



OPERATION ARIES

TRADERS & PARTNERS AGREEMENT

1. Partnership working

- 1.1. Operation ARIES recognises and accepts that the success of the partnership is dependent upon all partners working closely together in accordance with the agreed Terms of Reference; however, this is particularly crucial between traders and partners.
- 1.2. Operation ARIES 'Traders & Partners Agreement' is designed to promote high standards and best practice for all parties in prevention of underage alcohol sales.
- 1.3. It is intended that the agreement will be delivered at a local level by active partnerships between the retailers, local authorities and police and co-ordinated through the Safe Durham Partnership.
- 1.4. A core set of essential, desirable and best practice criteria for responsible retailing has been compiled (See Annex A) which will provide guidance to retailers with regard standards that would be expected. However, there is room for flexibility in terms of how certain criteria can be satisfied to cater for local initiatives already in place.
- 1.5. The relationship between traders and partners will be the subject of more significant change and consequently a specific agreement is desirable. This agreement will help to ensure that;
 - Respective roles between traders and partners is clear and understood.
 - Trust and openness between traders and partners is established and developed.
 - Traders become part of the solution rather than being seen as part of the problem.

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- 1.6. 'Traders' include owners, licensees and staff from both retail and public house premises. 'Partners' consist of officers from Local Authority Trading Standards and Licensing Teams and Durham Constabulary.

2. Traders agree to

- 2.1. Share information with the partners when they become aware of any potential or existing alcohol related problems irrespective of whether this involves their own or other premises.
- 2.2. Permit partners to access premises, inspect and discuss operating systems, discuss and question issues with staff and customers, etc. *(Note: Officers have certain legal powers in this respect; however, it is the expectation of the partners that traders will allow officers access in the widest sense and not limit officers to only undertaking those activities permitted by powers.)*
- 2.3. Enter into open and honest discussions with partners about what happens in and around premises relating to the supply of alcohol with the aim of securing the necessary enforcement assistance to reduce problems.
- 2.4. Allow partners to share information (received from and obtained during visits) with other partners to ensure that the best solutions are found to any problems raised.
- 2.5. Contribute to partners joint working operations as and when requested to do so.
- 2.6. Promote Operation ARIES by displaying literature and media supplied by the partnership and engaging in time-limited media initiatives to tackle underage drinking and the supply of alcohol to young people under the age of 18.

3. Partners agree to

- 3.1. Ensure that all traders are aware of their responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003.
- 3.2. Undertake joint working based on information received from traders in an attempt to tackle the issues identified.
- 3.3. Partners will work together and with traders to achieve the objectives of Operation ARIES. Prosecution or review will only be undertaken when support, advice and training

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have been unsuccessful, or when the issue is so serious that prosecution or review is the only suitable option.

- 3.4. Share any concerns relating to specific premises with the owners/licensees of those premises and undertake joint working to attempt to tackle the concerns identified.
- 3.5. Not undertake enforcement action against traders, unless their activities undermine the desired Operation ARIES outcomes.
- 3.6. Undertake targeted test purchasing operations, but only where working with traders and other partners has failed to secure the desired outcomes and where all other options for enforcement have been exhausted.
- 3.7. In the event that test purchasing operations are undertaken, share information with the traders involved.
- 3.8. Avoid applying for licence reviews unless working with traders and other partners has failed to secure the desired outcomes and where all other options for enforcement have been exhausted.

4. Review of agreement

4.1. This agreement will be reviewed after a 12 month period.

Signed.....

Signed.....

Print name.....

Print name.....

(On behalf of Operation ARIES Partners)

(Trader)

Premises.....

Annex A – Traders checklist

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| E | Signed the Operation licensees agreement | |
| E | Must operate 'Challenge 25' proof of age scheme (materials will be supplied if required) | |
| E | Must display all statutory under age sales notices | |
| E | Must have a policy and procedure to prevent the illegal sale of alcohol to those under age | |
| E | Must have a procedure to report illicit sales of alcohol (Proxy Sales) | |
| E | Must have refusal register, or system to record any refusals made by staff | |
| E | <p>Must have staff training on crime prevention and crime scene prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> crime prevention, scene preservation <input type="checkbox"/> dealing with drunkenness <input type="checkbox"/> prevention of public nuisance <input type="checkbox"/> under age sales, assessing age, fake ID's and refusals <input type="checkbox"/> protection of children from harm | |
| E | Acceptance of a proof of age card (i.e. PASS approved) | |
| D | Should document specific authorisation of staff to sell age related products | |
| D | Should have an anti-theft policy and procedures | |
| D | Use of stickers and/or till prompts to promote 'Challenge 25' | |
| D | Use of an alarm system and security arrangements to protect staff and premises | |
| D | (If fitted) CCTV should be in correct working order and traders should have capacity to provide partners with CCTV evidence when required | |
| BP | Is a member of a trade representative organisation (NFRN, RASG, etc.) – (not essential) If so which?..... | |

Terms & Conditions

1. All literature and media remain the property of Operation ARIES partnership
2. The Operation ARIES logo is the property of the partnership and may not be reproduced, copied or used without the permission of the partnership
3. The Operation ARIES Partnership reserves the right to withdraw its media and literature from any premise that it feels is not operating under the conditions of the agreement

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