

ABERDEEN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

PROGRESS STATEMENT – APRIL 2015

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
1.		<u>Community Engagement</u> Find out from communities what are their areas of concern.	The Community Council Liaison Officer attended the November 2014 meeting of the Forum and it was suggested that the LLF could discuss the issue of engagement with Community Councils with the	CCLO / Clerk	Securing Public Safety

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			Licensing Board. The Convener suggested that if a representative from the CC Forum could attend a future LLF meeting, they could have further discussion with them on the topic, and the LLF could then write to the Board with any concerns / suggestions. He suggested that Health could contact the Licensing Board with comments from their perspective and then a further letter could be sent once the Forum had met with the CC representative.		
Items relating to all Licensing Objectives					
2.		<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
3.	11 December 2013	<u>Statement of Licensing Policy</u> To request a commentary from the Clerk to the Board on all of the Forum recommendations on the Statement of Licensing Policy, indicating if they were accepted or not, and if not, why not.	At its meeting on 23 April 2014, the Forum noted the response from the Clerk and the finalised Statement of Licensing Policy and agreed to raise the issue of moving beyond the bounds of restricted policy (for example, responsibilities to children were not simply confined to the Licensing Objective: Protecting Children from Harm) at the joint meeting with the Licensing Board on	All Clerk for Joint Meeting agenda	All objectives

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			<p>3 July. This was discussed at the joint meeting on 3 July. It was hoped that an aspirational statement could be included in the Statement of Licensing Policy.</p> <p>At the September LLF meeting, members who had been present at the joint meeting agreed that their recollection was that there had been an agreement for an aspirational statement to be included. 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>At the November LLF meeting, the Convener advised that a letter to the Clerk to the Licensing Board had been sent, but no reply had been received as yet.</p>		
4.	19 June 2013	<p>Evaluation Having looked at the NHS Report evaluating implementation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, it was</p>	Agendas are now displayed outside the Town House to encourage attendance by members of the public.		All objectives

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		<p>agreed to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive occasional presentations from members • Look at the production of a leaflet on the work of the Forum • Place agendas on the display boards outside the Town House • Keep the website updated and look to hold more information there. 	<p>Following the attendance of the Community Council Liaison Officer at the November LLF meeting, further discussion will take place as to possible links between the LLF webpages and the Community Council webpages, as well as possible attendance at meetings by a representative from the CC Forum.</p>		
5.	11 September 2013	<p><u>Training Programme</u> The Forum agreed to the production of a training programme, and that this include in the first instance information sessions on (1) the relevant legislation; (2) personal licences (3) the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and (4) admissions to Accident and Emergency. It was also agreed that, as there was no training budget, the programme would rely on members and co-optees themselves to provide, and that former member Gerrard Rattray be asked to provide some training on personal licences in the first instance.</p>	<p>Training to be delivered by Tara-Erin Gilchrist and Emily Queen early 2015 – postponed from November meeting due to Community Council attendance.</p>	<p>All Partners</p> <p>George Wyatt to speak to Gerrard Rattray</p>	<p>All objectives</p>

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6.	23 April 2014	<p><u>Role of Forum / Statistical Information</u> The Forum considered how the statistical information presented to it could be monitored so it could be used to challenge the Licensing Board on its decisions where necessary. Dave Bliss agreed to lead a workshop session (possibly in September) to discuss in more detail. Sandy Kelman, Dave Bliss and Steph Dunsmuir to meet separately outwith the meeting to discuss how to take the matter forward.</p>	<p>It was agreed at the November meeting of the LLF that time would be set aside at future meetings for a workshop session on each Licensing Objective.</p>	Sandy Kelman / Dave Bliss / Steph Dunsmuir	All objectives
7.	11 February 2015	<p><u>NHS Grampian Pilot Study</u> The forum discussed the need for a more in depth study of the relationship between alcohol sale and consumption and the surrounding environmental on social and economic inequalities. Shamini Omnes explained to the Forum that NHS Grampian were currently undertaking a pilot scheme in Torry on the correlation between alcohol abuse and the surrounding environment and agreed to present the findings of this study when they became available.</p>		Shamini Omnes	Protecting and Improving Public Health
8.	11 February 2015	<p><u>Alcohol and Young People</u> The Forum considered whether attitudes towards alcohol have changed amongst younger people and the</p>		Chris Cromar	All Objectives

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		Convener requested that Chris Cromar consult with the Aberdeen City Youth Council and prepare a presentation for a future workshop on what young people think of alcohol and their experiences of its use and impact.			
9.	11 February	<p><u>Development of a Performance Management Framework</u></p> <p>The Convener suggested a meeting involving the Vice Convener, Dave Bliss, Inspector Doug Rae and a Community Safety Analyst to access data quantifying the impact of alcohol in Aberdeen with a view to developing a performance management framework.</p>		Sandy Kelman, Ruary Campbell, Doug Rae, Dave Bliss and Peter Lees	All Objectives
10.	11 February	<p><u>Statistical Trends for Licensed Trades</u></p> <p>The Convener suggested that members of the Licensed Trade may find it useful to collate and compare data from 5 common measures and indicators to determine trends on Aberdeen's consumption of alcohol and the number and nature of visits to licensed premises. Ruary Campbell and the Clerk agreed to liaise and produce this performance information for a future Forum meeting.</p>		Ruary Campbell/Clerk	All Objectives

