

LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2014

Members Present: Sandy Kelman, Convener; and Billy Nicol (as substitute for Dave Bliss), Linda Smith, Diane Sande, Craig Cole, Inspector Barry Skinner (as substitute for Inspector Jim Hume), Ken Eddie, Emily Queen, Ruary Campbell.

Also present: Heather Wilson and Shamini Omnes, NHS Grampian; Piotr Teodorowski, Civic Forum; Chris Fowler, Licensed Trade; Bob Westland, Door Security; Steph Dunsmuir.

Apologies: Jim Hume, Dave Bliss, Andrew Jones, George Wyatt.

| | Item Title | Discussion | Action / Decisions | To be actioned by |
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| 1 | <u>Appointment of Vice Convener</u> | Sandy Kelman nominated Ruary Campbell as the new Vice Convener. This was seconded by Ken Eddie and agreed unanimously by the Forum. | Ruary Campbell was appointed as the new Vice Convener. | |
| 2 | <u>Training Programme - Police</u> | <p>The Forum received a presentation from Barry Skinner in relation to how Police Scotland was operating in respect of incidents at licensed premises. He advised that some of the current issues for the Police included over-selling of alcohol; bingeing/hazardous practices (such as bottle packages); excessive consumption, and people becoming drunk and incapable; premises' awareness of the legislation and alcohol related violence and crimes, particularly sex crimes, where the Police would investigate whether the licensed premises should have stopped the sale of alcohol, or perhaps intervened.</p> <p>Although an incident might happen elsewhere, the Police would look to see if there was a link</p> | <p>To thank Barry Skinner for the informative presentation, and to note that the next presentation would be from the Licensing Standards Officers.</p> <p>Linda Smith suggested that it would be useful to hear about the types of intervention undertaken on a multi-agency basis at a future meeting.</p> | T-E Gilchrist / D Sande (for November mtg) |

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| | <p>Training Presentation – Police cont.</p> | <p>to licensed premises – for example, had the victim been at the premises? Was the accused / suspect connected to the premises? There were many incidents where a victim had come from licensed premises, so the Police now looked beyond where the incident had occurred to see if the activities of the premises had contributed to the incident, e.g. through a lack of training or policy in relation to asking for ID or searching on admission. In particular incidents, the Police might inspect the premises to identify if all the staff had been trained; if anyone had been ejected that night; was a first aider on duty etc.</p> <p>Where premises had been identified in relation to e.g. thefts, assaults or underage drinking, then that might instigate task visits.</p> <p>The Police reviewed information on a 24 hour basis, looking at all data for crimes which were linked to premises / alcohol. Analysts identified hotspots in relation to disorder / crime recording, i.e. recency, frequency, gravity. Resources would then be deployed tactically.</p> <p>Barry ran through the most common offences, and advised that the ‘responsible person’ detailed could be the premises manager, the</p> | | |

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| | <p>Training Presentation – Police cont.</p> | <p>personal licence holder, or whoever else was on the premises and took the decision to sell alcohol. He discussed the issue of vicarious liability where if the staff were charged, the licence holder would also be charged.</p> <p>Where premises were monitored and it was felt that intervention was required, the licence holder would be invited to meet the Police to discuss an action plan – partnership working was key to the process. Where there were ongoing issues, the premises could be reported to the Licensing Board seeking a review of their licence. Barry advised that there was some flexibility within the processes used, but highlighted that there was national scrutiny of local incidents. Some of the intervention options included CCTV, search reviews, door steward reviews and safe drinking receptacles.</p> <p>The Forum then watched the ‘Who are you?’ video clip which encouraged bystander intervention to assist where someone was under the influence of alcohol and potentially in danger. Barry advised that if the Police came across a couple where one person was in a worse state than the other, they would stop them and ask whether everything was ok.</p> <p>The Forum thanked Barry for the informative presentation and asked several questions.</p> | | |

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| | <p>Training Presentation – Police cont.</p> | <p>The Vice Convener raised the issue of incidents being linked back to premises, noting his concern that an incident would then always link back to a nightclub as the last venue visited, when the majority of the alcohol might have been consumed in e.g. 4 or 5 pubs before the person got to the nightclub. Barry advised that the Police had to establish if there was a link to the premises, and if so, how recent it was. The Police would look at whether anything happened on the premises which contributed to the incident, and if there were lessons to be learned. Often, it would simply be more of an awareness raising exercise.</p> <p>The Vice Convener also raised the issue of off-sales, and the fact that although the alcohol was purchased there, it would be consumed elsewhere. Barry advised that this had been identified as an issue by the Police and work was ongoing in this area. If there had been an incident, the Police would look at where the alcohol might have been purchased, and would raise awareness of any problems with local shopkeepers. The Convener agreed that work was needed around off-sales, noting that the licensed trade was undertaking a lot of good work – for example, the Best Bar None scheme. He added that the Police were doing a lot of work around the contribution of off-sales to domestic abuse incidents.</p> | | |

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| | Training Presentation – Police cont. | Emily Queen asked if there was a potential issue of non-reporting, as the premises might feel that this would cause them trouble. Barry advised that the Police undertook a lot of work with the premises to highlight that reporting an incident would not be seen as a 'black mark' against them. | | |
| 3 | <u>Minute of Meeting of 23 April 2014</u> | Linda Smith advised that she had not been in attendance at the meeting with the Kincorth and Leggart Community Council, and Sandy Kelman had attended the meeting alone. | The minute was otherwise confirmed as accurate and approved. | |

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| 4 | <u>Matters Arising</u> | <p><u>Meeting with Licensed Trade</u> The Convener advised that the suggestion of a specific event to be held with the Licensed Trade had been made as the result of the benchmarking exercise with other LLFs in Scotland.</p> <p><u>LLF Website</u> A meeting was to be arranged between the Convener, Tara-Erin Gilchrist, the Clerk and Karen Riddoch to discuss the new LLF website and links which could be made with Community Councils.</p> <p><u>Statement of Licensing Policy</u> The Forum again discussed their thoughts around the fact that the policy should take in more than simply the Licensing objectives. Barry Skinner suggested that there were also some formatting issues with the document which needed to be rectified.</p> <p><u>LSO Report to Licensing Board</u> The Forum heard that the report had not yet been presented to the Licensing Board, and would therefore come before the Forum at its September meeting instead.</p> <p><u>Workshop Session</u> The Convener advised that a meeting had been arranged with Linda Bowie of Alcohol Focus Scotland for 2 July.</p> | <p>Ruary Campbell advised that some representatives of the Licensed Trade had shown an interest in attending meetings of the Forum. He undertook to find out if they would also like a separate event to be arranged.</p> <p>Members suggested that it would be helpful to invite Karen Riddoch to the September LLF meeting to discuss engagement with Community Councils in more detail.</p> <p>Issues / comments on the Policy to be raised as part of the joint meeting with the Board on 3 July.</p> <p>To be presented to the Forum at its September meeting.</p> <p>Update to be given at September LLF meeting.</p> | <p>R Campbell</p> <p>S Dunsmuir</p> <p>All</p> <p>T-E Gilchrist / D Sande</p> <p>S Kelman / D Bliss</p> |

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| | <u>Matters Arising cont.</u> | <p><u>Samaritans</u> At the previous meeting, the Forum had asked if it would be possible for the Samaritans to record when they felt a caller was under the influence of alcohol. Craig Cole advised that this would be difficult to assess, as calls were not necessarily from the Aberdeen City / Shire area and therefore it would be difficult to obtain local data. It was also noted that it would only be an assumption made by the call-taker that the caller had been drinking. He advised that work was going on nationally in relation to what was recorded from calls.</p> | Noted. | |
| 5 | <u>Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill</u> | <p>The Convener advised the Forum that he had suggested this item be placed on the agenda to raise awareness of the new Bill. Diane Sande advised that she had a set of notes from a presentation by Quentin Fisher in relation to the Bill which could be circulated to members to provide further information.</p> | The Forum agreed that it would be helpful to receive a copy of Diane Sande's notes. | D Sande |

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| 6 | <u>Conflict Management Training</u> | The Clerk advised that she had been approached by the company as they wanted to attend a future meeting of the Forum. Emily Queen advised that she had also been approached, however it was not clear how the Forum would benefit from the company's attendance. The Forum heard from Bob Westland who advised that there was already a conflict management aspect to the door supervisors' course and therefore he felt it was unnecessary for the Forum to hear from the company. | The Clerk undertook to advise the company that members did not feel that the Forum was the most appropriate place for them to visit, as most operators already had in-house conflict management training. | S Dunsmuir |
| 7 | <u>Attitudes Towards Alcohol in Scotland - Results from the 2013 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey</u> | The Forum had the results of the survey before it for information. The Convener noted that there was still work to be done around people not realising the dangers of binge drinking. Members agreed that the information was useful in terms of informing public health. | Noted. | |

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| 8 | <p><u>Licensing Objective 1: Preventing Crime and Disorder - Update from Police Scotland</u></p> | <p>The Forum heard from Barry Skinner who advised that at the recent Licensing Board meeting, there had been two new off-sales requests – one had been refused in line with policy, and one had been granted against policy. He advised that the local Community Council had objected to the request which had ultimately been refused, and that he felt the Board had found it very helpful to have a local perspective on the potential effects of granting the licence.</p> <p>The Convener advised that Heather Wilson attended the Board meetings on behalf of the NHS and that objections were being tracked in order to see how many licences were granted contrary to policy. He added that presenting the Police and Health data to the Forum would allow members to start to identify any trends.</p> <p>Linda Smith added that there was work to be done with Community Councils in terms of helping them to understand how they could make objections. She added that she would be keen to see the health professionals in local areas also feeding in their comments to the process.</p> | Noted. | |

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| 9 | <u>Licensing Objective 2: Securing Public Health – Update from LSO</u> | Diane Sande advised that the LSOs continued to meet monthly with the Police and that they also liaised closely with the Noise pollution officers from Environmental Health. Two unannounced visits had been carried out and there had been one joint operation with Police Scotland in the northern area of Aberdeen. | Noted. | |
| 10 | <u>Licensing Objective 3: Preventing Public Nuisance - Update from Unight Representative</u> | <p>The Vice Convener advised that UNIGHT had met the day before. At the May AGM, it had been agreed to open up UNIGHT to include other major late night premises, which would increase the membership of UNIGHT. He advised that there were discussions around the suggestion that the Windmill Brae and Justice Mill area should be pedestrianized during the hours of the night-time economy. It was suggested that there be a trial of this during Freshers Week. This would also assist the Street Pastors who would look to set up a mobile spot in that area. He advised that the University of Aberdeen and RGU had different dates for Freshers Week and therefore it would be held over a month, rather than a week.</p> <p>Finally, he advised that UNIGHT were supporting the summer designated driver campaign and free soft drinks would be provided for designated drivers.</p> | Noted. | |

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| 11 | <u>Update from NHS Grampian and Alcohol and Drugs Partnership</u> | <p>Linda Smith suggested that Chris Littlejohn could attend a future meeting of the LLF to give an alcohol needs assessment presentation.</p> <p>The Forum heard that the most recent ADP statistics showed that 797 people had been taken to a designated place of safety, in comparison with 665 in the previous year. Discussions were ongoing with the Police and A&E in terms of dealing with D&Is in the face of decreased funding.</p> <p>Finally, the Forum was advised of the recent updates with the Meet the Hendersons campaign.</p> | <p>Possibly for the November agenda.</p> <p>Noted.</p> | S Dunsmuir |
| 12 | <u>Licensing Objective 5: Protecting Children from Harm - Update from Children's Services Representative</u> | Billy Nicol advised that there was no further update on PRS at this time. A meeting had however been held to discuss PRS and an update could be given at the next meeting. | Noted. | D Bliss – if update available for next meeting |

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| 13 | <u>Progress Statement</u> | <p><u>Door Stewards</u> Bob Westland provided the history of the issue, and advised that the Door Stewards Working Group had met three times to consider the issue of a formula for the number of door stewards employed, and the perceived inconsistency in when premises were required to have door stewards in place. Further to the Working Group meetings, Bob advised that his company had met with Police Scotland and SIA to discuss the matter further, but they had been unable to come up with a formula to be enforced. He advised that each premises should undertake a risk assessment based on the number of entrances and exits, as well as the capacity and levels. His company would then provide staff based on what the premises had asked for – if his company disagreed with what had been requested, they would undertake their own risk assessment. He advised that if Police Scotland were always being called to an establishment where door stewards were not employed, they might wish to carry out an intervention. If matters were still unresolved, the Licensing Board could be informed.</p> | Noted. The Convener advised that if there was any evidence of inconsistency in relation to when the Licensing Board required door stewards to be employed, he would be happy to write to the Board on behalf of the Forum. | |
| 14 | <u>Licensing Board - Agenda for 17 June 2014 (for information)</u> | The Forum had before it the most recent Licensing Board agenda for information. | Noted. | |
| 15 | <u>Joint Meeting – Licensing Board and Local Licensing Forum</u> | The Forum agreed that they would like to ask the Board questions around the new Statement of Licensing Policy, particularly in | All members to pass any topics for the agenda for the joint meeting to the Clerk. | All / S Dunsmuir |

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| | | relation to how the Board felt the Policy was operating working for them. It was also noted that there were still some formatting issues with the finalised document. | | |

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Steph Dunsmuir, tel. 522503 or email sdunsmuir@aberdeencity.gov.uk