

MORAY LICENSING FORUM MEETING
28 February 2017

Present: Peter Adamson – Chair (PA); Paul Johnson (PJ); Sean Hoath (SH); Gavin Jardine (GJ); Laura Sutherland (LS); Tara Shivaji (TS); Sheila Fraser (SF); Iain Catto (IC); Michael Reid (MR); Freya Macdonald – Minutes (FM).

ITEM		ACTION
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Ken Asher (KA) David Owen (DO)</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as accurate.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>The report on over-provision was discussed. The licensing policy was last done in 2012 so it was agreed that it would be better to move forward.</p> <p>PA thanked PJ for circulating the Moray Strategy Delivery Plan and the Moray Drug and Alcohol Plan along with other relevant documentation.</p> <p>PJ volunteered to take on the role as Vice-Convenor. This was seconded by PA and IC.</p>	
4	<p>Tara Shivaji, NHS Consultant in Public Health – Licensing Standards Forums</p> <p>TS informed the group that Alcohol Focus Scotland hold workshops for Forum members to attend which give guidance about the purpose of Forums and what they should be doing. They believe that the purpose of a Forum is to look at the operation of the Licensing Act. Alcohol Focus Scotland also believes that alcohol harm is not limited to the person consuming it; it also affects those around them. A study showed that 1% of Moray's population is dependent on alcohol.</p> <p>It was also discussed that it is very important that the needs of people recovering from an alcohol problem are being protected.</p> <p>TS informed the group that another council have combined police and health data and developed a traffic light system to help identify problem areas and direct resources. It was agreed that this would be worth looking into. IC thought this system would be beneficial to the trade as they would be less likely to start up a business where there is a problem of over-provision. TS confirmed that she is happy to help get the statistics and present the information in a way that is easy to interpret.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be beneficial to work in partnership with Alcohol Focus Scotland. PJ to circulate documents from Alcohol Focus Scotland.</p>	PJ

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	<p>It was discussed whether it would be useful to develop a work plan. This would enable the Forum to be better informed and also focus on what can be achieved.</p> <p>It was confirmed that there is no funding within the Forum.</p> <p>There will be elections in May for the Licensing Board. PJ wants to look at how the Forum can support the new Board as some of the new members may not have a lot of experience. SH to circulate the current policy.</p> <p>Licensing Board members have to go through training with Alcohol Focus Scotland before they are able to sit on the Board. Some places could be made available to forum members. SH to confirm.</p> <p>GJ informed the Forum about Police Scotland's role is in regard to licensing. It was confirmed that Police Scotland ensures that all licensed premises are working in accordance with the licensing objectives. They also try to work with the trade to avoid any issues. Police Scotland are also a consultee for all new trade applications.</p> <p>IC confirmed that the Forum should have an annual meeting with the Board.</p> <p>MR asked if it would be possible to get statistics from GP's of how many patients are coming to them because of an alcohol related issue as this would show how many working days are being lost to alcoholism. TS confirmed that GP's own their data and that the NHS would have to pay to gain access to it.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding how the culture is changing around alcohol as young people are no longer drinking on the streets. They are now getting alcohol from their parents at home. 70% of all alcohol is sold at off sales.</p> <p>SF suggested that it would be a good time to attempt to gain more trade involvement again. PJ thought it would be beneficial to get in contact with Douglas Miekle who is part of the whisky trade. TS thought that a representative from the tourism industry would be helpful. IC offered to get in contact with Gill from Elgin Bid and also look into student unions to try to get involvement from young people.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>SH</p>
5	<p>Drug and Alcohol Partnership</p> <p>PJ informed the Forum that Moray Drug and Alcohol Partnership are working with many organisations including the Community Planning Partnership and A & E staff to provide support, advice and develop matters related to drug and alcohol abuse.</p> <p>The delivery plan was also discussed.</p>	

ITEM		ACTION
6	<p>Forum Priorities / Work Plan</p> <p>The meeting agreed that the forum should focus on influencing licensing policy. The current policy will be reviewed and re-issued by the Licensing Board by autumn 2018. The meeting agreed the following outline plan:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review current policy and the information used to form the current policy. 2. Collect and review current data and information to identify changes and trends since the last policy was formulated. 3. Develop the forum's views on future policy. 4. Advise the board of the forum's views in good time to allow consideration by the Board. 	
7	<p>Over-provision</p> <p>Over-provision will form part of the forum work plan detailed above.</p>	
8	<p>Issues & Concerns</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding on-line sales. Amazon has applied for alcohol licenses and two new warehouses. This has been escalated up to the Scottish Government. GJ highlighted the importance of control over who's checking that all parties involved with ordering, paying and receiving are all over the legal age. It was noted that online trade in alcohol has been operating for many years. The Amazon scheme is different because the licence granted by one Board will cover activity over the whole of Scotland. There will be no control of local activity by the Moray Board.</p>	
9	<p>Suggestions for speakers at future meetings</p> <p>PJ suggested Alcohol Focus Scotland although they would not be able to attend until autumn time and also a member of the Scotch Whisky Association.</p> <p>Other suggestions were another Forum to see what they're doing, someone from the trade and finally a street pastor.</p>	<p>PA</p>
10	<p>AOB</p> <p>IC let the meeting know that funding for a project tackling alcohol related harm is closing in June.</p>	