

# Public Document Pack



To: Sandy Kelman, Convener; Stuart McPhee, Vice Convener; and Peter Benton, Dave Bliss, Ken Eddie, Gillian Flett, Daniel Forbes, Tara-Erin Gilchrist, Andrew Jones, Kerry Laing, Jonathan Lloyd, Leanne McGowan, Giedre Neniute, Shamini Omnes and Diane Sande.

Town House,  
ABERDEEN, 18 May 2016

## LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

The Members of the **LOCAL LICENSING FORUM** are requested to meet in Committee Room 4 - Town House on **WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2016 at 2.00 pm.**

FRASER BELL  
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

### **BUSINESS**

- 1 Minute of Meeting of 16 March 2016 (Pages 5 - 12)
- 2 Matters Arising
- 3 Membership Updates

### **INTELLIGENCE (TO INFORM THE WORKING GROUP OF THE LICENSING FORUM)**

- 4 SLP Consultation Submission - NHS Grampian
- 5 SLP Consultation Submission - Police Scotland
- 6 Agenda Setting for Joint Meeting with the Licensing Board - 8 June 2016

- 6.1 Draft Minute of Previous Joint Meeting of the Licensing Board and Licensing Forum - 2 July 2015 (Pages 13 - 20)
- 6.2 Letter to the Convener of the Licensing Board - 13 January 2016 (Pages 21 - 26)
- 6.3 MESAS Recommendations (Pages 27 - 42)

**LICENSING OBJECTIVE 1 : PREVENTING CRIME AND DISORDER**

- 7.1 Update from Police Scotland

**LICENSING OBJECTIVE 2 : SECURING PUBLIC SAFETY**

- 7.2 Update from Licensing Standards Officer

**LICENSING OBJECTIVE 3 : PREVENTING PUBLIC NUISANCE**

- 7.3 Update from Unight Representative

**LICENSING OBJECTIVE 4 : PROTECTING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH**

- 7.4 Update from NHS Grampian and Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

**LICENSING OBJECTIVE 5 : PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARM**

- 7.5 Update from Children's Services Representative

- 8 Progress Statement (Pages 43 - 46)

Website Address: [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Iain Robertson, tel. 01224 522869 or email [iairobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:iairobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Substantive Members (voting)**

<b>Holders of premises licences and personal licences</b>
Stuart McPhee, UNIGHT, <u>Vice Convener</u> Leanne McGowan, Off Sales
<b>Chief Constable for the police area in which the Forum's area is situated</b>
Sgt Gillian Flett
<b>Persons having functions relating to health, education or social work</b>
Sandy Kelman, Aberdeen Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, <u>Convener</u>
Shamini Omnes, NHS Grampian
Peter Benton, Aberdeen Samaritans
Kerry Laing, Community Safety Partnership
Andrew Jones, Education, Aberdeen City Council
Dave Bliss, Children's Services, Aberdeen City Council
<b>Young People</b>
Giedre Neniute, Aberdeen City Youth Council
<b>Persons resident within the Forum's area</b>
Ken Eddie, Aberdeen Civic Forum
<b>Licensing Standards Officer</b>
Diane Sande (or Tara-Erin Gilchrist)

**Co-optees (non-voting)**

<b>Holders of premises licences and personal licences</b>
Dave McNair
William Christie
Adrian Gomes
<b>Persons having functions relating to health, education or social work</b>
Gerry Bowyer, Street Pastors
Heather Wilson, NHS Grampian
<b>Persons resident within the Forum's area</b>
Piotr Teodorowski, Aberdeen Civic Forum
<b>Other</b>
Bob Westland, Door Security

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## LOCAL LICENSING FORUM Wednesday, 16 March 2016

Members present: Shamini Omnes, NHS Grampian Chairperson; and Peter Benton, Aberdeen Samaritans; Ken Eddie, Civic Forum; Daniel Forbes, Community Council Representative; Tara Erin Gilchrist, Licensing Standards Officer; Peter Lees, Community Safety Partnership (as substitute for Emily Queen) and Heather Wilson, Public Health (as substitute for Sandy Kelman).

Also present: Leanne McGowan; Giedrė Nėniūtė; and Iain Robertson, Democratic Services.

Apologies: Sandy Kelman, Stuart McPhee, Gillian Flett, Jonathan Lloyd, Emily Queen and Dave Bliss.

	Item	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
1	<b><u>Introductions</u></b>	<p>The Clerk informed the Forum that the Convener and Vice Convener had sent their apologies for today's meeting and advised that Shamini Omnes had volunteered to chair the meeting which the Forum agreed to.</p> <p><b>At this juncture Shamini Omnes assumed the Chair.</b></p> <p>The Clerk advised that additional apologies had been received from Dave Bliss, Gill Flett, Jonathan Lloyd and Emily Queen.</p> <p>The Chair proposed that Items 5 (Statement of Licensing Policy Consultation) and 6 (MESAS 2016 Annual Report) be taken together and brought forward on today's agenda to after Item 3 (Membership Updates) and the Forum agreed to these proposals.</p>	<p>To appoint Shamini Omnes as Chair for today's meeting;</p> <p>To note the apologies received; and</p> <p>To agree to consider Item 5 (Statement of Licensing Policy Consultation) and Item 6 (MESAS 2016 Annual Report) immediately after Item 3 (Membership Updates).</p>	<p>I Robertson – for minute</p> <p>I Robertson – for minute</p> <p>I Robertson – for minute</p>
2	<b><u>Minute of Previous Meeting of 12 January 2016</u></b>	N/A	To approve the minute as a correct record.	N/A

Item	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
3	<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b> With reference to Item 3(i) Tara-Erin Gilchrist advised that the LSO Annual Report 2015-16 was currently being collated and was due to be reported in April 2016 and that an update to the Hub could be provided thereafter.	To request an update on the LSO Annual Report 2015-16 at the next meeting of the Forum.	D Sande/T-E Gilchrist
4	<b><u>Memberships Updates</u></b> The Clerk advised that the Aberdeen Youth Council had nominated Giedrė Nėniūtė and Edgar Organesjan as their substantive and substitute representatives to the Forum. The Chair nominated them as substantive and substitute young people's representatives to the Forum. This nomination was seconded by Daniel Forbes and thereafter the Forum resolved to appoint them to the Forum.  The Clerk introduced Leanne McGowan and she advised that she would like to become a member of the Forum as an Off Sales representative. The Chair nominated Ms McGowan as the Off Sales representative to the Forum and this nomination was seconded by Peter Benton and thereafter the Forum resolved to appoint her to the Forum.  The Clerk informed the Forum that Emily Queen was going on maternity leave and a new Community Safety Partnership representative would need to be identified. He advised that recruitment for Ms Queen's post was ongoing and the successful candidate would become the new Community Safety Partnership representative to the Forum.	The Forum resolved to appoint Giedrė Nėniūtė and Edgar Organesjan as substantive and substitute members to the Forum, representing young people;  The Forum resolved to appoint Leanne McGowan to the Forum, representing Off Sales;  To note that there was an ongoing recruitment process to identify a new Community Safety Representative to the Forum; and  To thank Emily Queen for her time and effort in supporting the Forum and to wish her well on her maternity leave.	I Robertson        N/A  N/A
5	<b><u>Statement of Licensing Policy Consultation and MESAS 2016</u></b> Heather Wilson (Public Health) spoke to the reports and advised that the purpose of the papers was to inform preparations for the Joint Meeting with the Licensing Board on 8	To note the reports and the information provided;	N/A

Item	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
<u>Annual Report</u>	<p>June 2016. With regards to the MESAS report, she provided an overview of the findings and highlighted four recommendations:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The review and refresh of Scotland's alcohol strategy should draw on the current evidence base;</li> <li>2. Continue to improve implementation of the strategy (including implementation of minimum unit pricing);</li> <li>3. Monitor alcohol-related harm and consumption. Where possible evaluate new interventions; and</li> <li>4. A number of potentially useful areas of future research were identified which should be explored.</li> </ol> <p>Mrs Wilson advised of the progress made by the introduction of Scotland's Alcohol Strategy in 2008/9 and explained that Aberdeen City had responded to the request for data when researchers conducted a review of developments following the Implementation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. As a result Aberdeen is used as a case survey within the MESAS report.</p> <p>Mrs Wilson also advised that there were three areas in the Licensing Forum Letter to the Licensing Board that related directly to the findings in the MESAS report detailing developments following the Implementation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. These were:</p> <p>Lack of guidance and resource materials; Lack of baseline data; and Lack of updates/progress to baseline data.</p>	<p>To request that Police Scotland's SLP consultation submission to the Aberdeen City Licensing Board be provided to the Forum;</p> <p>To request that Police Scotland's representative to the Forum introduce Police Scotland's SLP consultation submission to the Aberdeen City Licensing Board at the next Forum meeting;</p> <p>To request that NHS Grampian's SLP consultation submission to the Aberdeen City Licensing Board be provided to the Forum;</p> <p>To invite Tara Shivaji to the Forum's next meeting to introduce NHS Grampian's SLP consultation submission to the Aberdeen City Licensing Board; and</p> <p>To consider how this would be brought together at the Forum's next meeting ahead of the Joint Meeting with the Licensing Board in June 2016.</p>	<p>I Robertson</p> <p>G Flett</p> <p>I Robertson</p> <p>I Robertson</p> <p>All Members</p>

Item	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
	<p>The MESAS report cites the lack of data as a hindrance to providing a more accurate picture and makes recommendations for the type of data required which is very similar to the Licensing Forum request.</p> <p>Thereafter members discussed the impact of Police Scotland's zero tolerance policy on drink driving; the decline in popularity of traditional pubs and other demographic and cultural shifts such as increased sales of soft drinks and increases in alcohol sales from supermarkets and off sales premises.</p>		
6	<u>Community Licensing Toolkit</u>	<p>Daniel Forbes (Community Council Representative) spoke to the report and welcomed the introduction of the Toolkit and found that it simplified licensing procedures which made understanding the overall process much easier and he was pleased that the language used was plain English and not littered with jargon. Mr Forbes explained that this form of community engagement would lead to more informed decision making and advised that he would provide an update at the next meeting of the Forum on Community Council Responses to the Toolkit. The Forum agreed that the Toolkit should be displayed prominently to increase awareness of the licensing process and instructed the Clerk to discuss with the Clerk to the Licensing Board and Community Council Liaison Officer whether it would be possible to upload the Toolkit onto their respective Council webpages.</p>	<p>D Forbes</p> <p>D Forbes</p> <p>D Forbes</p> <p>I Robertson</p>
7	<u>Aberdeen City ADP and Alcohol</u>	Heather Wilson spoke to the report and advised that the campaign ran from December	N/A

Item	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
<b><u>Aberdeen's Festive Campaign Evaluation Report</u></b>	2015 through to January 2016 with targeted messages to different demographic groups which highlighted the importance of enjoying nights out in town responsibly. Mrs Wilson explained that posters and messages were posted in the City Centre in locations such as the St Nicholas Centre and on social media and they estimated that the campaign had reached over 100,000 individuals with a cost of £3000 which they believed provided good value for money. She advised that the campaign had been well received and was encouraged by the positive response from the local licensed trade who were largely happy to display posters and promote the campaign within their premises. She informed the Forum that the full report could be found on the ADP website.	To note that the full report could be accessed on the ADP website. <a href="http://aberdeencityadp.org.uk/news-and-media/campaigns/">http://aberdeencityadp.org.uk/news-and-media/campaigns/</a>	N/A
<b><u>8 Safer Torry Evaluation Report</u></b>	Peter Lees (Community Safety Partnership) introduced the report and informed the Forum that the report focussed on alcohol and domestic abuse in the Torry area of Aberdeen. He advised that an action group had been formed which met every six weeks and included representatives from the licensed trade; the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Police Scotland and its remit was to establish a self-policing system for the local licensed premises which would also be monitored by the CSP and Police Scotland. Mr Lees noted that instances of domestic abuse were relatively high in Torry but cautioned that this was due to a high population density and advised that a more representative performance measure would be to calculate domestic abuse cases per 10,000 people and this figure revealed that Torry's domestic abuse rate was below a number of areas in North Aberdeen. He added	To note the report and information provided; and	N/A

Item	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
	<p>that community planning partners would need to continue investing time and resources into Torry to ensure that positive behaviours became entrenched as issues such as alcohol and domestic abuse were often multi-generational in nature.</p> <p>Thereafter there were questions and comments on plans to upscale the pilot to include areas of multiple deprivation in the North of the city; and members queried if there was scope to introduce a referral system to refer individuals who had been banned from licensed premises due to issues related to alcohol abuse.</p>	To request an update on the development of a referral system for individuals who had been banned from licensed premises in the self-policing scheme in Torry due to issues related to alcohol abuse.	P Lees
9	<u>Update from Police Scotland:</u> <u>Objective 1:</u> <u>Preventing Crime and Disorder</u>	N/A	N/A
10	<u>Update from Licensing Standards Officer:</u> <u>Objective 2:</u> <u>Securing Public Safety</u>	N/A	N/A
11	<u>Update from Unight Representative:</u> <u>Objective 3:</u> <u>Preventing Public Nuisance</u>	N/A	N/A
12	<u>Update from NHS Grampian and</u>	To note the information provided.	N/A

	Item	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
	<u>Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships:</u> <u>Licensing Objective 4:</u> <u>Protecting and Improving Public Health</u>	<p>their SLPs had been delayed to November 2018 but she advised that Aberdeen City would continue to work on an interim statement in the meantime and retain their existing consultation process.</p> <p>Mrs Wilson informed the Forum that NHS Grampian would submit no letters of objection or representations at the Licensing Board meeting on 22 March 2016 and this was the first time to her knowledge this has had ever occurred and she welcomed this development.</p> <p>Mrs Wilson added that Alcohol Focus Scotland had published a new manifesto which focussed on preventing chronic diseases; protecting children and young people; and creating healthier and safer neighbourhoods. She explained that the manifesto proposed that a social responsibility levy be introduced so alcohol retailers would contribute to the wider cost of their activities on the community and recommended that the extra revenue gained from the introduction of minimum unit pricing should be made available for community alcohol support projects and groups.</p>		
13	<u>Update from Children's Services Representative:</u> <u>Licensing Objective 5:</u> <u>Protecting Children from Harm</u>	No update.	N/A	N/A

Item	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
14	<u>Progress Statement</u> The Clerk highlighted that the Statement of Licensing Policy Refresh had been added to the Statement and advised that he would welcome further member input on items for future inclusion.	To note the Progress Statement.	N/A
15	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> 25 May 2016.	To note the information provided.	N/A

If you require any further information about this minute, please contact Iain Robertson, tel. 01224 522869 or email [iairobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:iairobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk)



## **JOINT MEETING – LOCAL LICENSING FORUM AND LICENSING BOARD**

ABERDEEN, 2 July 2015. Minute of Meeting of the JOINT MEETING - LOCAL LICENSING FORUM AND LICENSING BOARD. Present:- Councillors Boulton, , Convener; and Councillor Lawrence; Peter Benton, Ruary Campbell, Ken Eddie, Sergeant Gill Flett, Tara-Erin Gilchrist, Alexander Kelman , Sergeant Jonathan Lloyd and Diane Sande. Officers in attendance:- Arlene Dunbar, Lynn May, Ruth O'Hare and Iain Robertson

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

1. Councillor Boulton took the chair and welcomed everyone to the annual joint meeting of the Licensing Board and the Local Licensing Forum.

### **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

2. The Joint Meeting had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 03 July 2014

**The Joint Meeting resolved:-**  
to approve the minute as a correct record.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

3. With reference to article 3 of the minute of the previous meeting (matters arising), it was noted that the Board had not received the presentation from Police Scotland and the Convener requested that the presentation be arranged for a future meeting of the Board.

With reference to article 5 of the minute of the previous meeting (observations on the use of the Policy in Practice) the Convener advised that the suggested amendment to the Statement of Licensing Policy could be considered at the review of the Policy Statement.

**The Joint Meeting resolved:-**

- 1) to note that Police Scotland is to give a presentation to the Licensing Board at a date to be arranged and
- 2) to note the comments made in respect of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

### **UPDATE FROM DEPUTE CLERK TO LICENSING BOARD**

4. Ruth O'Hare, Depute Clerk to Aberdeen City Licensing Board addressed

## **JOINT MEETING – LOCAL LICENSING FORUM AND LICENSING BOARD 2 JULY 2015**

the meeting.

### Statement of Licensing Policy

Mrs O'Hare advised that the Licensing Policy requires to be reviewed every 3 years and that it was due to be reviewed and published by 30 November 2016. She advised that officers were looking at developing a timeline and putting procedures in place to work to that timeline and would welcome the Forum's input into that process.

### Personal Licences

Mrs O'Hare advised that one of the greatest challenges for the Board over the past year had been the revocation of personal licences due to many licence holders failing to complete refresher training. The terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 were rigid and provided no discretion for the Board. The Act also placed a prohibition on re-applying for a further licence for a period of five years following revocation. This would however now be resolved by an amendment made by the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015.

### Air Weapons & Licensing (Scotland) Act 2014

Mrs O'Hare advised that the Air Weapon and Licensing (Scotland) Act was passed on 25 June 2005 and is another piece of licensing legislation which has an impact for the Board.

Mrs O'Hare went on to summarise the content of the new Act which related to liquor licensing. Some of the main relevant provisions are as follows: young persons are added to the objective protecting children from harm; and, a new offence of supplying alcohol to young persons is introduced, the fit and proper person test as a ground for review is reintroduced; new transfer provisions are introduced where the licence holder is absent; angostura bitters is now defined as alcohol; the Board will be under a duty to provide annual reports on its duties and finances; and the Board will have 9 months to determine applications.

The Act is not yet in force and is still to receive royal assent.

Sandy Kelman commented that the Act also allowed a Board to declare their whole area as an area of overprovision. Mrs O'Hare confirmed the position.

### **The Joint Meeting resolved:-**

## **JOINT MEETING – LOCAL LICENSING FORUM AND LICENSING BOARD 2 JULY 2015**

to note the update.

### **ASPIRATIONAL STATEMENT**

5. A copy of a draft Aspirational Statement was tabled at the meeting by officers. The Convener explained that the intention was to include a statement in the next Licensing Policy Statement. She advised that the draft Aspirational Statement was in its infancy and that the Board welcomed any feedback that the Forum may have.

Sandy Kelman commented that the issue of an aspirational statement had generated a lot of debate at the last meeting of the Forum. He added that he would place the Statement on the agendas of both the Forum and the ADP for discussion and would feedback any comments to the Board.

### **The Joint Meeting resolved:-**

- 1) to note that it was proposed that an Aspirational statement would be included in the Board's Statement of Licensing Policy and
- 2) that the Licensing Forum and ADP would discuss the Statement at their next meetings and provide any feedback to the Licensing Board.

### **STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2013-2016**

### **OBSERVATIONS ON USE OF THE POLICY IN PRACTICE**

6. Sandy Kelman asked the Board if they had any comments on how the Policy operated in practice. The Convener commented that the Board had identified that there was overprovision of off-sale premises in the Board's area with the exception of two localities. Councillor Lawrence considered that the main benefit of the over provision policy was that it raised awareness of the health objective. He commented that every application was considered by the Board on its individual merits and applicants seeking new premises licences offering off-sales required to put forward their case to justify an exception to the policy.

The Convener added that the information presented by the Health Board was now much more specific and the Board was receiving area and postcode specific information which aided the Board in its decision making process.

## **JOINT MEETING – LOCAL LICENSING FORUM AND LICENSING BOARD 2 JULY 2015**

The Convener considered that the biggest challenge for the Board has been existing off-sale premises seeking increases to their capacity and relating that to the issue of overprovision. In such cases the Board has to carefully consider the individual circumstances of each application and the terms of its policy and whether to deviate from it.

Sandy Kelman asked whether the Board would consider providing a list of circumstances where the Board would deviate from the terms of their policy.

Mrs O'Hare considered that the Board would not wish to overly restrict itself in its decision making. The Convener commented that the Board needed to have flexibility in its decision making but that officers could look at other Board's Policies for guidance on the issue.

**The Joint Meeting resolved:-**  
to note the position.

### **CHALLENGES**

7. The Joint Meeting noted the challenges faced by the Board with the introduction of the new Policy which had already been discussed. Sandy Kelman noted that capacity figures are to be used for over provision purposes only. He commented that perhaps the amount of shelf space should be used as a measure for overprovision.

Sandy Kelman felt that it would be helpful if a list detailing the capacity of all the off-sale premises in the Board's area could be supplied to the NHS and the Forum

**The Joint Meeting resolved:-**

- 1) that Officers provide a list of off sale capacities to the NHS and Forum

### **GENERAL REASONS FOR ANY DECISIONS BEING MADE CONTRARY TO POLICY**

8. Sandy Kelman asked if the Board felt it has had to deviate from its Licensing Policy often.

The Convener commented that the Board considers each individual application on its own merit, considers the issue in the round and fully questions the applicant. Peter Benton asked if the Board could provide figures relating to how many new off-sale

## **JOINT MEETING – LOCAL LICENSING FORUM AND LICENSING BOARD 2 JULY 2015**

licences had been granted since the policy had been in force and if these figures could be provided to the Forum.

Ruth O'Hare advised that she didn't have the figures at hand and would look into whether the figures could be obtained.

### **The Joint Meeting resolved:-**

- 1) To note the position and
- 2) That Licensing Officers should determine whether figures could be provided to the Forum which indicated the number of new off-sale premises licence which had been granted since the 2013-2016 Licensing Policy Statement has been in force.

### **EVALUATION OF IMPACT ON POLICY**

9. Sandy Kelman asked the Board how it measured the performance of the Licensing Policy in delivering the 5 licensing objectives.

The Convener commented that it is difficult to look at the objectives in isolation and while statistics can be useful they are not the only tool for measuring success. She referred to the examples including the Purple Flag accreditation Scheme, that overall the city centre is safer and interventions by the Licensing Standards Officers. Councillor Boulton commented that one question that it may be useful to pose is where would the city be without the Licensing Policy?

Peter Benton commented that just because it was difficult to measure the impact of the policy didn't mean it wasn't worthwhile attempting to do it.

Ruth O'Hare commented that the upcoming review of the Statement of Policy provided an opportunity to obtain a marker of the impact of the policy to date.

Sandy Kelman considered that it may be useful to use a red/amber/green score against each of the objectives to evaluate the impact of the policy on them.

Sergeant Flett considered that statistics had to be applied with caution, for example a 100% increase in a particular crime could be recorded but in reality this could represent an increase from 1 to 2 crimes recorded.

Ruary Campbell commented that it was interesting that statistics were produced to conclude that there was overprovision and now statistics are being quoted to say there are improvements in the city. He commented that there was a fall in footfall in the city

## **JOINT MEETING – LOCAL LICENSING FORUM AND LICENSING BOARD 2 JULY 2015**

centre and that the night time economy in the city was stale, with some venues only trading 1 day week.

The Convener commented that perhaps it was time to consider a change to the offering in the night time economy and to the mix of venues that was available to customers and possibly re-examine the overprovision areas with regard to on-sales.

**The Joint Meeting resolved:-**  
to note the position

### **DEVELOPMENT OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2016-19**

**10.** Ruth O'Hare advised that an extensive consultation process would be carried out in relation to the Statement of Licensing Policy for 2016 -2019. The Board would also be requesting evidence and statistics from various organisations and, as advised earlier, officers are developing a timeline for preparing the policy. It was hoped that a proposed timeline would be put to the Board at its meeting in August.

Sandy Kelman requested that the Forum were advised of the timeline as soon as possible. He considered that it would be useful if partners were made aware of what type of evidence and statistics was required by the Board.

Lynn May commented that it would be helpful if the Board were to receive relevant detailed information from their partner agencies such as the NHS, Police Scotland and the Forum at an early stage in the process.

The Convener added that the information needed to be area specific, up to date and relevant to alcohol. She added that Board would look to other Board's policies for guidance as part of the review.

**The Joint Meeting resolved:-**  
To note the position

### **IMPACT OF NEW DRINK DRIVING LIMIT ON LICENSED TRADE**

**11.** The Convener asked if there was anything the Board could do to assist the trade since the introduction of the new drink driving limit and enquired if premises were stocking non-alcoholic drinks such as non-alcoholic wines.

## **JOINT MEETING – LOCAL LICENSING FORUM AND LICENSING BOARD 2 JULY 2015**

Ken Eddie advised that the impact on Sports Clubs had led to many having to shut by 9pm most evenings. Tara-Erin Gilchrist considered that the members clubs would also benefit from the promotion of non-alcoholic products.

Ruary Campbell advised that it has had more of an impact in country pubs. He further advised that there had been a lot of work done promoting non-alcoholic drinks to the trade and that this would be further promoted through Best Bar None scheme.

### **The Joint Meeting resolved:-**

To note the position

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**12.** Sandy Kelman made reference to the report from Glasgow in relation to Community Engagement which formed item 8 on the Agenda and asked the Board if it was committed to engaging with Community Councils.

Tara-Erin Gilchrist advised that the LSO had invited 10 community councils to attend a meeting with the LSO's although only 3 community councils attended. The LSOs have also attended at a number of community council meetings. It is planned to have a further meeting between the LSOs and Community Councils in the near future

Arlene Dunbar advised that the appropriate community council is consulted on individual applications and that some community councils have appointed licensing officers. Board officers liaise with the Community Council Liaison Officer to ensure that the contacts are up to date. She further advised that as well as applications being published on the Board's website, notices for application are also published on the PINs Portal. ([www.tellmesotland.gov.uk](http://www.tellmesotland.gov.uk) is Scotland's national public information notices (PINs) portal, allowing public notices across Scotland to be published in a single online location for the first time.)

Sandy Kelman advised that the Forum had submitted a series of questions into City Voice asking for feedback on public awareness of the Board's policy. He added that the Board could consider using the City voice as a method of measuring the impact of the policy.

The Convener said that there would be a media campaign when the review of the policy is put out to consultation to make the public aware of it and where to access it and to ensure that they can feed into the process.

**JOINT MEETING – LOCAL LICENSING FORUM AND LICENSING BOARD  
2 JULY 2015**

**The Joint Meeting resolved:-**

To note the position

**- Councillor Boulton, Convener**



# Agenda Item 6.2

Legal and Democratic Services  
**Corporate Governance**  
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13 January 2016

Councillor Marie Boulton,  
Convener of the Aberdeen City Licensing Board,  
Aberdeen City Council,  
Town House,  
Broad Street,  
Aberdeen.  
AB10 1AQ

Dear Councillor Boulton,

## **STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY - RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ABERDEEN CITY LICENSING FORUM**

As per section 10 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, the Aberdeen City Local Licensing Forum (LLF) has kept under review the operation of the Act and the exercise of the functions of the Aberdeen City Licensing Board (LB). In doing this, the LLF recognises that the LB's Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) 2013-16 aimed to provide a solid framework around which the LB could base its decisions.

The LLF feels that the LB has an opportunity to build on this in its next version of the SLP. It therefore makes the following comments and recommendations.

### Aspirational Statement

The LLF welcomes the fact that the LB has, in advance of the publication of its next SLP, circulated a draft '*aspirational statement*'. An aspirational statement provides an opportunity for the LB to describe in detail its longer term vision for licensing across Aberdeen City and could be a useful introduction to the next version of the SLP.

The LLF notes that the draft aspirational statement does use some of the key words contained within the five licensing objectives, for example: 'health'; 'protecting'; 'safeguarding'. The draft fails however to reference or include other equally important factors which are also contained within the five licensing objectives. These include: 'public nuisance'; 'children'; 'young people'; 'harm'; and 'prevention'. The LLF believes that the aspirational statement would therefore benefit by having ambitions which are more clearly aligned to all five licensing objectives.

### **Recommendation No 1**

That the LB aspirational statement is redrafted so that it is clearer in how it aligns to all five licensing objectives.

### Re drafting of the SLP

The LLF has previously noted the report produced by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health in November 2014, entitled 'Strengthening the Community Voice in Alcohol Licensing Decisions in Glasgow'. This report aimed to understand how communities could have a greater understanding of and actively contribute to the licensing process. The conclusion of this report states, '*While the issues and possible solutions are based on research in Glasgow, the key messages should be relevant to stakeholders across Scotland with an interest in alcohol licensing.*'

Key elements in the report for communities include:

- Awareness of alcohol issues and the licensing process
- Knowledge and understanding of the decision making process
- Skills and resources to engage in the process

In order to start overcoming some of these issues, the LLF believes that the SLP should describe the whole licensing application process, in plain English, so that it is abundantly clear to applicants and to other stakeholder groups, such as Community Councils (who will invariably not have access to legal representation to guide them). This would ensure greater transparency and help build confidence in the whole licensing process.

The LLF has noted that the SLP 2013-16 is essentially an updated / expanded version of the preceding SLP. LLF members have commented that it is not a user friendly document and therefore is not something which a lay person, such as a Community Council member, would necessarily find easy to use or refer to. The LLF believes that the LB should take the opportunity of the requirement to have a new document, to take a dynamic look at how its new SLP could be shaped and developed, and to draft it afresh, setting aside any previous versions.

### **Recommendation No 2**

That the SLP is drafted afresh, in plain English so that it is easily understood by all groups, and is not an updated / expanded version of the preceding SLP.

### Guidance and resource material

The LLF is aware that local Community Councils have also commented upon how they would want to improve engagement with the LB. Although Community Councils do receive information from the LB, this is quite sparse and is not delivered via e-mail, in a timely fashion. It is therefore clear, that in addition to having a SLP which is easily understood, and written in plain English, local communities would benefit from improved communication channels and having bespoke guidance material and resources which are easily accessed. This could be achieved through enhancing the current LB website, improving accessibility, providing a community guidance document, and having greater on-line details for each licensing application. This would help ensure that Community Councils are better informed and aware at the earliest opportunity of any new applications in their area.

### **Recommendation No 3**

That the LB enhances its website for Community Councils so that it is more easily accessed, includes a guidance document and provides more details on each licensing application.

### Baseline data

The LLF believes that it is essential that the LB aims to measure the effectiveness of its SLP. A regular discussion at LLF meetings is around the question - *How can the LB measure how successful its SLP has been in helping to deliver on the five Licensing Objectives?*

There are numerous metrics that could be used in relation to this. It is however imperative that the LB has some baseline positions which it can benchmark itself against over the lifespan of the SLP. This task should not be onerous as some basic data is already collated by the LB. This could be measured at the commencement of the year and reviewed on a regular basis. This baseline data could include, for example data on: number of on-sales premises; number of off-sales premises; alcohol shelf space across all off-sales; occasional licences; percentage of adults living in Aberdeen city in close proximity to on-sales and off-sales.

### **Recommendation No 4**

That the LB ensures that the SLP gives a baseline position in relation to key metrics, e.g.:

- a) Number of on-sales licences
- b) Number of off-sales licences
- c) Total off-sales shelf space
- d) Total number of occasional licences applied for over a year broken down into the following categories -
  - Number withdrawn and reason
  - Number granted along with any conditions imposed
  - Number of extended hours applications
  - Number of applications involving school premises
- e) Percentage of residents, aged 18 years and over who live within 500 metres / 1000 metres of an on-sales
- f) Percentage of residents, aged 18 years and over who live within 500 metres / 1000 metres of an off-sales.

### Updates on baseline data

Updates on the baseline data would need to be regularly reviewed. It would also be beneficial to other stakeholders if the LB gave written comment on its own interpretation of any changes across the baseline data. This commentary could be done on an annual basis and included in the LB's published annual report.

### **Recommendation No 5**

- a) The LB reviews its baseline data
- b) The LB reviews are carried out on an annual basis
- c) The LB gives commentary in its annual report on its interpretation of any changes across the baseline data.

### Accurate recording of LB decisions

The SLP, including the five Licensing Objectives, should always be the main reference point in relation to any decisions that the LB makes. It should also be the guidance document for mandatory or additional conditions that the LB may make when a decision is made to grant a licence.

The LLF is aware that there have been various applications for off-sales premises, where applicants have indicated that they only intend to stock certain types of goods. Examples include applicants suggesting that they will only stock 'high end' products, or that they will not sell 'super strength' alcohol. The inference is that they will sell the 'high end' products at an increased price in relation to other goods as they are of premium quality, and that they will not attract patrons who may purchase goods because they have an alcohol problem and who are only interested in the alcohol strength. The LLF understands that in approving the application, it is not always recorded as an explicit condition of the licence. As such it does not allow for any follow up monitoring to ensure that the applicant is adhering to their stated intention. This type of situation needs to be articulated clearly within the SLP, to show that there is a process to ensure that, if approved, it is recorded as part of the conditions of granting the licence.

#### **Recommendation No 6**

The LB ensures that its SLP gives greater detail of how it processes decisions, so that on occasions where a licence is granted under specific conditions, these are accurately recorded as a condition of the licence being granted.

### Setting minimum distances for consideration of any new licensed premises

Research<sup>1</sup> which investigated whether alcohol-related illnesses and deaths across Scotland were related to the local availability of alcohol outlets, showed that alcohol-related hospitalisations and deaths were greater in areas with higher alcohol outlet availability.

It is known that the LB sometimes receives applications for licences in locations where similar premises currently exist. Other than when it is implied in the overprovision section of the current SLP, there is nothing to suggest that the LB feels that there should be a minimum distance between existing and proposed new licensed premises. The LLF feels that the LB should have a section in its SLP which states that there is a presumption that no new licences will be granted for a new premises within set minimum distance(s). The option would be open for the LB in its SLP to detail a range of distances, depending upon factors such as:

- whether it is in the city centre or in the suburbs
- what type of premises it is, e.g. on-sales, off-sales, restaurant, etc

The LLF is aware that in the context of overprovided localities, the City of Glasgow Licensing Board has included information on determining localities and suggested distance boundaries within their Statement of Licensing Policy 2013-2016.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Recommendation No 7**

<sup>1</sup> Alcohol-related illness and death in Scottish neighbourhoods: is there a relationship with the number of alcohol outlets – Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health (CRESH), Universities of Edinburgh & Glasgow. <http://www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/media/65042/Alcohol-outlet-density-and-harm-report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=17578&p=0>

The LB includes set minimum distance(s) in its SLP in which there is a presumption that an application for a new licence will not be granted.

### Shelf space

With the exception of a few off-sales premises that exist in Aberdeen City, which specialise in alcohol sales, most off-sales primarily sell other goods, such as groceries, etc, with alcohol being an ancillary product.

The best available evidence for tackling alcohol misuse indicates that the biggest impact is achieved through control of price and availability. Although availability generally relates to access to premises which sell alcohol, general exposure to alcohol also plays a significant role. An extract from 'the Grocer' (which is a British market magazine, devoted to grocery sales) in October 2014, illustrates this point, when it published an article on alcohol which said that 'merchandising matters', and then gave examples of ten ways for retailers to make their alcohol products stand out.<sup>3</sup>

One cannot therefore be surprised that alcohol problems have increased over the last decades, when there is greater visible access to the product. The LLF therefore suggests that the LB consider a section within its SLP which gives a maximum shelf space that it will permit in a supermarket / grocer for off-sales purposes in comparison to the overall shelf space in the premises. This would help manage the exposure to alcohol and reiterate the message that alcohol is no ordinary commodity.

### **Recommendation No 8**

The LB sets a maximum percentage of shelf space that a non specialist off-sales premises can use in relation to its total shelf space within its premises within its SLP.

### Surveys

The LLF understands that some licensing applicants attempt to strengthen the justification for their application by including information of a survey that they have carried out amongst local residents which aims to show that they (the local residents) generally welcome the proposal. The LLF supports the fact that communities should have a voice in the licensing process. It does however believe that this should be done in an open and transparent way. It therefore suggests that the SLP should contain a section in which it informs potential applicants that if they intend to carry out any survey, it will generally only be considered if it has been done well in advance of the application and that it has been carried out in consultation with the Community Council or other similar independent body for the relevant area. If the applicant does not do this, the onus should be on them to explain why this was not done.

### **Recommendation No 9**

The LB has a section in the SLP outlining the detail of the circumstances in which a survey will, or will not be considered. This section should place an onus on the applicant, if they choose to carry out a local survey, to do this well in advance of the application and in consultation with the relevant community council or other similar independent body.

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.thegrocer.co.uk/reports/digital-features/alcohol-report-2014/10-things-you-need-to-know-about-alcohol/373013.article>

I would be obliged if the LB could consider these recommendations in developing its new SLP and respond back to the LLF at its earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Kelman,  
Chair of the Aberdeen City Local Licensing Forum





# **Monitoring and Evaluating Scotland's Alcohol Strategy**

## **Final Annual Report**

March 2016





We are happy to consider requests for other languages or formats. Please contact 0131 314 5300 or email [nhs.healthscotland-alternativeformats@nhs.net](mailto:nhs.healthscotland-alternativeformats@nhs.net)

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The MESAS project team all provide intellectual thinking to the MESAS project and review of this report. In addition, their contribution to this report is as follows:

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Neil Craig (NHS Health Scotland): data analysis and interpretation (price and affordability)

Dr Lesley Graham, Dr Annemarie van Heelsum and Ruth Gordon (NHS National Services Scotland): data analysis & interpretation (alcohol-related harm)

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This report was signed off by Dr Andrew Fraser (NHS Health Scotland), and Dr Colin Fischbacher (NHS National Services Scotland)

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## Monitoring and Evaluating Scotland's Alcohol Strategy

### March 2016 - Executive summary

After a period of rapidly increasing rates of alcohol-related harm in Scotland and with alcohol-related harm in Scotland at historically high levels, a comprehensive strategic approach to alcohol was put in place from 2008/2009. The strategy was evidence-based and contained the main components advocated by the World Health Organisation (WHO). It aimed to reduce alcohol consumption and related harm through a wide range of interventions implemented through new policy and legislation. This evaluation was put in place to assess the success or otherwise of the strategy.

- Monitoring trends in alcohol consumption shows that population consumption of alcohol has declined in recent years, although that decline may now be flattening. A downward trend in self-reported consumption appears to be driven by declining consumption and increased abstinence in young adults, and decreased consumption amongst the heaviest drinkers, especially men.
- The most reliable and robust indicators of alcohol related harm are alcohol related-related mortality and hospitalisation rates. In general, both of these have been declining in recent years. The decline in the alcohol-related mortality rate started from peaks in 2003 for men and in 2006 for women. Rates have not declined since 2012 for either gender. Alcohol-related hospitalisations began to decline from 2008/09 for both genders. The increase and subsequent decline in alcohol-related mortality and hospitalisations was driven in particular by men and those living in the most deprived areas.

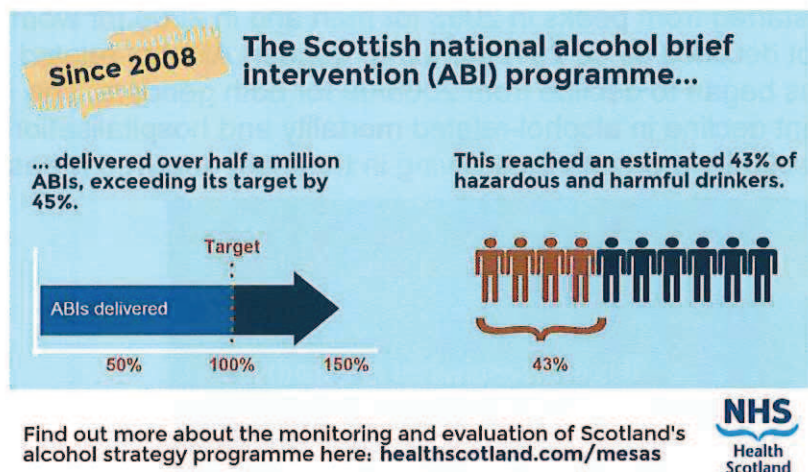


- Within the context of declining overall crime, there was little evidence of a consistent trend across the indicators of alcohol related crime.
- Adverse consequences, from their own alcohol consumption, reported by 13 and 15 year olds have been declining, and are now at the lowest recorded level. Hospitalisation rates for those aged under 15 years have also declined by approximately 80% since their peak in 1995/96.



**This evaluation studied the implementation and intermediate outcomes of selected components of the strategy:**

- The Licensing Act has changed licensing practice. There was compliance with regulations concerning promotions in the on-trade and display of alcohol in the off-trade. Licensing standards officers, staff training and test purchasing were well received. The overprovision assessments and public health objective had influenced statements of policy, but were proving difficult to operationalise. Limitations of licensing data meant it was not possible to determine if such policy-based changes are influencing either licensing decisions or alcohol availability.
- There was evidence that the performance target, national co-ordination and increased investment for a programme of alcohol brief interventions (ABIs) successfully scaled up delivery from 2008. ABIs have since been embedded into routine NHS practice in Scotland, particularly in primary care, and the performance target was exceeded. It was estimated that ABIs have been delivered to 43% of harmful and hazardous drinkers over the seven years of the programme. There were insufficient data collected within the ABI programme with which to assess the characteristics of those reached, uptake or impact on alcohol consumption.

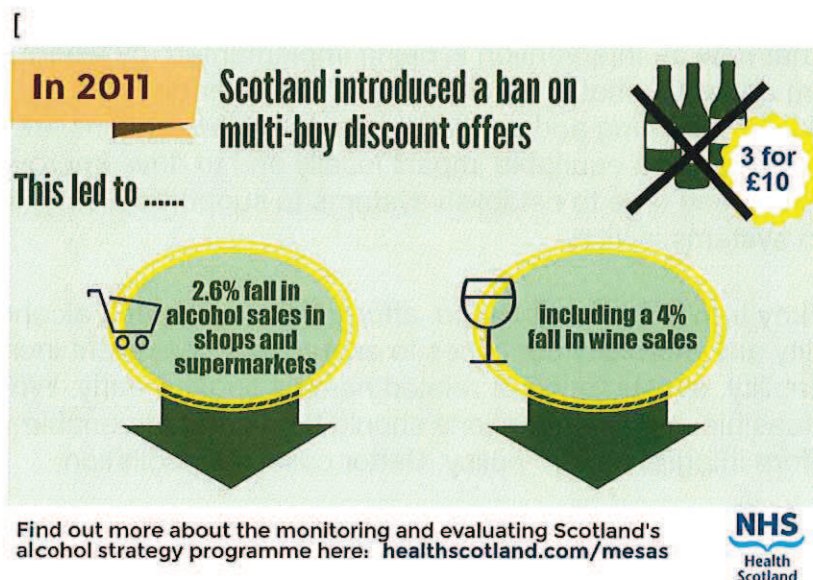




- There was a tripling of investment in specialist treatment and care services. Staff perceived the increased investment, reformed planning arrangements and guidelines, to ensure quality and consistency in alcohol treatment and care services, from 2008 had improved the availability and quality of services in Scotland. Waiting times for specialist services reduced. In 2012 the ratio of prevalence of alcohol dependence to service users (the PSUR) estimated that 1 in 4 individuals in need had accessed a specialist service. This is a high level of service access by international standards. However, it is sensitive to changes in the estimate of prevalence of alcohol dependency (and the definition of need) and, given the limitations of the estimate used, is likely to be an overestimate. It was not possible to estimate the PSUR before the increase in investment, or to compare with service access in England or England & Wales.



- The Alcohol Act, which included the ban on multi-buy discounts, was introduced in October 2011 and was associated with a modest reduction in alcohol sales in the off-trade, driven by a reduction in off-trade wine sales. This does not appear to have had a measurable, short-term impact on deaths or hospitalisations entirely caused by alcohol. Its effect on wider alcohol attributable conditions was not examined.





- Evidence of knowledge and attitude change was mixed. There was evidence that there had been no consistent change in knowledge about units or attitudes to drunkenness or the social role of drinking. However, there was evidence that harm caused by alcohol in Scotland was increasingly recognised. There was a lack of evidence on whether or not the media discourse, or the de-normalisation of alcohol implicit in many of the interventions had changed attitudes not measured in the study.
- Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) is subject to a legal challenge and has not yet been implemented. Other than the removal of the financial incentive to buy more alcohol than intended through the ban on multi-buy promotions any change to the affordability of alcohol was due to factors external to the strategy.

Given the timing of the declines it is clear that factors external to the strategy are likely to have contributed to changes in alcohol-related mortality and hospitalisation, especially male mortality. It is likely that rising and then falling incomes, especially for the poorest groups, over the 1990s and 2000s, explain part of the rise and fall in alcohol consumption and harms in Scotland over that time period. There is some evidence that a 'vulnerable cohort', adversely affected by socio-economic policies in the 1980s, was responsible for a wave of alcohol-related mortality that increased in the 1990s and decreased from the mid-2000s as the cohort aged and died.

**The report recommends that:**

- The current refresh of the alcohol strategy continues to be informed by the evidence that the most effective (and cost effective) interventions to reduce alcohol consumption and related harm involve action to reduce alcohol price, availability and exposure to marketing. Consideration should be given as to how alcohol consumption and related harm can be addressed within the context of the wider socioeconomic determinants of health.
- Effort is made to improve implementation of existing components of the strategy, particularly those with the potential to reduce the availability of alcohol and to incorporate the learning on implementation facilitators when developing new interventions. Notably, the lack of implementation of MUP due to on-going legal challenge has constrained the impact of the strategy. There is a need to improve the completeness and consistency of local data collection so that how an intervention is being implemented, by whom, reaching whom and with what immediate impact is better understood. Such data are crucial for informing and assessing whether interventions are likely to be having the desired and equitable impact locally and to drive improvement. Allowing sufficient lead time to establish systems to support delivery, including data collection systems is vital.
- Monitoring of key trends in alcohol price, affordability, sales and alcohol related mortality and morbidity continues to ensure any consistent increase in alcohol affordability, consumption or related harm is spotted early. Where possible and feasible, new interventions should be planned to enable robust evaluation before integration into policy. Better collection, collation,



accessibility and use of national and local data on delivery could improve implementation.

- There are recommendations for future research. These include: strengthening the use of natural experiment designs to evaluate policy; better understanding of the differences in drinking between Scotland and England & Wales and the relationship with harm; understanding the linkages between policy intent, legislation, social attitudes and changing social norms; understanding the mechanisms underpinning a 'vulnerable cohort'; understanding the factors that facilitate initiation and continued engagement with specialist alcohol treatment and care services; and; examining the relationship between alcohol price, consumption and harm within Scotland and the rest of the UK..

**Recommendations**

- 1** The review and refresh of Scotland's alcohol strategy should draw on the current evidence base.
- 2** Continue to improve implementation of the strategy (including implementation of minimum unit pricing).
- 3** Monitor alcohol-related harm and consumption. Where possible evaluate new interventions.
- 4** A number of potentially useful areas of future research were identified which should be explored.

Find out more about the monitoring and evaluating Scotland's alcohol strategy programme here: [healthscotland.com/mesas](http://healthscotland.com/mesas)

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## Conclusion

Alcohol-related harm in Scotland has declined in recent years. There was evidence that the evidence-based interventions studied were implemented, although there were difficulties operationalising some aspects. There was evidence of impact on several of the intermediate outcomes, although lack of data and/or data limitations meant impact was not assessable for others.

Two factors external to the strategy were considered to have made a contribution to the mortality trends: falling disposable income (and hence alcohol affordability) for people living in the most deprived areas, and a vulnerable cohort responsible for a wave of alcohol-related mortality, that increased in the 1990s and decreased from the mid-2000s as the cohort aged and died.

It was impossible to quantify precisely the impact of these external factors, nor determine the relative contribution of the external factors and the strategy to the declines. The declines in both mortality rates and hospitalisation rates have been much steeper in Scotland than England/England & Wales and, given the evidence base, the strategy may be contributing to these improvements.

Despite these recent improvements, rates of alcohol-related mortality and morbidity in Scotland continues to be higher than in the 1980s and higher than England & Wales. Inequalities in alcohol-related harm persist, with those living in the most deprived areas, especially men, having the highest rates. There is, therefore, a



continued need for action to further reduce alcohol-related harm in Scotland and to address these health inequalities. Minimum unit pricing has not been implemented and this is likely to have constrained the strategy's contribution to declining alcohol consumption and related harm. There is some evidence that the downward trends in both alcohol consumption (sales) and alcohol-related mortality may have stalled, with no decreases in 2013 and 2014. To say whether this marks the start of a longer-term change in trend requires continued monitoring.

The full annual report of the Monitoring and Evaluating Scotland's Alcohol Strategy (MESAS) can be accessed at

[http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/26884-MESAS\\_Final%20annual%20report.pdf](http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/26884-MESAS_Final%20annual%20report.pdf)





# Monitoring and Evaluating Scotland's Alcohol Strategy: The Strategy

Excessive alcohol consumption causes harm across Scottish society, impacting on:



Communities



Families



Public services



The economy



Individual health

Scotland's alcohol strategy aimed to address these harms. It was comprehensive, evidence based, and included four key components.

## Licensing (Scotland) Act (2005)

Includes reform of licensing process and restrictions on licence-holders, for example:



Restrictions on displays in the off-trade



Reducing underage selling



Restrictions on happy hour in the on-trade

Implemented 2009

## Changing Scotland's Relationship with Alcohol: The Framework for Action (2009)

Includes 41 actions aimed at:



Reducing consumption



Supporting families and communities



Promoting positive attitudes and positive choices



Improved treatment and support services

Implemented 2009

## Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Act (2010)

Contains a number of measures designed to reduce alcohol consumption, including:



Challenge 25 age verification



Multi-buy discount ban (e.g. 3 for 10) in off-trade

Implemented 2011

## Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Act (2012)

Establishes a price per unit of alcohol below which alcohol cannot be sold. This Act has not yet been implemented.



Currently set at 50 pence per unit

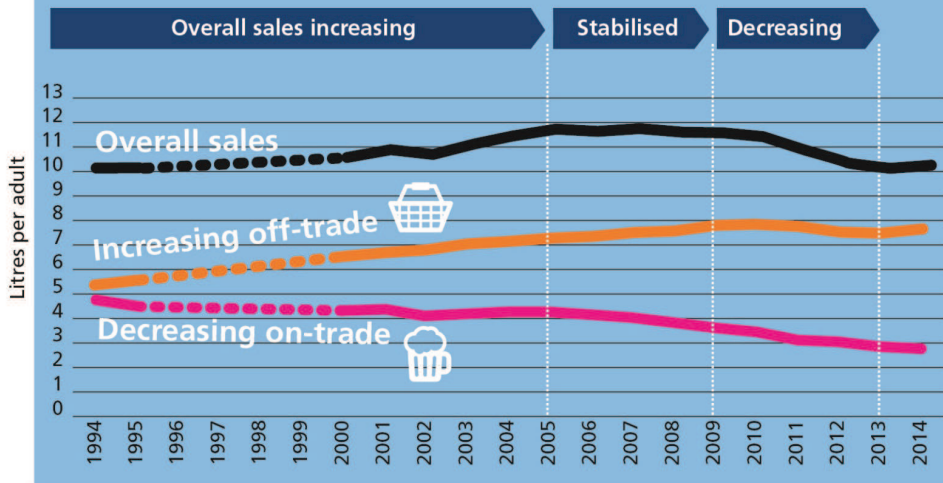
This Act has not yet been implemented

# Monitoring and Evaluating Scotland's Alcohol Strategy:

## Key trends

### Consumption

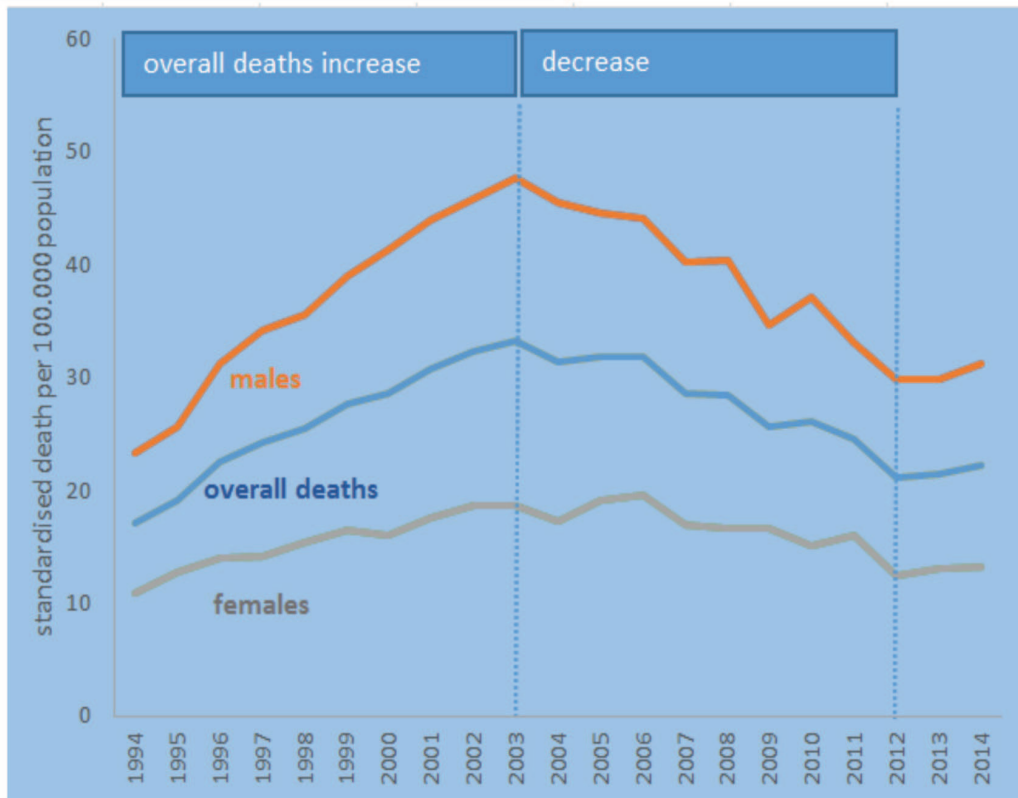
Sales of pure alcohol, Scotland, 1994-2014



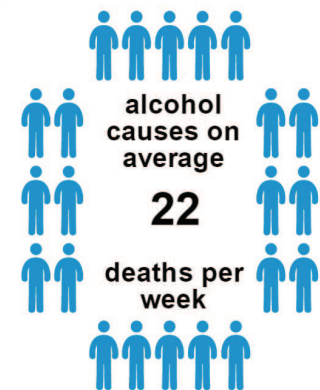
In 2014,  
of alcohol consumed



### Harm



In 2014 in Scotland



Since 2003  
alcohol-related harm  
has declined by

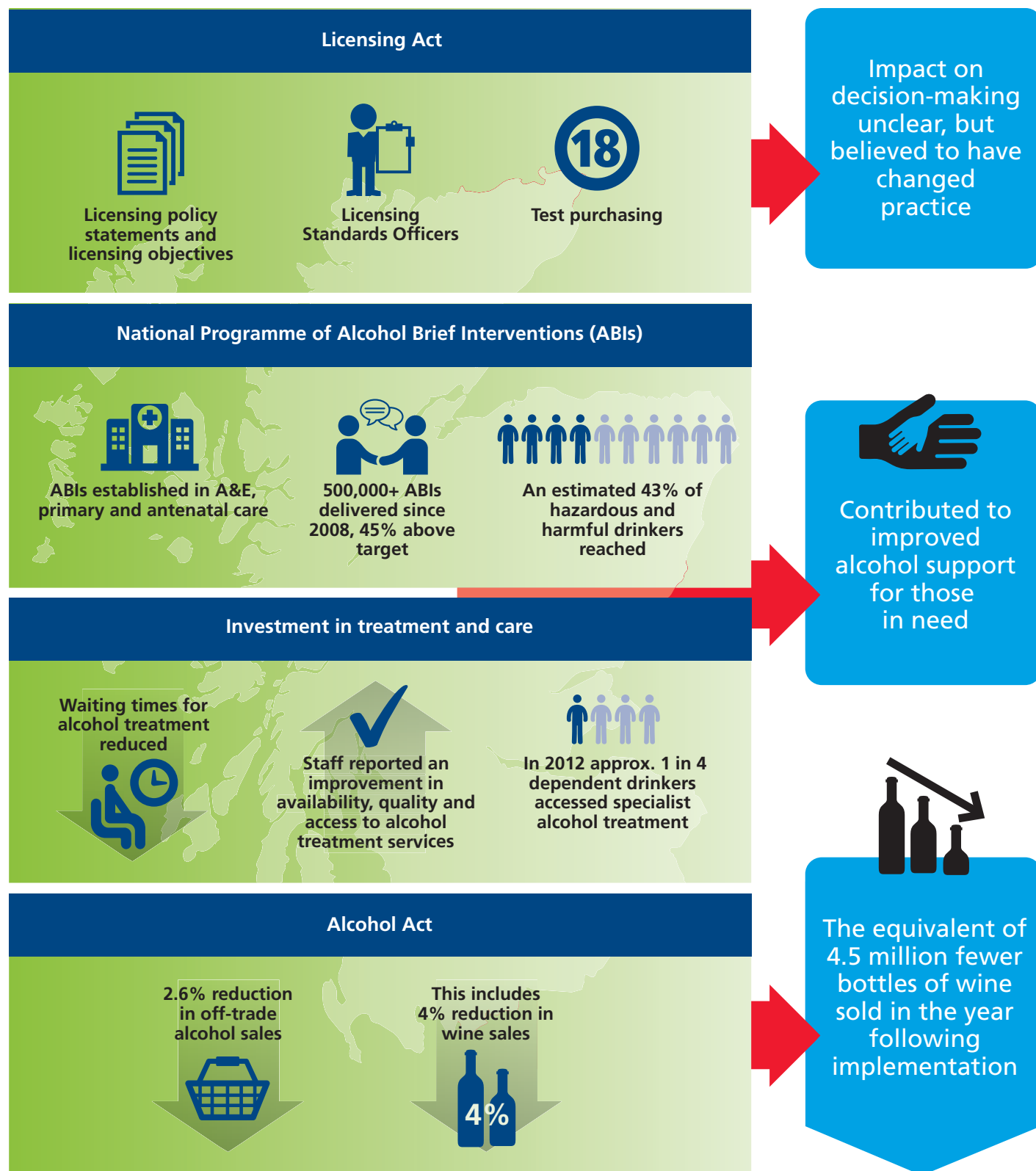
- 35% for men
- 29% for women

The full report can be found at [www.healthscotland.com/MESAS](http://www.healthscotland.com/MESAS)  
For more information contact: [nhs.healthscotland-MESAS@nhs.net](mailto:nhs.healthscotland-MESAS@nhs.net)  
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# Monitoring and Evaluating Scotland's Alcohol Strategy:

## Impact of the strategy

The evaluation found that some elements of the strategy have been successfully implemented and are likely to have had a positive impact.





# Monitoring and Evaluating Scotland's Alcohol Strategy: Recommendations

1

## Review and refresh the alcohol strategy



The Scottish Government has already announced a refresh of the alcohol strategy. This should continue to be informed by evidence of effectiveness and cost-effectiveness as well as evidence of gaps in policy to determine the priority for further action. Consideration should be given to how alcohol consumption and related harm can be addressed within the context of the wider socio-economic determinants of health.

2

## Improve implementation

Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) has not yet been implemented, constraining the impact of the strategy. MUP should be implemented. Implementation difficulties and local variation means that impact of interventions may vary. Improved consistency and completeness of local data would help identify areas for improved implementation.

3

## Future monitoring and evaluation



Monitoring of alcohol price, affordability, consumption and alcohol-related deaths and hospital admissions should continue. Bringing these together in an annual overview will facilitate early identification and exploration of emerging issues.

4

## Research

For example:

Understanding the mechanisms underpinning a 'vulnerable generation' and why their risk of alcohol-related harm appears elevated.

The factors that facilitate initiation and continued engagement with specialist alcohol treatment and care services in Scotland, including early identification of those with alcohol problems.

## In conclusion

The strategy has had a positive impact on alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harm to date. However, on average 22 Scots die of an alcohol-related illness every week. There is a need for continued action to reduce alcohol-related harm.

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## ABERDEEN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

### PROGRESS STATEMENT – 25 MAY 2016

Remit of Local Licensing Forums as set out in the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – keeping under review the operation of the Act in the Forum’s area and in particular the exercise by the Licensing Board of their functions including giving advice and making recommendations to the Board in relation to those matters where the Forum considers it appropriate. The Act does not enable a Forum to review or give advice or make recommendations in relation to the exercise by a Board of their function in relation to a particular case. “Case” is taken to mean an application before a Board and in the interests of natural justice is also taken to mean individual licensed premises. The preferred route for consideration of complaints about the running of licensed premises is to write directly to the Clerk or Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board.

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 requires Licensing Boards in exercising any of their functions to have regard to any advice given or recommendations made to them by a Local Licensing Forum and where the Board decides not to follow the advice or recommendation to give the Forum reasons for that decision, the Board must provide copies of relevant statistical information to the Forum as it may reasonably require for the purposes of its general functions.

Licensing Standards Officers have a general function of providing to interested persons information and guidance concerning the operation of the Act, supervising compliance with the Act and the conditions of their licences by holders of Premises Licences and Occasional Licences and mediate between communities and the trade or between any two parties where there is a need to resolve a local problem and develop a local solution. LSOs do not act as “policemen” with regard to licensing but they will liaise with the police and other relevant officials such as Environmental Health Officers in pursuit of the objectives of the Act.

Item	Meeting Reference	Decision/Action	Update	Responsible Lead	Licensing Objective
Items relating to all Licensing Objectives					
1.		<u>Statistical Information</u> To receive reports from the Licensing Board containing relevant statistical information.	The Forum and Board will continue to liaise at joint meetings.		All objectives

Item	Meeting Reference	Decision/Action	Update	Responsible Lead	Licensing Objective
2.	2 July 2015 (Joint Licensing Meeting)	<b><u>Statement of Licensing Policy 2016-19</u></b> The Forum to begin discussions on their response to the development of a draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2016-19.	<p>At the Joint Meeting of the Licensing Board and Forum on 2 July 2015 Ruth O'Hare advised that an extensive consultation process would be carried out in relation to the Statement of Licensing Policy for 2016 -2019. The Board would also be requesting evidence and statistics from various organisations and, as advised earlier, officers were developing a timeline for preparing the policy. It was hoped that a proposed timeline would be put to the Board at its meeting in August.</p> <p>The Convener to the Licensing Board added that the information needed to be area specific, up to date and relevant to alcohol. She added that Board would look to other Board's policies for guidance as part of the review.</p> <p>On 16 September the Forum agreed to establish a Working Group to develop its response to the draft statement.</p>	All	All objectives
3.	11 February 2015	<b><u>Alcohol and Young People</u></b> The Forum considered whether attitudes towards alcohol have changed		Young Person's Representative to the Forum	All Objectives



Item	Meeting Reference	Decision/Action	Update	Responsible Lead	Licensing Objective
		amongst younger people and the Convener requested a presentation for a future workshop on what young people think of alcohol and their experiences of its use and impact.			
4.	18 November 2015	<b><u>Youth Justice Monitoring</u></b> The Forum requested Gillian Flett to provide an update on the monitoring arrangements and research conducted by the Youth Justice team on how young people accessed alcohol.	Sgt Flett provided an update on 12 January 2016 and advised that there was no clear mechanism in place to retrieve the requested data but discussions were ongoing between Police Scotland the Youth Justice Team on how to achieve greater alignment.	Gillian Flett/Jonathan Lloyd	Licensing Objective 1: Preventing Crime and Disorder; and Licensing Objective 5: Protecting Children from Harm
5.	12 January 2016	<b><u>Statement of Licensing Policy Refresh</u></b> The Forum approved recommendations for the Licensing Board to consider when they were refreshing their Statement of Licensing Policy.	The Clerk submitted the approved letter with recommendations to the Convener and Clerk of the Licensing Board on 14 January 2016 and received a receipt from the Convener of the Licensing Board on 27 January 2016.	Sandy Kelman/Iain Robertson	All Objectives

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