

**Evidence presented by Middlesbrough Council, Responsible Authority for Health, in relation to the application made by Cleveland Police for a review of the premises licence for The Empire nightclub situated on Corporation Road, under the Licensing Act 2003**

Further to my statement dated 28 June 2022 I wish to add the following:

Middlesbrough Council's Safe Haven Service (SHS) has been operating since December 2015. Throughout this period, it has continued to work towards providing a wide range of benefits, responding to problems arising from alcohol and substance misuse, violence against the person and all aspects of vulnerability in the town centre

The SHS operates within the night-time economy every Friday from 10pm – 3.30am and Saturday 11pm – 4.30am (11 hours per weekend). It also operates at additional key times when the town centre is busy, such as Sundays prior to Bank Holidays, during Christmas and New Year periods, University 'Fresher's week' and for large events that encourage large crowds and the supply of alcohol.

Aims of the service include:

- Reducing attendances to local A&E departments and admissions to wards; Reducing demands on NEAS by providing an alternative option to 999 calls, an alternative drop-off point to A&E, reducing both journey and waiting times;
- Assisting Police by providing a safe place to for those not warranting arrest but requiring a protective intervention;
- Reducing crime, particularly substance-fueled violence/domestic abuse and risks to vulnerable people and victims of crime;
- Increasing the number of clients accessing community services by making referrals
- Promoting positive lifestyle messages to increase awareness of alcohol-related harm;
- Increasing the number of brief interventions that are proven to reduce drinking to harmful levels and alcohol dependency.

Between April 2018 and March 2020 the SHS supported 1,532 people. Presenting issues ranged from and were not limited to fall related injuries, head injuries, laceration, intoxication and the effects of substance misuse.

As a result of the Covid pandemic the SHS was reviewed, adapted and changes to the delivery of the SHS were made, introducing a mobile service in order to protect

staff and the public from the risk of infection. This included the introduction of two ambulances and roadside clinical assessments and triage.

Middlesbrough Council's SHS has a professional team consisting of clinically trained staff and street marshalls, all of whom are trained in recognising and dealing with vulnerable people.

Middlesbrough Council currently commission Medics UK and Vistech Security to provide suitably qualified staff to work within the constraints of the service.

Medics UK provide accident and emergency nurses and HCPC paramedics to support the SHS. All staff come from an A&E background with both clinical and mental health experience and skills, they are able to address patient's symptoms in a timely manner and offer information and advice about relevant services in the area.

All of Medic UK's staff undertake continual professional development including in house training for Safeguarding, Substance Abuse Training, and Mental Health Awareness as well as clinical training from the College of Paramedics and Royal College of Nursing. Staffs qualifications are checked bi annually to comply with CQC guidelines.

Medics UK provide SHS with two ambulances equipped with all of the appropriate medical equipment to ensure that the unit and staff have the most up to date equipment and drugs for patients in their care, including Cardiac Monitors, Medical Gasses, Wound Closure kits, Trauma Bags and First Aid equipment.

They also provide administrative support, collating information from the SHS medical reports that are completed by medical staff at the time of dealing with any incident. Information from the reports is provided to Middlesbrough Council on a weekly basis. Personal and private details of all service users are not shared with the Council. This is to ensure compliance around patient confidentiality and GDPR. The data that is shared by Medics UK includes dates, times, locations, gender of patients, incident details and outcome of treatment/care provided by Medics UK.

The data within the synopsis that has been submitted in evidence (exhibit ref FMH/1) was taken from a spreadsheet compiled by Medics UK dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – 23 July 2022. A redacted copy of the spreadsheet is included exhibit reference FMH/2.

I can confirm that the incident included within the synopsis (exhibit ref FMH/1) dated 21.08.21, concerned The Empire, as I was on duty that evening, in company with the medic that treat the male with a cut to his hand. The male advised the medic that he had been fighting inside The Empire. I can also add that the bus shelter described in the incident dated 12.03.22 is a nearby location that is regularly used by The Empire's customers.



**Public Health and Public Protection**

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Signed: 

Dated 16 August 2022