

ASAO Conference 2024 Notes

Drugs & Alcohol

- Drugs & Alcohol Policy ASB noted as being on the rise – Alcohol incidents specifically.
- No specific issues reported in the group regarding drugs, only alcohol. Shows are encouraged to work with their local SAG. Purpose and scope of a SAG SAGs provide a forum for discussing and advising on public safety at an event. They aim to help organisers with the planning, and management of an event and to encourage cooperation and coordination between all relevant agencies. They are non-statutory bodies and so do not have legal powers or responsibilities, and are not empowered to approve or prohibit events from taking place.
- Event organisers and others involved in the running of an event, retain the principal legal duties for ensuring public safety.
- In many areas local police are insisting that a Drugs & Alcohol Policy is in place so Shows may like to consider developing & adopting a plan.
- NB: Police usually charge to attend a Show and this can be very costly.
- Trade Stands hospitality/free bars are unregulated and usually open all day. Alcohol issues have been an associated problem and has caused safety issues especially at the end of the Show with vehicle movements on Showgrounds. Therefore, any trade stand offering hospitality must comply with the same rules set out in trade exhibitor packs for alcohol etc.
- Some Shows have installed CCTV on towers at identified problem sites and this has reduced the number of issues.
- Drug/Alcohol policies.
 - Cathy Ricketts is apparently preparing a paper which she will share with the ASAO to disseminate.
 - Be mindful that problems caused by drugs/alcohol are not always by those people you'd expect. It's easy to think that young people, YFC members etc. will be the culprits but that is often not the case.
 - Various Shows have had issues with traders giving away free alcohol and some having alcohol as part of their hospitality. It was suggested that wording should be included in tradestand paperwork to flag these potential issues, to be mindful of 'responsible refreshments', with mention of Challenge 25. This often results in the bar areas being wrongly accused of causing drunken behaviour when often sufficient alcohol can be gained from the tradestands.
 - Contractors have also caused issues for some – drinking on the job and partaking in smoking drugs. In one situation, this was identified, addressed and the people involved removed from the site. There is a need to be vigilant with everyone.
 - Three Counties mentioned they use one bar provider for their Show rather than several smaller ones in an attempt to control any under age drinking issues as the onus is on the one provider who would have a lot to lose if he didn't abide by the licensing rules.

Underage Drinking

- Generally shows felt there is more underage drinking on the showground than realised – it's a problem with traders giving alcohol hospitality on their stands, rather than visitors buying from the bar. Family appear to be giving to underage members of their family.