

**LOCAL LICENSING FORUM**  
2pm, Thursday 21 December 2017  
Town House, Aberdeen

Members present: Insp Kenneth McGeough (Police Scotland), Convener; Peter Benton (Aberdeen Samaritans), Ken Eddie (Civic Forum), Shamini Omnes (Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership), Heather Wilson (NHS), Miriam Smith (Education and Children's Services, Aberdeen City Council (ACC), Nicola Johnston (Aberdeen Inspired).

Also present: Garry Watson (Committee Services, ACC), Rohan Mongru (NHS), Susan Dunn (C. J. Laing – Spar), Gary Jobson (Police)

Apologies: Laura Bailey, Tara Erin Gilchrist, Diane Sande, Steven Stark and Sarah Wheeler.

	Item	Discussion	Action / Decisions	To be actioned by
1	<b><u>Minute of Meeting of 24 May 2017</u></b>	The Forum had before it the minute of the previous meeting.	The minute was agreed as a true record of the previous meeting.	G Watson
2	<b><u>Draft Minute of Joint Meeting with Licensing Board</u></b>	The Forum had before it the minute of the annual joint meeting between the Local Licensing Forum and the Licensing Board	The minute was agreed as a true record of the meeting.	G Watson
3	<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b>	There were no matters arising.		
4	<b><u>Membership Updates</u></b>	Peter Benton advised that he was standing down and that his colleague, Elaine Stoddart, would be replacing him as the representative for Aberdeen Samaritans.  The Chairman welcomed Susan Dunn to the meeting.	The Forum resolved to note the proposed change in membership.	G Watson
5	<b><u>Presentation by Public Health</u></b>	The Forum had before it a report from Rohan Mongru which presented information obtained	The Forum resolved to note the report.	

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		<p>from extensive interviews with community groups, vulnerable groups, Police, victims of domestic abuse and various other service users. The data focussed on the various aspects of licensing, how these people interacted with various licensed premises and the Licensing Board. The report made reference to various objections, complaints and general observations.</p> <p>With regard to the Licensing Board, there was general confusion around how the Board worked and its decision making processes. The Chairman advised that anyone can ask the Board for a statement of their decision, however it was accepted that this service is little known and not advertised.</p> <p>There was discussion around the manner in which extensions to opening hours are granted in Aberdeen for public holidays and special events, such as Hogmanay. People complained that the late timing of the decisions made life very difficult for licensed premises in terms of trying to ensure sufficient staffing level etc. This view was endorsed by members of the Forum. Nicola Johnston advised that certain other Licensing Boards grant the extensions for the whole year ahead, which allows licensed premises and the police and other emergency services and public bodies to plan appropriately.</p> <p>There was a perception from people who had applied for licences that large companies using expensive solicitors would receive favourable treatment from the Licensing Board. The Chairman said that, based on his experience of attending Board meetings as a Police Officer, he had not seen any evidence</p>		

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		<p>of this.</p> <p>There was a discussion around vulnerable people with reference to the Local Licensing Objectives. The Chairman suggested that the current objective entitled 'Protecting Children from Harm' should be expanded to include vulnerable people.</p> <p>There was further discussion around Bystander Training and the proxy supply of alcohol and the way in which the law appears to be applied differently to on and off sales premises. The example given was that if an on sales employee tried to persuade someone to take a larger drink than the one they ordered, this would be seen as a very serious matter, however it would be more or less disregarded if it was an employee of an offsales persuading someone to buy a litre bottle of spirits instead of a standard bottle. Members agreed that 'upselling' was, at the very least, a serious breach of licensing conditions, regardless of the venue.</p> <p>One issue which service users complained about was the apparently outdated paper-based administration procedures used by the Licensing Board. The Clerk advised that as part of the Council's ongoing transformation process it was anticipated that improvements may already be in the pipeline. It was agreed that the Clerk would check this with the Council's Legal Services, who administrate the Board.</p>	Clerk to liaise with Legal Services	G Watson
6	<b><u>Update from Police Scotland: Licensing</u></b>	The Forum had before it the Chief Constables annual report. There were no questions on the report.	The Forum resolved to note the report.	

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	<b><u>Objective 1: Preventing Crime and Disorder</u></b>	The Chairman advised members regarding a recent licensing awareness event entitled 'Licensing Matters' which had taken place in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire during December and which had been very well received. He proposed that Aberdeen City should host a similar event and agreed to contact the Council's Legal Services with a view to appropriate discussions taking place.	To liaise with Legal Services regarding a proposed 'Licensing Matters' event for Aberdeen City.	K McGeogh
7	<b><u>Update from Licensing Standards Officer: Objective 2: Securing Public Safety</u></b>	No update.		
8	<b><u>Update from Unight Representative: Licensing Objective 3: Preventing Public Nuisance</u></b>	Nicola Johnston advised that the development of 'Project Winston' training and Defibrillator training was ongoing. She also advised that as part of the Purple Flag initiative, safety messages were being created which were based on the 'Celebrate Safe' model which was developed in Holland and had proved to be very successful. The messages were very strong, without being patronising or cheesy and the campaign benefited from very strong, recognisable branding.	The Forum resolved to note the update.	
9	<b><u>Update from NHS Grampian and Alcohol and Drugs Partnership: Licensing Objective 4: Protecting and Improving Public Health</u></b>	<p>The Forum had before it a report from Heather Wilson which presented an update regarding Community Council Licensing Workshop.</p> <p>The Forum also had before it a report from Heather Wilson which presented an update from the Aberdeen Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.</p> <p>Heather Wilson also referred members to</p>	<p>The Forum resolved to note the update.</p> <p>The Forum resolved to note the update.</p> <p>To liaise with Alcohol Focus Scotland with a</p>	K McGeogh

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		<p>reports from Alcohol Focus Scotland, which had recently been circulated outwith the meeting. The Forum agreed that they would like to hear a speaker from Alcohol Focus Scotland at a future meeting.</p> <p>There were no questions on the reports</p>	view to a speaker attending the Forum.	
10	<b><u>Update from Children's Services Representative: Licensing Objective 5: Protecting Children from Harm</u></b>	The Forum had before it a report, tabled at the meeting, from Miriam Smith which presented an update on the percentages of children, young people and families being supported by children's social work due to alcohol related problems. She advised members that alcohol was only recorded if it was deemed the primary reason for intervention, so the figures may be underestimated. She further advised that the affected children were more likely to go on to have drugs/alcohol issues in later life.	The Forum resolved to note the update.	
11	<b><u>AOCB</u></b>	The Chairman advised members that Police Officer Gary Jobson had attended the Forum at his invitation, owing to the fact that he requires to complete a project as part of his Police Diploma. There was some discussion around what PC Jobson might focus on, with the suggestions including improving clarity around the remit of the Forum or investigating the issues around vulnerability. It was agreed that PC Jobson would be given time to consider the suggestions and report back to the Forum in due course.		
12	<b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b>	<p>The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 31 January 2018.</p> <p><b><u>INSP KENNETH MCGEOUGH, Convener</u></b></p>		G Watson

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If you require any further information about this minute, please contact Garry Watson, tel. 01224 523057 or email [gawatson@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:gawatson@aberdeencity.gov.uk)