


LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

Wednesday, 17 September 2014

Members present: Sandy Kelman, Convener; Ruary Campbell, Vice Convener; and Dave Bliss, Children’s Services; Shamini Omnes, NHS Grampian; Diane Sande, Licensing Standards Officer; Emily Queen, Community Safety Partnership; William Christie, Licensed Trade – Off Sales; Andrew Jones, Education; and Chris Cromar, Youth Council.

Also present: Chris Littlejohn, NHS Grampian (for item 1); Heather Wilson, NHS Grampian; Piotr Teodorowski, Civic Forum; Steph Dunsmuir, Legal and Democratic Services.

Apologies: Craig Cole, Ken Eddie.

	Item Title	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
1	<p><u>Training Programme - Chris Littlejohn - Needs Assessment</u></p>	<p>The Forum received a presentation from Chris Littlejohn on alcohol needs assessment:-</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  Presentation.pptx </div> <p>Following the presentation, the Convener noted that the majority of people would consider drugs to be the biggest problem in Grampian, but the statistics showed that alcohol was a much greater problem. He added that people referred to ‘legal highs’, but that alcohol was the biggest legal high.</p> <p>The Vice Convener referred to the statistics in the presentation which suggested that education did not work particularly well to reduce alcohol related harm to children. Chris explained that sometimes, school-based education could worsen the problem as children who knew more about alcohol would use it more. He added however that where children were at risk already, education would</p>	<p>The Convener thanked Chris Littlejohn for his interesting and informative presentation, and asked that the slides be circulated to members for information.</p> <p>It was also noted that as Karen Riddoch would be in attendance at the next meeting, the presentation from Diane Sande and Tara-Erin Gilchrist would be postponed until early next year.</p> <p>The Forum noted the suggestion that the statistics provided as part of the presentation could be incorporated into teaching information.</p>	<p>S Dunsmuir</p> <p>D Sande / T-E Gilchrist</p> <p>S Dunsmuir (for future agenda)</p> <p>H Wilson</p>

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		<p>often reduce the risk for these children. Heather Wilson added that it was important to look at the range of measures and actions available and highlighted that the Curriculum for Excellence focused on building confidence and resilience which was a strong tool to use in reducing harm to children. Chris agreed and added that the Curriculum for Excellence was a promising way forward, as it did not simply 'lecture' children that it was wrong to take alcohol. The Convener added that ADP had found that simply taking someone who had experienced problems with alcohol into a school did not work particularly well to reduce harm. Piotr Teodorowski agreed, adding that children and young people reacted more positively when messages were delivered to them by someone of their own age. Andrew Jones agreed that there was limited impact if someone was simply brought in to speak to the children. He noted that some of the statistics provided by Chris were extremely helpful and asked if there was teaching information which could be made available around these statistics. He suggested that the data could be used for example in a maths lesson. The Convener advised that Heather Wilson and Fraser Hoggins had previously worked on an alcohol and drugs set of materials for schools and proposed that this information could be incorporated. This would mean that schools were not simply conducting lessons on alcohol, but that information could be built into other lessons, such as maths, history, geography etc.</p> <p>William Christie pointed out that some of the data in the presentation was more up to date than other sections, and Chris added that it was a challenge to keep data up to date. It was also noted that some of the information came directly from the Inland Revenue, and this had not yet been provided.</p>		

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		<p>Shamini Omnes asked if there was a way to promote the statistics around alcohol, and it was suggested that, for example, in relation to Designated Driver campaigns, the Police might have statistical evidence available on the number of drunk drivers.</p> <p>Piotr also noted that the statistics for student areas were quite high, and asked if statistics were available for the months when students would not be resident in the area. Chris advised that he did not have the information, but he thought it could probably be provided.</p> <p>Dave Bliss noted the statistics provided in relation to Finland, and stated that it was interesting that the country had heavily controlled access to alcohol sales, but that alcohol was still a problem. He also added that although the statistics in relation to alcohol-related admissions to hospital for people aged 19 and under were low, that needed to be looked at in the context that they would only have been allowed to drink lawfully for one year at that age.</p> <p>Chris Cromar asked if people might think twice about drinking if they were charged by the NHS, for example, when they had to have their stomach pumped. Chris Littlejohn stated that he would be concerned that this would lead people to avoid seeking treatment, and added that the people who would be in most need of the service would be those who could least afford to pay for it.</p> <p>Finally, there was some discussion around the lower figures for Aberdeenshire, and the cause of these statistics. Chris suggested that social gradients were a factor, noting that a lot of the admissions from areas of deprivation in Aberdeen might be as a result of drinking on an empty</p>		

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		stomach. He added that an affluent lifestyle had a 'protective effect' on people.		
2	<u>Minute of Meeting of 18 June 2014</u>		The minute was confirmed as accurate and approved.	
3	<u>Matters Arising</u>	<p><u>Meeting with Licensed Trade</u> In relation to the previous discussion as to whether members of the licensed trade would be interested in attending meetings of the Forum, the Vice Convener suggested that this might be possible early next year.</p> <p><u>LLF Website / Engagement with Community Councils</u> The Convener advised that he had met with Karen Riddoch, Community Council Liaison Officer, to discuss links between the LLF and Community Councils, and she would be in attendance at the November LLF meeting to discuss the matter further.</p> <p><u>LSO Report to Licensing Board</u> Diane Sande advised that the report was currently with officers in the Licensing team, and suggested that it might be available to present to the LLF at its meeting in November.</p> <p><u>Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill</u> Diane advised the Forum that she had brought along a copy of her notes from the presentation by Quentin Fisher and these could be made available to anyone who wished to see them.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted – Karen Riddoch attending November meeting.</p> <p>Noted – if LSO report is available, it will be added to the agenda for the November meeting.</p> <p>Steph Dunsmuir undertook to scan in the document and email it to all members.</p>	<p>S Dunsmuir – for agenda</p> <p>D Sande / T-E Gilchrist</p> <p>S Dunsmuir</p>
4	<u>Membership Updates</u>	<p>The Convener advised that Linda Smith's role had changed, and that Shamini Omnes would now be the Health representative on the Forum.</p> <p>Steph Dunsmuir asked if a permanent representative had been appointed from the Youth</p>	<p>Noted – the distribution details for the Forum would be amended.</p> <p>Noted – the Youth Council to inform the Clerk once the</p>	<p>S Dunsmuir</p> <p>Youth Council / S Dunsmuir</p>

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		<p>Council now that Struan King was no longer the LLF representative, and Chris Cromar advised that the Youth Council would notify the Forum once a permanent representative was decided upon.</p> <p>Finally, the Convener advised that Ken Eddie had contacted him to explain that he would not be in attendance at the meeting as he had had a stroke. The Forum asked Steph Dunsmuir to write to Ken to pass on their best wishes for a speedy recovery.</p>	<p>representative had been nominated.</p> <p>Steph Dunsmuir undertook to write to Ken on behalf of the Forum.</p>	S Dunsmuir
5	<p><u>Alcohol Focus Scotland - Review of Statements of Licensing Policy</u></p>	<p>The Convener advised that he and Steph Dunsmuir had met with Linda Bowie of Alcohol Focus Scotland. At that meeting, Ms Bowie had stated that Aberdeen had one of the better licensing policies and that the Forum was also one of the better groups in operation.</p> <p>The review had looked at whether policies were easy to read, and the Forum noted that they had previously commented that they did not feel that the Aberdeen policy was an easy-read document. Aberdeen was highlighted as an example of good practice in terms of the policy being presented in context, summarising evidence and providing meaningful explanation to a particular policy approach. The Forum noted that this was likely as a result of the evidence provided by NHS Grampian and the Police.</p> <p>The review also noted that many of the policy statements claimed that the Licensing Boards had given due consideration to the views of consultees, but did not demonstrate how this had been done. The Forum noted that they did not feel that all their comments to the Licensing Board had been given due cognisance.</p> <p>The Forum also had a brief discussion around the 'Children's Access' section of the review, with</p>	<p>Noted. It was agreed that the review was a useful document for the Forum to utilise when working with the Licensing Board in future.</p>	

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		<p>Dave Bliss noting that there was hardly a child who was not at risk of alcohol in the home. Emily Queen advised that most premises usually displayed a notice on the door to state that there was a maximum of two drinks allowed per adult per meal when children were present. Diane Sande added that all on-sales premises should have that notice displayed. The Convener added that this was something to bear in mind for any future objections to the Licensing Board.</p> <p>The Forum noted the recommended actions contained in the review, particularly in relation to having clear and concise policy statements, and the recommendation that Licensing Boards publish a comprehensive licensing data set. The Forum agreed that the latter recommendation would be useful in terms of identifying the impact of the policy.</p>		
6	<p><u>Minute of Joint Meeting of Licensing Board and Local Licensing Forum - for information</u></p>	<p>The Forum noted the minute of the joint meeting. The Convener added that his recollection was that the Board members present had agreed to consider the inclusion of an aspirational statement in the licensing policy, but this was not reflected. The other members who had been in attendance at the joint meeting agreed that this had been discussed.</p> <p>The Convener also mentioned that one of the Board members had suggested a representative from supermarket off sales who could attend meetings of the Forum in future. Steph Dunsmuir advised that she had written to the nominated person, but no response had been forthcoming.</p>	<p>The Convener undertook to write to the Clerk to the Licensing Board on behalf of the Forum to raise the matter of an aspirational statement being included in the Statement of Licensing Policy, as had been discussed at the joint meeting.</p> <p>Steph Dunsmuir undertook to write again to the representative of supermarket off-sales to ask if they would be willing to attend meetings of the Forum.</p>	<p>S Kelman</p> <p>S Dunsmuir</p>
7	<p><u>Influence of the Local Licensing Forum - Discussion</u></p>	<p>The Convener advised that following previous discussions about the data reported to the LLF and how it was used to inform the work of the Forum, he had met with Dave Bliss and Steph Dunsmuir to</p>	<p>It was agreed to start the next meeting of the Forum at 1pm on 19 November, and that the workshop session would start at</p>	<p>S Dunsmuir – for agenda</p>

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		<p>discuss the matter further. It had been suggested that the Forum should hold a workshop session to discuss the matter in more detail, allowing members to look at what the Forum was trying to achieve, and what it could perhaps be doing better. Dave added that it was important that the Forum was using data meaningfully in order to make suggestions to the Board. He explained that it was not simply about reporting what was done, but that the Forum should be studying the effect of the data, and the difference it was making. He added that each agency round the table would have data which could be used by the Forum, but the workshop session would allow members to think about what they wanted to measure.</p> <p>The Convener suggested that 1-2 hours be set aside at the next meeting in November for the workshop. Dave would facilitate the workshop and would take the Forum through an exercise – ‘Turning the Curve’ – created by Mark Friedman. He advised that members would be asked to take some data with them to work through – the detail of this would be specified nearer the time.</p>	<p>3pm on that day.</p> <p>The Convener asked if it would be possible to make tea and coffee available prior to the meeting, and Steph Dunsmuir undertook to identify if a budget code was available. Emily Queen advised that she would be able to assist with this if no code was available.</p> <p>It was also agreed to extend the invitation to the workshop to members of the Licensing Board, as well as Linda Bowie from Alcohol Focus Scotland.</p> <p>Dave Bliss would contact members nearer the time of the workshop to specify the type of data they should bring to the meeting.</p>	<p>S Dunsmuir / E Queen</p> <p>S Dunsmuir</p> <p>D Bliss</p>
8	<u>Licensing Objective 1: Preventing Crime and Disorder - Update from Police Scotland</u>	None available.		
9	<u>Licensing Objective 2: Securing Public Health - Update from LSO</u>	<p>Diane Sande advised the Forum that four compliance notices had been served since the June meeting. The LSOs continued to meet with the Police and the Noise Pollution Officers within Environmental Health. Tara-Erin Gilchrist would also now be attending Community Hub meetings.</p> <p>Since the last meeting the LSOs had carried out two unannounced night and weekend visits.</p>	Noted.	

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		<p>Diane explained that they had been focussing on trying to remind personal licence holders about the requirement for refresher training, especially the independent operators who might not be aware of the deadlines for refresher training.</p> <p>Focussed visits on restaurants were carried out by both LSOs over summer. The visits had highlighted issues relating to staff training and signage. One compliance notice had been issued to one of the restaurants, and Diane advised that this had now been complied with. Several premises had also required revisits to ensure compliance.</p>		
10	<p><u>Licensing Objective 3: Preventing Public Nuisance - Update from Unight Representative</u></p>	<p>The Vice Convener advised that students had begun arriving in Aberdeen within the last week.</p> <p>He referred to statistics which had been passed to him from the Community Safety Partnership in relation to the number of crimes at UNIGHT premises in comparison to other licensed premises in the city centre. The general trend was that there had been fewer incidents in UNIGHT venues than in other premises – for example 188 common assaults in the city centre, but only 16 of these were on UNIGHT premises. The Vice Convener also advised that there had been 13 identification document crimes – 61% of these had been at UNIGHT premises. The Vice Convener explained that the training given to staff meant that door staff were more aware of processes and therefore these crimes were being more readily reported.</p> <p>He also referred to perceived inconsistencies between Licensing Board decisions across Scotland in terms of allowing venues to stay open later on the night of the Referendum. He stated that late licences would be granted if an event was</p>	<p>The Convener thanked the Vice Convener for the update, and noted that the data provided had evidenced that UNIGHT was helping to improve the city centre. He suggested that the Licensing Board could perhaps be encouraging venues to join up with schemes such as UNIGHT and Best Bar None.</p>	

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		of 'national significance' and argued that the Referendum was such an event, however Aberdeen had not granted any late licences to venues.		
11	<u>Licensing Objective 4: Protecting and Improving Public Health - Update from NHS and ADP</u>	<p>The Convener advised that within the first quarter, there had been 289 referrals to alcohol services, and 100% of these referrals had started treatment within 21 days, meeting the Government target.</p> <p>He advised that Drugs Action had been commissioned from the third sector for the Integrated Alcohol Service. Drugs Action would now be known as DA, so that it was not solely associated with drugs. The ADP would be undertaking work to promote DA. Emily Queen suggested that information could be included in the Services Information booklet which was issued to people through partners such as Cyrenians and Street Pastors.</p>	Noted – information on DA to be included in the Services Information booklet.	S Kelman / E Queen
12	<u>Licensing Objective 5: Protecting Children from Harm - Update from Children's Services Representative</u>	<p>Dave Bliss explained that Pre Referral Screening (PRS) was now referred to as MAS (Multi Agency Screening), as the original name was felt to be misleading. He added that the majority of reports for concern would go directly to the named person, but that there was also someone in post to deal with any referrals. He advised that discussions were ongoing about the data which would be collected around MAS.</p> <p>The Forum had been provided with details of the last two Licensing Board agendas for information.</p>	Noted.	
13	<u>Licensing Board Agendas - for information</u> - 2 July 2014 and 19 August 2014	The Forum had been provided with details of the last two Licensing Board agendas for information.	Noted.	
14	<u>Progress Statement</u>		Noted.	

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15	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u>	1pm, Wednesday 19 November.	1pm-3pm – Forum meeting – Karen Riddoch in attendance to discuss Community Councils. 3pm onwards – Workshop session.	

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