

LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

Wednesday 17 June 2015

Members Present: Sandy Kelman, Convener; Ruary Campbell, Vice Convener; and Emily Queen, Community Safety Partnership; Ken Eddie, Aberdeen Civic Forum; Peter Benton, Aberdeen Samaritans; Diane Sande and Tara-Erin Gilchrist, Licensing Standards Officers; Graeme Pyper, Community Council representative; and Maggie Cruickshank, Children’s Services (as substitute for Dave Bliss)

Also present: Heather Wilson, NHS Grampian; Gillian Flett and Christine Gordon, Police Scotland; Stuart McPhee, Licensed Trade; Piotr Teodorowski, Aberdeen Civic Forum; Peter Lees, Community Safety Analyst; and Stephanie Dunsmuir, Legal and Democratic Services

Apologies: Andrew Jones, Shamini Omnes, Chris Cromar, Iain Robertson

Item	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
1. Minute of Previous Meeting of 22 April 2015	(i) To note that Emily Queen had submitted apologies for the April meeting; (ii) In relation to article 5 (Reflections on Working with the Licensing Board), to note that Heather Wilson had been incorrectly referred to as ‘Health’ Wilson in the minute; and that the article should in fact read, “...but conceded that challenges remained in relation to the lack of evidence <i>that categorically affirmed a causal relationship between alcohol and outlet availability.</i> ”, rather than “between alcohol and harm” as stated in the minute; and (iii) To otherwise approve the minute as a correct record.		
2. Matters Arising	(i) With reference to item 3(i) - 2013/14 LSO report, Tara-Erin Gilchrist informed the	Diane Sande / Tara-Erin Gilchrist to provide an update on progress to the next meeting of the	D Sande / T-E Gilchrist

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	<p>Forum that the implementation of Service Level Agreements was still ongoing and that the outcome of this would determine when the report would be approved;</p> <p>(ii) With reference to item 3(iii) – LSOs / Community Council Forum - Tara-Erin advised that the LSOs had been attending various Community Council meetings;</p> <p>(iii) With reference to item 3(vi) – Safer Torry Pilot, the Convener advised that the agreed presentation by Shamini Omnes would come to a future meeting of the Forum;</p> <p>(iv) With reference to item 3(vii) – Young People’s Attitude to Alcohol, the Forum noted that Chris Cromar was not in attendance and so the item would fall to a future meeting. Piotr Teodorowski advised that the Youth Council would be submitting a response to the proposal by the Scottish Government to raise the drinking age to 21; and</p> <p>(v) With reference to item 3(viii) – Links between Licensed Trade and Police Scotland, Gillian Flett advised that the appropriate contact in relation to licensing issues would be officers in the Licensing Department, but that community policing teams endeavoured to make regular visits to licensed premises.</p>	<p>Forum.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Shamini Omnes to present the findings of the Safer Torry pilot study at a future meeting.</p> <p>Noted – to be discussed at the next meeting once Chris Cromar was in attendance.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p>S Omnes</p> <p>C Cromar</p>	
3.	Membership Updates	The Clerk advised that Iain Robertson had contacted the Forum co-optees but had not	The Clerk to contact the co-optees again and ask if they still wished to remain on the	I Robertson

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	<p>received a response. The Convener asked that he send a further email and if no response was forthcoming, that the current co-optees be removed from the Licensing Forum.</p> <p>The Forum also discussed the lack of off-sales representation on the group, and Emily Queen and Diane Sande advised that they could ask some of their contacts if they would be interested in joining the Forum.</p>	<p>Licensing Forum.</p> <p>Diane Sande/Tara-Erin Gilchrist and Emily Queen to ask their contacts in off-sales if they would be willing to attend meetings of the Forum.</p>	<p>D Sande / T-E Gilchrist</p>	
4.	<p>Alcohol Related Crime in the City Centre</p>	<p>Peter Lees took the Forum through a report which had been prepared in relation to the levels of offending and sobriety within the City Centre of Aberdeen and the Forum discussed the content in more detail.</p> <p>In relation to the data for victim sobriety, the Vice Convener asked if it would be possible to separate out customer data from staff data. Peter advised that this would rely on how information was recorded by Police, for example, if occupation was mentioned. Ruary noted that a lot of the sober victims were likely to be bar staff or door stewards. Peter Benton noted that in general, the number of offences was decreasing (with the exception of serious assaults), but that alcohol was still a definite factor in offences. The Convener suggested that the reduction in offences could be down to the work being done by the Police and by those working in city centre bars and clubs. Standards had increased and initiatives such as Best Bar None as well as the work carried</p>	<p>The Forum requested that the next report focus on any available information in relation to whether people under the age of 18 were the victims or perpetrators, as well as their level of sobriety. The report to the following meeting could focus on data in relation to alcohol and offences outwith the city centre.</p> <p>If possible, the Forum requested that data be measured against footfall, perhaps utilising the information collected by Aberdeen Inspired.</p>	<p>P Lees / E Queen</p>

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	<p>out by the Licensing Standards Officers, Street Pastors and Taxi Marshals had likely all had a positive effect. Christine Gordon highlighted the impact of early intervention and how the night-time economy was now policed.</p> <p>There was some discussion of how serious assaults were classified, and Christine explained that some relatively minor injuries would be classed as 'serious' due to how they had to be recorded. Gillian added that the definition of serious assault had been amended in 2015 and that might account for the increase in the figures. It was suggested that future reports could be grouped as 'total assaults'.</p> <p>Graeme Pyper stated that he would feed back to the City Centre Community Council that there had been a reduction in offences in the city centre. The Convener asked if the Samaritans had noted a decrease in the number of calls, and Peter Benton advised that the volume of calls had dropped over the last 10 years, but that this was likely due to more agencies working in the field. He did not feel that fewer people were using the service, and in fact considered that the numbers had probably increased.</p> <p>In terms of the Licensing Objective – Protecting Children from Harm, the Forum asked if it would be possible to identify if</p>		

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	<p>people below the age of 18 were the victims / perpetrators, and their sobriety status. The Forum suggested that it would also be helpful to receive data in relation to outwith the city centre. The Vice Convener asked if it was possible to measure the data against footfall, for example, by using the data collected by Aberdeen Inspired.</p> <p>The Convener reminded members that the Statement of Licensing Policy was due to be reviewed shortly and that from the data, it could be considered that the Policy was working. However, breaking down the information and using other data might indicate something different. He suggested that specific data could be considered at future LLF meetings – for example, the next meeting could focus on statistics in relation to children and young people, and the following meeting could consider data outwith the city centre.</p>			
5.	Strengthening the Community Role in Licensing	<p>Graeme Pyper explained his role as SACRO Team Leader and discussed a SACRO / Police pilot scheme with 8 to 18 year olds who were engaged in offending behaviour. The scheme had led to a 91% reduction in offending in the target group. He advised that SACRO would sit in on Police interviews to ensure that the young person being interviewed had a full understanding of what was happening. In the past, Graeme advised that SACRO had visited licensed premises to</p>	<p>The Forum thanked Graeme for his presentation.</p> <p>Graeme Pyper to provide any feedback from the discussion re engagement / licensing process at the Community Council Forum meeting to the next meeting of the LLF.</p>	G Pyper

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	<p>speak to door stewards about young people who might appear older than they actually were, and added that the discussions with door stewards had been productive, providing feedback to SACRO from their perspective. Some of the work being done was around whether in some cases it was necessary to escalate the matter to the Police – for example, SACRO could go to the venue and take the young person home, toning down the incident.</p> <p>The Forum also had before it a paper from the Glasgow Centre for Population Health – “Re-imagining the system: how communities can have a greater say on the availability of alcohol in their local area”. The Convener noted that it highlighted issues where Community Councils were finding it difficult to engage in the licensing process. Graeme advised that this would be a topic for discussion at the next Community Council Forum meeting. He added that the general feeling amongst Community Councils was that more information was needed on law and licensing. Graeme undertook to feedback any outcomes from the discussion at the Community Council Forum to the next LLF meeting. He added that the City Centre Community Council and the Community Council Forum would welcome any representatives from the licensed trade who wished to attend their meetings.</p>		

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6.	City Voice Questionnaire Heather Wilson talked through the list of questions ADP had submitted for the next City Voice circulation. The questions covered the Aberdeen City Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy - awareness, impact and suggestions for the next review; low or no alcohol products; and the proximity of licensed premises. Heather explained that work was ongoing to see how low and no alcohol products could be given a higher profile. She also advised that a questionnaire would be given to the licensed trade.	Noted.	
7.	Joint Meeting between the Licensing Board and Local Licensing Forum The Forum discussed topics it might wish to raise at the joint meeting of the Forum and Licensing Board to be held on 2 July at 2pm. The Forum noted Graeme Pyper's earlier point about some Community Councils not being aware of how to make objections to the Licensing Board and suggested that this might be something for the Board to consider in terms of engagement with Community Councils.	To request that members send any additional topics for discussion to Iain Robertson within the next few days.	All
8.	Update from Police Scotland: Licensing Objective 1: Preventing Crime and Disorder As Licensing Objective 1 had already been discussed under item 4 above, there was no further discussion.		
9.	Update from Licensing Standards Officer: Licensing Objective 2: Securing Public The Forum heard that the Licensing Standards Officers were particularly busy with CCTV off-sales inspections to ensure that premises were complying with Police CCTV specifications.	Noted.	

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	Safety			
10.	Update from Unight Representative: Licensing Objective 3: Preventing Public Nuisance	With reference to article 9 of the minute of the meeting of 11 February, the Vice Convener circulated statistics collated as a result of a questionnaire given to the licensed trade to try to determine trends in the consumption of alcohol and the number and nature of visits to licensed premises. He advised that only six responses had been received to date from seventeen questionnaires. There were no general trends from the responses received. The Convener requested that the questionnaire be recirculated to try to encourage further responses, and suggested that Peter Lees could assist with the analysis of the results.	To request that the questionnaire be reissued to try to illicit responses, and to note that Peter Lees could be asked to help with the analysis of the results. It was agreed that any further responses could be discussed at the next Local Licensing Forum meeting in September.	R Campbell
11.	Update from NHS Grampian & Alcohol and Drugs Partnership: Licensing Objective 4: Protecting and Improving Public Health	Heather Wilson referred to the new Alcohol (Licensing, Public Health and Criminal Justice) (Scotland) Bill. Information on the Bill had been sent to Karen Rennie to circulate to the Community Councils for information. One of the proposals was for Community Councils to have 42 days to comment, rather than the current 21.	Noted.	
12.	Progress Statement		The Forum noted the updated progress statement.	
13.	Date of Next Meeting	2pm, 16 September 2015.	Noted.	N/A

If you require any further information about this minute, please contact Iain Robertson, tel. 01224 522869 or email iairobi@aberdeencity.gov.uk