

TITLE OF REPORT: The Cost of Alcohol Harms

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide information on findings from the 'alcohol cost profile' for the North East, which has been commissioned by Balance and developed by The Institute of Alcohol Studies (IAS), and to update the board on some of the work underway to raise awareness of, and reduce alcohol related harm.

How does the report support Gateshead's Health & Wellbeing Strategy?

2. Measures to reduce alcohol related harm cut across all sections of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Background

3. In the first major analysis of its kind in over 20 years new research by IAS, commissioned by Balance, it has been highlighted that alcohol harm is costing the North East nearly £1.5 billion a year, a more that 40% increase since last calculated in 2003 and a significant increase on the last available figure of almost £1.1bn in 2016

If the cost in terms of ill health, crime and disorder, social care and the economy was passed on, it would equate to £562 per head for every adult and child in the North East, compared to an average national figure of £485 in England.

Nationally alcohol is costing England nearly £27.4 billion a year including £4.9 billion to the NHS and healthcare, £14.5 billion cost in crime and disorder, a £5 billion cost to the wider economy and £2.89 billion cost to social services.

The economic burden on the NHS now stands at over £290 million for the North East and £4.9 billion in England; enough to pay for the salaries of almost half the nurses in England.

The cost profile for Gateshead (Appendix 1) breaks down the costs further and highlights that

- the overall cost per head for alcohol related harm would be £541
- cost to the NHS and Healthcare is £21.2m
- crime and disorder £54.7m
- wider economy £17.6m
- social services £11.2m

Additionally, updated ONS data tells us that the North East had the highest rate of alcohol-specific deaths of any English region in 2022 (21.8 deaths per 100,000) and a total of 576 deaths – 374 men and 202 women.

The updated ONS data for Gateshead alcohol specific deaths 20-22 (3 year period) shows us there were 103 deaths, with a rate of 17.6 per 100,000. For 2022 the number of deaths is 43. [Alcohol-specific deaths in the UK: registered in 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Actions underway

4. The data above highlights the reason why action to reduce the impact of alcohol related harm is so vital, especially as we know that more alcohol harm falls on the most deprived people in our communities. Whilst population level interventions such as MUP and Public Health as a licensing objective are not in place in England, some of the steps we are taking locally to raise awareness and provide specialist support at the earliest opportunity are provided below.
 - The *Balance Alcohol is Toxic* Campaign, which raises awareness that the risk of a range of medical conditions increases with any level of alcohol use, was launched mid November for a four week run up to the Christmas period. The second phase ran from the end of December to early February and the 3rd phase will launch from June 10th to coincide with Euro 24.
 - Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) for alcohol in GP and Pharmacy settings. In addition to commissioning IBA in GP settings, from April 24, we now are providing this simple intervention from Pharmacies.
 - Simplifying the referral process from GP practices to Specialist Services
 - Embedding Recovery Coordinators within the QE hospital to engage with those in need of specialist support prior to discharge.
 - Prevention of alcohol-related harm is included in the delivery plan within the Northumbria Combatting Drugs Partnership.

Proposal

5. It is proposed that the board consider the information within this report.

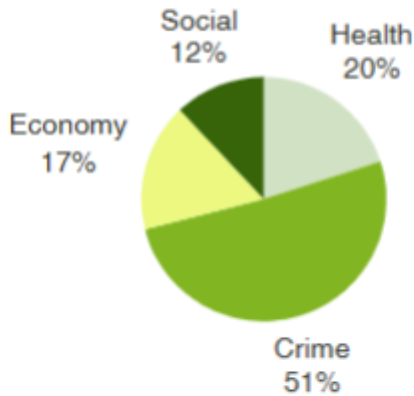
Recommendation

6. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the recommendation that Susan Taylor, the Head of Alcohol Policy- Fresh and Balance, attend a future board to present on the advocacy and public perceptions work Balance have underway in light of this data.

Contact: Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health (0191) 433 2777

2021-2022 COST OF ALCOHOL HARM IN GATESHEAD

COST BREAKDOWN

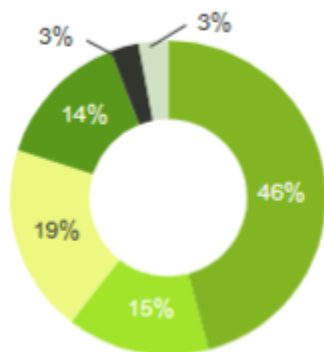


**OVERALL COST:
£106.2m
£541 PER HEAD**

COST PER HEAD



NHS & HEALTHCARE: £21.2m



- Alcohol-related hospital admissions cost: **£9.7m**
- Outpatient visits cost **£3.1m**
- Alcohol-related A&E visits cost **£4.1m**
- Alcohol-related ambulance call-outs cost **£3.0**
- Alcohol-related healthcare appointments cost **£608,112**
- Other alcohol-related healthcare cost **£637,538**

CRIME & DISORDER: £54.7m

17,948 estimated alcohol-related crimes

Including reported and unreported crimes:

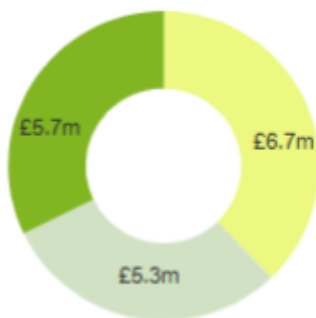
- 4,673 for criminal damage
- 3,148 for violence against the person
- 9,383 for theft

Anticipation of crime:
£3.4m

Consequence of crime:
£34.4m

Response of crime:
£16.9m

WIDER ECONOMY £17.6m



- Presenteeism (at work but reduced productivity)
- Absenteeism (not at work due to illness)
- Unemployment

SOCIAL SERVICES £12.7m

Local authority budget estimated to be attributable to alcohol:

Children social services: £11.2m

Alcohol misuse services

For adults **£1.4m**

For children **£121,275**

BALANCE
Reducing alcohol harm