



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government



Working Together to  
Reduce Harm

The Substance Misuse Strategy  
for Wales 2008-2018



# Evening and Night Time Economy

Owen Davies

Community Safety  
Division

Welsh Assembly  
Government

# History...

**1988:** continuous day time opening

**1990s:** Govt encourage expansion of evening economies to promote town centre regeneration

**1999:** 'Good Practice Guide to Licensing for Magistrates' removes necessity to issue licenses on basis of need

**2003:** Licensing Act moves responsibility for licensing to local authorities



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

# Problems

- Almost half of all victims of violent crime believe the perpetrator to be under the influence of alcohol
- Across England and Wales, 24% of BCS respondents perceive drunk or rowdy behaviour to be a problem in their area



- 31% in Gwent
- 33% in South Wales



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

# ‘Working together to reduce harm’

Four priority action areas:

- Preventing harm
- Support for substance misusers
- Supporting and protecting families
- Tackling availability and protecting individuals and communities

**Alcohol a high priority**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

# Substance Misuse Strategy and Late Night Economy

Welsh Assembly Government approach:

- Promoting use of existing powers
- Lobbying/working with UK Government for tougher action on alcohol
- Considering/making case for more powers for Welsh Assembly Government



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

# Promoting better use of existing powers

- WAG/WLGA Framework for managing the late night economy
- Four one-year pilot projects 2008/9
- Revising and updating the framework



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

# Working with UK Government

## Representations to UK Government:

- Price
- Licensing, including Public Health objective in Licensing Act
- Advertising/Promotion
- Labelling



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

# Devolved powers?

Strategy includes a commitment to

–“Consider whether there is scope under the GOW Act 2006 to strengthen the hand of licensing authorities in Wales”

- Consistent lobbying of UK Government for tougher controls on availability of alcohol
- Formal approach to UK Government September 2010, but declined



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government



# UK developments

- Rebalancing the Licensing Act
  - Including public health objective?
- Review of alcohol and taxation
- Ban on below cost selling



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

# Managing LNE

- Effective interventions now widely understood
- Range of approaches – local solutions
- Tools/interventions are in place
- Co-ordination of efforts, partnership working - co-ordinated activity works, but needs to be sustained



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government