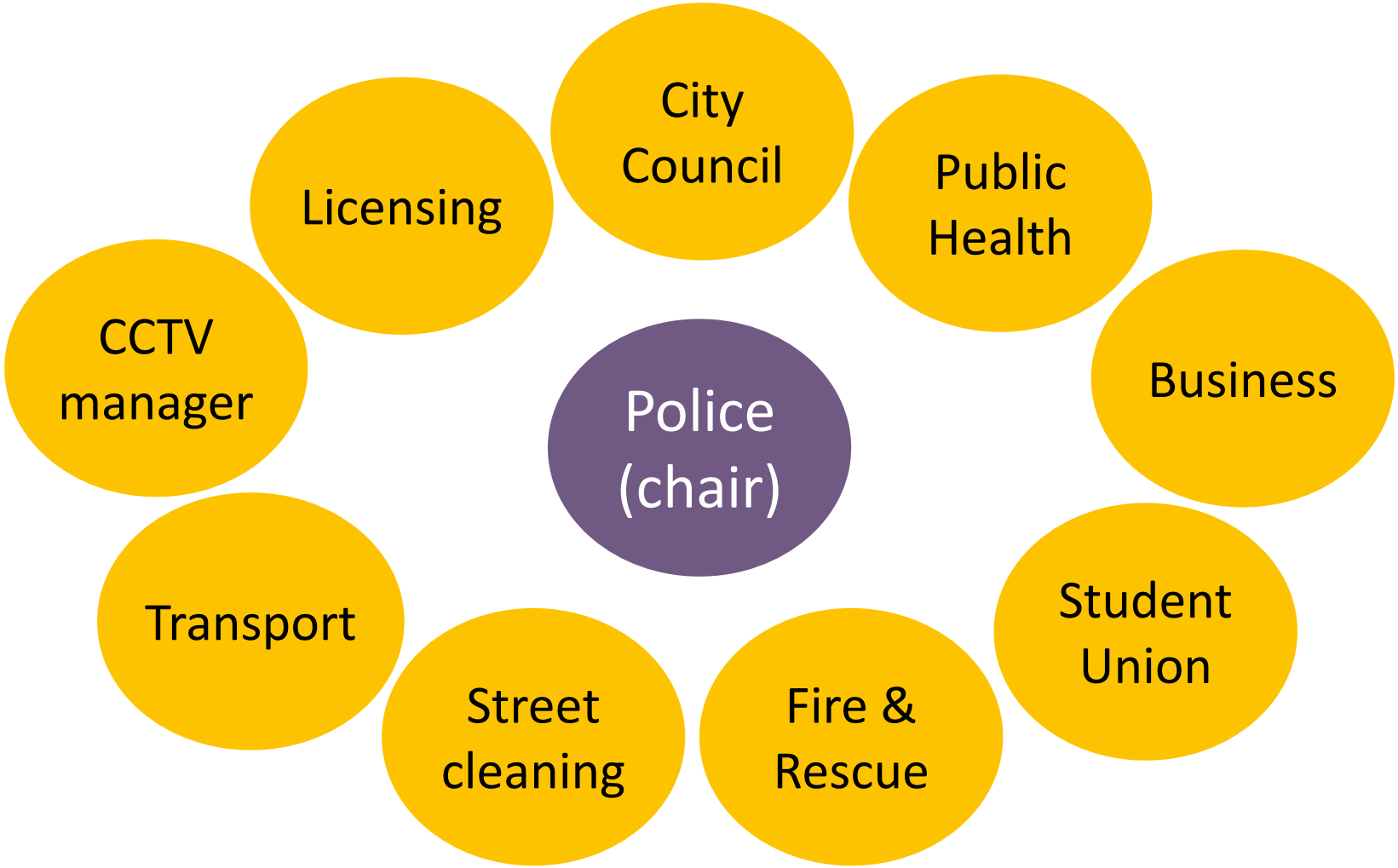
Violence extremism

Community Cohesion

Student Safety Group

City Centre JAG

Reduce crime and disorder in Liverpool city centre



City Centre JAG

Mandate:

- Develop inter-agency working on community safety
  - Joint planning, targets and action; information and data sharing
- Agree annual priorities
- Agree outcomes and action plans, targets, milestones and monitoring arrangements to achieve the outcomes

Objectives for 2017-18 to reduce:

- **Serious violent crime including sexual violence in the city centre particularly relating to the night time economy.**
- Anti-social behaviour & public nuisance (e.g. street drinking)
- All forms of hate crime
- Personal robbery and theft from motor vehicles

Liverpool - Interventions

Alcohol policy and licensing

- Late night levy
  - Venues serving alcohol between midnight and 6am have to contribute to cost of policing and council services
- Licensing condition banning ‘touts’

Safe environment

- Ban on street drinking in city centre
- Successful re-assessment of Purple Flag status
  - Award scheme for safe and well-managed night time economies

Liverpool - Interventions

Professional nightlife staff

- Training for bar and security staff
  - Responsible server practice
    - Preventing sales to underage and drunk customers
  - Vulnerability

Social norms

- Education resource for schools
  - Healthy relationships, acceptable behaviour, consent
- Public awareness campaigns
  - Consent, sales to drunks illegal

Drink Less Enjoy More

- Based on research showing over 80% of alcohol purchase attempts by 'drunk' actors resulted in sale of alcohol
- Multi-component interv
  Liverpool's nightlife
  - Raising awareness & com
  - Illegal to sell alcohol to, o
- Three core components
  - **Awareness raising**
    - public health
  - **Bar staff training**
    - council
  - **Enforcement**
    - police

Sales of alcohol to 'drunk' actors
↓ from 84% to 22%

Nightlife users aware it is illegal to sell alcohol to drunks
↑ from 45% to 66%

Aware it is illegal to buy alcohol for someone who is drunk
↑ from 33% to 69%

Quigg, Hughes, Bellis et al, 2018

Conclusions

- Preventing violence in nightlife requires co-ordinated action across a wide range of agencies
- Partnerships support:
  - Common understanding of problems and solutions
  - Co-ordinated action to address identified problems
  - Joint planning, shared objective and targets, shared benefits
- Strong partnership working can take time to develop and benefits can take time to emerge
  - Formalised, with a long-term view
  - Find common ground and achieve the achievable
  - Flexible, with priorities evolving to meet local need
  - Research, monitoring and reporting