

ABERDEEN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

PROGRESS STATEMENT – 16 SEPTEMBER 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 |
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| 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 |

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| 2. | 2 July 2015 (Joint Licensing Meeting) | <p><u>Statement of Licensing Policy 2016-19</u> The Forum to begin discussions on their response to the development of a draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2016-19.</p> | <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 | <p><u>Safer Torry Pilot Study</u> The Forum discussed the need for a more in depth study of the relationship</p> | | Shamini Omnes | Protecting and Improving Public Health |

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| | | between alcohol sale and consumption and the surrounding environmental on social and economic inequalities. Shamini Omnes explained to the Forum that there was a Safer Torry pilot scheme which investigated the correlation between alcohol abuse and the surrounding environment and agreed to present the findings of this study when they became available. | | | |
| 4. | 11 February 2015 | <u>Alcohol and Young People</u> The Forum considered whether attitudes towards alcohol have changed 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. | | Young Persons Representative to the Forum | All Objectives |
| 5. | 16 September 2015 | <u>Formation of a Working Group</u> The Forum resolved to form a short life working group to develop responses to the draft Aspirational Statement and the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2016-19 as requested by the Clerk to the Licensing Board. | | Sandy Kelman and Heather Wilson | All Objectives |
| 6. | 17 June 2015 | <u>Alcohol Related Crime</u> Peter Lees took the Forum through a report which had been prepared in | The Forum requested that the next report focus on any available information in relation to whether | Emily Queen/Peter Lees | All Objectives |

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| | | <p>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>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. 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 out with the city centre.</p> | <p>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 out with the city centre.</p> | | |