



PCC CHECKLIST: Alcohol Related Crime

Document Purpose: To support local activity in your area, APCC Addictions and Substance Misuse leads have prepared this PCC Alcohol Related Crime Checklist, with a particular focus on the night-time economy.

This document provides PCCs with suggestions on:

- ✓ How to hold your Chief Constable to account;
- ✓ Ways of working collaboratively with partners;
- ✓ Approaches to commissioning and ensuring value for money and delivery; and
- ✓ Key information for your OPCC to consider.

A message from the APCC's Addictions and Substance Misuse Leads

Dear colleagues

While many people consume alcohol socially, responsibly and without causing any trouble, you won't need us to tell you about the impact of alcohol-related crime and disorder, from anti-social behaviour through to the role of alcohol in some of the most serious crimes of all, including domestic violence, serious sexual assault and homicide. That's why we're representing PCCs as part of a new national group to co-ordinate our work in policing to tackle alcohol-related crime and homicide. As part of that work, we undertook to develop a "check list" for PCCs to highlight our role and provide a basic audit tool; it's not "rocket science", but we hope that you will find it helpful.

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The APCC provides support to all
Police and Crime Commissioners
and policing governance bodies in
England and Wales

Alcohol is one of the six key drivers of crime

- In 2019/20 according to the crime survey for England and Wales, 42% of violent crime incidents were alcohol related ([ONS, The nature of violence crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2020](#)).
- Victims of serious sexual assault (aged 16 and over) perceived the perpetrator to be under the influence of alcohol in 39% of incidents ([Office of National Statistics. Nature of sexual assault by rape or penetration, England and Wales: year ending March 2020](#)).
- Around 5,000 cases of “spiking” were reported to police in the 12 months to September 2022, according to the National Police Chiefs’ Council ([NPCC, Potential victims of spiking urged to report to police and get tested quickly as nearly 5,000 reports of spiking are made within a year](#)).
- There is increasing concern about the use of alcohol along with other drugs - for example, the use of alcohol with cocaine, both in the night-time economy and in violent incidents at and around football matches. ([Football police chief says cocaine a 'contributing factor' to increased disorder - BBC Sport](#))

You can find more statistics on alcohol-related crime and other harm on the [Alcohol Change UK](#) website.

Improving understanding, raising awareness (TICK where appropriate)

Considered	In Progress	Completed	Activity
			Ensure that you are regularly briefed on crime and anti-social behaviour in the Night-Time Economy (NTE) in your force area and that your force is monitoring developments, noting that the issues may differ from area to area (e.g., an urban centre vs. rural community) and from time to time (e.g., with increasing reports of spiking or of the use of illicit drugs alongside alcohol).
			Meet with local charities that work with people with alcohol dependencies and their families, so you can hear about the impact directly from people with both professional and lived experience of the harms caused by alcohol dependency.

Improving understanding, raising awareness (Continued)

Considered	In Progress	Completed	Activity
			Talk to providers of and people in victims' services about experience of alcohol related crime, including victims of domestic abuse and violence and those working with them.
			Encourage and support relevant officers in your OPCC team to raise their awareness of the impact of drugs and alcohol and the relationship to crime – for example, through training as part of Continuous Professional Development.
			Alcohol and drug misuse are at the root of so many crimes and incidents of anti-social behaviour, it may be worth getting in the habit of always asking if they play a role and how in all your discussions about crime and crime reduction.
			Ask your office and force to explore opportunities to link the problem of alcohol-related crime in the NTE to other priorities and objectives in your Police and Crime Plan, which may create additional opportunities to fund local services to work on the issue and 'add value' by building expectations around alcohol-related crime into the commissioning of other services (e.g., victims and VAWG).
			Go out with a patrol for a first-hand sense of the challenges of policing the NTE and/or spend time with an SOS bus or similar service offering a safe haven for vulnerable people in the NTE, particularly those whose drinking puts them at risk.

Holding your Chief Constable and force to account

Considered	In Progress	Completed	Activity
			Ask your force for detailed statistics on crime committed in the NTE, and which of these/how many of these are flagged as being alcohol related.
			Ask your force about their use of the alcohol flag when recording crime – does the data you are seeing give an accurate picture of the nature and extent of alcohol-related crime in your force area, and, if not, how is this being addressed?
			Find out what arrangements are being made in custody suites to identify offenders whose crimes are linked to alcohol misuse and dependency and signpost them into appropriate services (and ask if the right services are available).
			Find out about your force’s designated licencing officers – does the force have enough licencing officers, what are they working on and how effective are they?
			Drug Driving is on the rise with prosecutions in the UK hitting a record high in 2021 after six consecutive years of rises (https://www.driving.co.uk/news/crime/drug-driving-arrests-up-50-continuing-six-year-trend/) Ask your force if they test for both drink and drug driving at the same time, does your force not test for both due to the cost and or because it does not impact on penalties on the offender?
			Liaise with local authorities in your force area to look at the options for charging a late-night levy to businesses trading between midnight and 6am, to contribute to your policing costs.

Consider the role of commissioned services and the criminal justice system

Considered	In Progress	Completed	Activity
			Assess what services are available and advocate for better access to services for those with alcohol problems – for example, with Directors of Public Health and through partnerships like Health and Wellbeing Boards and Combatting Drugs Partnerships
			Help to ensure that at every point in the CJS there is awareness of and signposting to services and support – for example through your Criminal Justice Board.
			Ask your commissioned services that deal with those who have alcohol problems to raise the 12 steps to recovery with them (12 Steps of Recovery: How These Programs Work (verywellmind.com)).
			Ask your commissioning leads about the arrangements for screening and responding to alcohol and drug problems in your commissioned services – for example, in victims’ services – and build in expectations and requirements around screening and referral when commissioning and re-commissioning.
			Following pilots of “sobriety tags” in Wales, they were launched for use in England in 2021 . Investigate whether these are being used or actively considered by the courts and probation service in your force area.
			Investigate the use of Alcohol Treatment Requirements by the courts, and if you feel they could be better used, consider what role you can play in facilitating this – e.g., challenging probation around pre-sentence reporting or public health and health services about the provision of appropriate alcohol treatment and other interventions, so the courts can confidently refer offenders into services that will tackle their alcohol dependency and offending.

Involving partners

Considered	In Progress	Completed	Activity
			<p>Look at how alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour are being addressed through Local Combatting Drugs Partnerships in England and Area Planning Boards in Wales, noting the interactions between alcohol and illegal drugs in the NTE and elsewhere (e.g., football matches & domestic abuse).</p>
			<p>Discuss with your local Authority plans to make streets safer. Safer Streets 5 will focus on Violence against women and girls and Anti-Social Behaviour. These are areas which have drivers resulting from alcohol consumption in the NTE. Collaboration with local partners could improve the success of any bids and or the outcomes of schemes.</p>
			<p>Discuss joined up responses to alcohol and drug related offending at your Local Criminal Justice Board with a focus on strategic, joined up approaches across policing and the criminal justice system and how to get more offenders whose crimes are alcohol-related into evidence-based services and interventions.</p>
			<p>Ensure you are involving licensees and other businesses involved in the NTE in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, including through schemes like LSAVI and Purple Flag and a range of other similar initiatives and by considering applying a Late Night Levy where appropriate.</p>

Next Steps & Reflections:

Having completed the checklist exercise, PCCs/OPCCs may wish to consider:

- Next steps to progress the suggestions;
- Ways in which to seek assurance on delivery and impact of your local activities; and
- Sharing your checklist with the APCC to inform portfolio leads' work and highlighting any additional support the APCC can provide in the future.

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Resources and Support

The NHS provides a directory of alcohol addiction support services www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/find-alcohol-addiction-support-services

The Alcohol Change UK website www.alcoholchange.org.uk

The National Audit Office has recently published a report into alcohol treatment in England <https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/alcohol-treatment-services/>

You can find out more about Alcohol Rehabilitation Requirements <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-rehabilitation-activity-requirement-in-probation/rar-guidance>.

Details on the Licensing SAVI approach www.licensingрави.com and on Purple Flag www.atcm.org/purple-flag, as two of the best examples of schemes that work with licensees and others to improve safety in the night-time economy

Alcohol Change have developed a Manual with a particular focus on working with people with alcohol problems who are not in contact with services <https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/files.alcoholchange.org.uk/documents/The-Blue-Light-Manual.pdf>

PCCs with concerns for spiking may want to note this useful research on the role of universities <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-research/publications/spiking-what-universities-can-do>

The Home Office has commissioned the new Alcohol Change UK Police Led Alcohol Intervention Toolkit which will be available shortly to view on the Home Office website.

