

DSCP Factsheet

Safeguarding Information for Licensees

This leaflet provides information about your responsibility as a licensee to safeguard children in line with the Licensing Act 2003.

Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP) believes you and your business can play an active and positive role in safeguarding children and young people against alcohol misuse, drug and substance misuse and to prevent children and young people becoming victim of sexual exploitation.

Why do you need to think about safeguarding?

Children and young people will normally have access to licensed premises. As a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act, Durham SCP want to see a range of measures to ensure that licensees take the right steps to protect children, as part of your licence, these include:

Verification of age – Safeguards to be in place so alcohol is not served to, or purchased on behalf of under age children. Any premises licence should include a mandatory condition that an age verification policy is operated. Durham SCP recommends the Challenge 25 standard which requires any one looking under 25 to produce photographic evidence of proof of age from either a passport, driving licence or PASS accredited scheme before alcohol is supplied.



Minimise the risk of proxy sales – To work with the Police to minimise the risk of proxy provision or proxy sales. (This is alcohol purchased or obtained for young people by relatives or older friends).

Maintain a refusals register – Where a sale of alcohol is refused because a person appears drunk or appears to be under 18, a refusal register to be updated and made available to the Police on request.

Training of staff – All staff responsible for selling age restricted goods to be trained to implement the age verification policy. Staff training to include the risk from proxy sales. Training records for staff to be maintained and refresher training to be provided annually.



What is safeguarding?

- Safeguarding is about keeping children and young people safe by protecting them from harm, supporting their development and making sure they grow up in a safe environment.

What else can licensees do to improve safeguarding?

- Ensure that all staff coming into contact with children and young people are vetted
- Identify at least one member of staff (a manager or designated premises supervisor) to take a lead on safeguarding issues and to advise other staff
- Display signage about the laws relating to children and alcohol
- Develop management plans for organised events
- Use clearly displayed signage so that people are clear which areas, activities and at what time sessions are family friendly
- Join your local Pub Watch / Shop Watch
- Gain accreditation to the awards scheme 'Best Bar None' that promotes responsible management of alcohol-licensed premises
- Do take action if you notice a child or young person in a vulnerable situation

Safeguarding Information for Licensees continued....

What are some of the risks to children and young people that as a Licensee you need to consider?

Young Children

Young children can become frightened if adults are unable to control their actions, and a child witnessing aggressive or violent behaviour could be emotionally or even physically harmed.

Remember too that children like to copy adults and will taste or finish off left over drinks (even small quantities of alcohol are harmful to children).

The behaviour of adults could also pose a risk if they are drunk or unable to supervise their children, who could wander off or attract the unwanted attention of strangers. If you have any concerns for a child please call the police on 101 or in an emergency call 999.

Adults who are working in proximity to children could also pose a risk if they exploit their position to develop a relationship with a child for inappropriate reasons.



If you see something, say something.
Let us know on 101 or in an emergency call 999.

Young People

Young teenagers access to and their consumption of alcohol can make them vulnerable to:



- *Impaired judgement and decision making*
- *A loss of inhibitions and an increase of risk taking activity*
- *Drink driving or drug driving*
- *An increase in sexual risk taking activity*
- *Approaches from sexual predators and sexual exploitation*
- *Physical harm by getting involved in arguments and fights or walking home alone after drinking*

Mixed age events

We would not advise mixed age events where alcohol is available for sale to persons over 18 and those under 18 may also be in attendance at the event. These events significantly increase potential risk. If you are holding a mixed age event you should consider:

- Pre-loading (drinking before going out to a venue where access to alcohol might be expensive, limited or prohibited) and Proxy Sales
- Drug use or New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) – often incorrectly called legal highs
- Adequate supervision and the safety of young people in and around the venue
- All other vulnerabilities highlighted in this factsheet.



Durham SCP is a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 for the grant, renewal, review and revocation of alcohol licences for on and off licence premises and registered clubs.

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