

## ABERDEEN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

### PROGRESS STATEMENT – 16 MARCH 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
<b>Items relating to all Licensing Objectives</b>					
1.		<b><u>Statistical Information</u></b> 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)	<p><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>	<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><b><u>Alcohol and Young People</u></b>  The Forum considered whether attitudes towards alcohol have changed</p>		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