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| **Policy Position Summary: Alcohol** |
| What does the PCVC wish to achieve?  The harm caused by alcohol remains a priority within our communities. He therefore wants to reduce the availability of alcohol, provide targeted treatment and brief advice and prevention approaches that build life skills and resilience in order to reduce alcohol harm.  Ron believes that there should be a package of measures to limit the affordability, availability and promotion of alcohol including:   * Introduction of Minimum Unit Pricing in England * A review of the Licensing Act to allow more power for local communities to control availability of alcohol * A reduction of the drink drive blood alcohol levels * Awareness and partnership education and campaigns * Specialist treatment and recovery   This would enable:   * Reduction in number of young people and people drinking at risky levels * Increase in number of people accessing support in treatment and recovery * Increase in treatment service provision * Reduction in alcohol related deaths and diseases * Reduction in crime and number of victims * Reduction in demand for emergency services * Improvement in community safety |
| Evidence Base  Alcohol misuse places a strain on our emergency services and a significant cost burden on society; latest estimates show that the cost of alcohol-related crime is £11bn.  Over the last decade, in around half of all violent incidents, the victim believed the offender(s) was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offence, a proportion that increases in incidents between strangers, in the evening and night, at weekends, and in public places. This is also the case in 17% of incidents of partner abuse.  Evidence on the links between alcohol and non-violent or acquisitive crime is less well-developed; though alcohol can also be a specific factor in some offences, for example 36% of penalty notices for disorder in 2014/15 were issued for being drunk and disorderly. Alcohol also has a wider impact on communities; 18% of adults perceive people being drunk or rowdy as a very or fairly big problem in their local area.  Given the association between alcohol use and violence, reducing risky consumption is likely to be beneficial in reducing and preventing crime. |
| How will the PCVC’s aspirations be achieved?  The PCVC is committed to:  • working with partners to get a better understanding of the issues that exist in our communities around alcohol  • working, with partners, towards reducing the harm caused to individuals, families and communities through the abuse of alcohol  • lobbying government to update and reform the policies and laws that exist around alcohol to reflect the rapidly changing problem we are facing. |