Promoting Responsible Drinking

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Issues covered

- Simon O'Brien and ACPO- New ways of speaking
- The story so far- The 2003 Act
- ACPO seven strand strategy
- Good practice
  - Best Bar None
  - PASS
  - Purple flags
  - Health Partnerships

ACPO- previous mantras?

- ACPO 43 voices
- Unified positions where possible
- Get beyond the immediate mantras and change some of the narrative
- Balanced position but challenging
- New voices from Scotland and a new environment for learning

The story so far

- Alcohol in Britain is a legal substance that has both positive and negative effects- a drug that alters mood and behaviour
- It comes with a large, well organised, economically powerful trading activity
  - But…160 murders in London in 2007 : 40 had alcohol as a co present feature, just behind drugs with 41
  - If it were invented today would it be outlawed?

The story so far… cont

- Its sale, to whom, and places for consumption, have for some time (WW1) been regulated, this fell generally to the police
- So perhaps war, rather than public health and harm, brought us to where we were
- Police are still a lead body in licensing enforcement

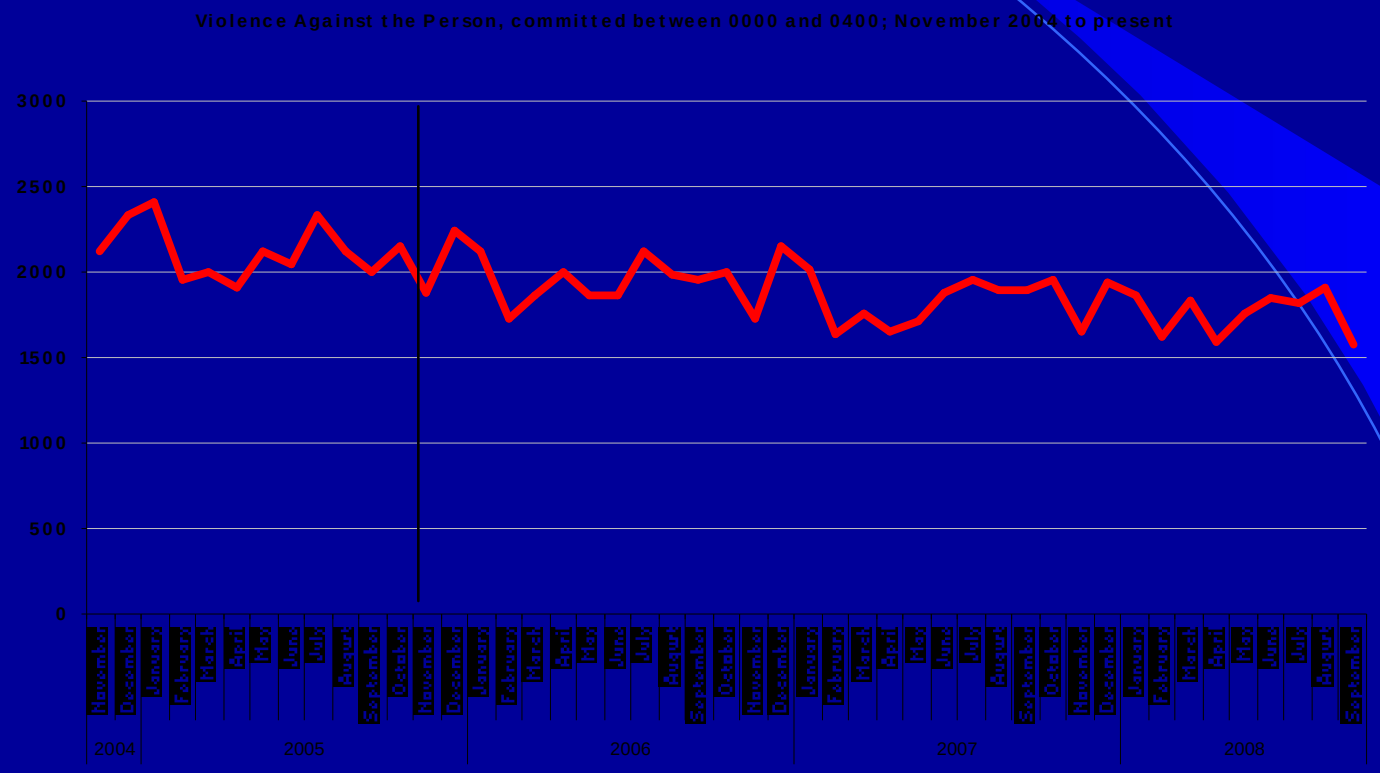
The story so far.. cont

- The 2003(2005) Act, now three year on, was perhaps heralded both as a saviour or a demon.. depending on point of view
- Certainly as it was the domain of the DCMS gave a clue as to what was envisaged
  - It was about culture change rather than just deregulation per se
  - Maybe then more about public health

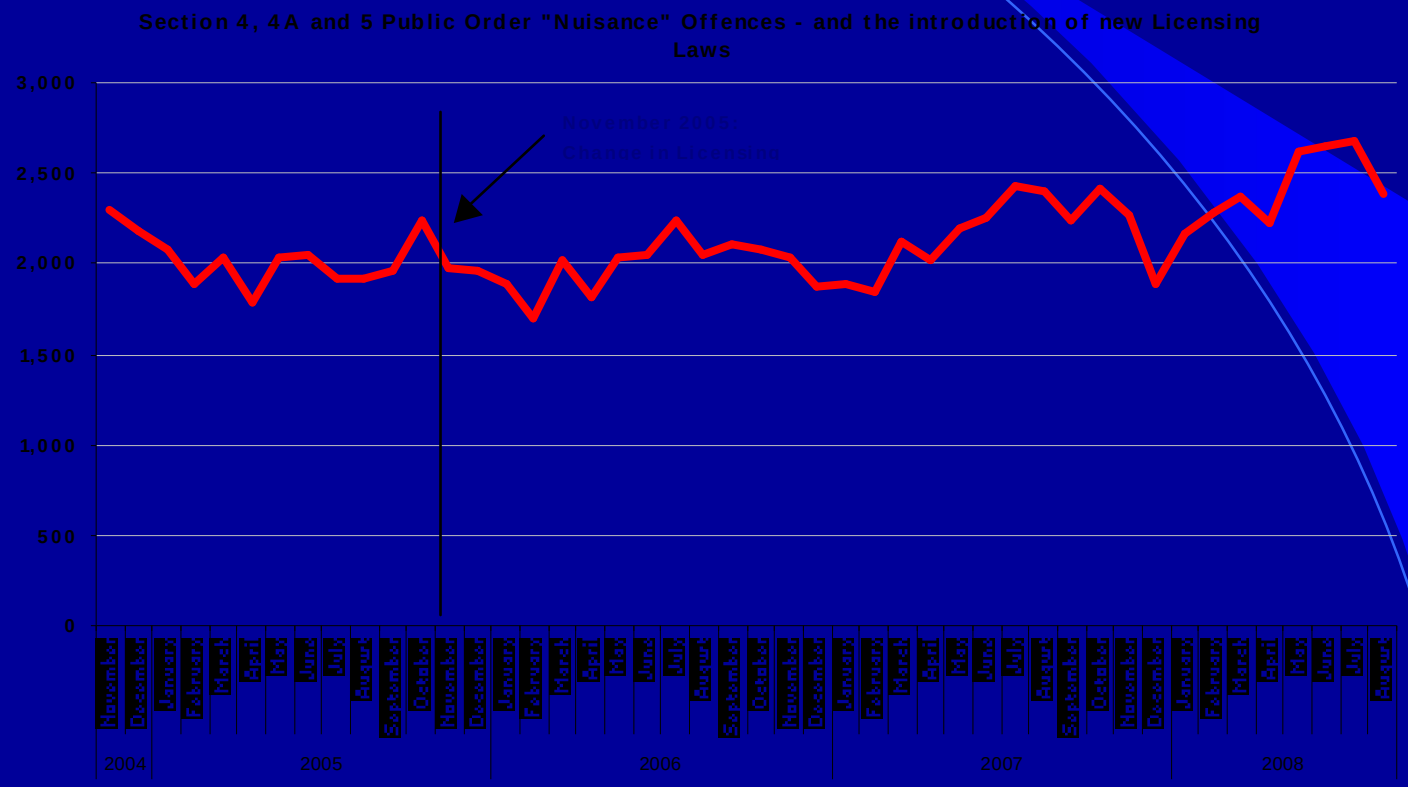
The story so far.. cont

- Views ranged from wine consumption "European style" outside in market squares to a Calamity Jane"last chance wild west saloon" scenario
- Greater ease of access would normally tend to indicate greater consumption
- Less barriers to entry could lead to less expensive products
- Truth rarely completely follows reality

Violent Crime



Nuisance and disorder



The story so far.. cont

- BCS estimates half all of violent crime not reported to police
- This rises to three quarters when measuring ‘moderately serious’ violence
- Data does not take full account of hospital admissions
- Licensing Act- cause and effect?
- Take clear account of public perceptions- Home Affairs Select Cttee.

The story so far.. cont

- Evidence to the Culture Media and Sport Committee- The Acts effect on C&DA broadly neutral
- Temporally offences moved on slightly to earlier hours
- Culture change not just enforcement- enforcement
- ACPO is not anti alcohol
- But we are anti mis-sale, mis-use and mis-behaviour

Reflected within ACPO's seven strand strategy

- Cultural change
- Trade acting responsibly
- Properly planned town centres
- Appropriate licensing decisions
- CDRP partnership activity with the trade
- CDRP enforcement activity
- CPS / Courts taking offences seriously

Examples of good practice

- Problem solving, Place shaping, Long term
- Best Bar None
- Purple flags
- PASS schemes
- Cambridgeshire WTSA working with partners, police to increase awareness and training in retail
- Safer glass alternatives
  - Significant academic research looked at glass injuries both malicious and accidental

Examples of good practice

- Alcohol arrest referrals, uses the police as gateway
  - Small pilot has proved successful in reducing re-offending
- Pilot being extended to further 10 BCU's nationally
- But is the thinking right? Viz maybe away from arrest and sanction for drink related offences to a change in mind set

Examples of good practice

- Cardiff model, amongst others, shares data and aims to join up with Health care professionals
- Custody nurses, dealing with risk and vulnerability
- Problem solving and partnership is key
- Honest assessment of the nature and scale of any real or perceived problem

Summary

- Cultural change is the key- this needs to be led by Government
- Enforcement is but one avenue
- Legislation/regulation all must lead to effective change
- Good partnerships
- Change the mantra
- With some minor changes the Act is here to stay
- Alcohol is here to stay……. we need to manage it

Thankyou

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