

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the FALKIRK LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

FORUM MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Jill Bennet (Person resident in Forum Area); Gordon Emslie (Personal Licence Holder); Caird Forsyth (Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership); David Gibson (Social Work); Charles Gillespie (Person resident in Forum Area); Madelene Hunt (Person resident in Forum Area); Ian Lovie (Scottish Grocers Federation); Warren Luke (Person resident in Forum Area); Acting Chief Inspector Mandy Paterson (Police Scotland); Bruce Rennie (District Bowling Association); Thomas Ross (Licensing Standards Officer), and Chief Inspector Chris Stewart (Police Scotland).

APOLOGIES:

Alison Barr (Consumer Protection Manager, Falkirk Council); Lorraine Fisher (Education); Rose Mary Glackin (Clerk to Falkirk Council Licensing Board); Aileen Holliday (NHS Forth Valley), and Nash Lalli (Personal Licence Holder).

CHAIR:

Gordon Emslie.

COUNCIL OFFICER

PRESENT:

Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer.

1. MINUTE

The Forum **approved** the minute of meeting held on 23 January 2014.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE

4. Personal Licence - Refresher Training

Gordon advised that Edexcel (Pearson Education Limited) had now been approved as a SCQF Level 6 acceptable provider.

3. FORUM LINKS WITH THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIP

Caird gave a presentation on the links between the Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Falkirk Licensing Forum, which focused on the following:

Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs)

- in 2009 the Scottish Government instructed the development of Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs)
- the ADPs are accountable through a Single Outcome Agreement
- Falkirk ADP was formed in October 2009
- Forth Valley ADP is the overarching partnership and includes the 3 local authorities i.e. Stirling/Falkirk and Clackmannanshire together with Police Scotland and NHS Forth Valley

Falkirk ADP

- the Falkirk ADP is a high level strategic group
- the core stakeholders deal with people with not only drug and alcohol problems but with those who have a host of problems
- collectively work in partnership to assist those seeking help
- the ADP has the ability to make decisions and has authority to allocate resources
- there is a limited amount of funding and decisions have to be taken on how this is spent and to achieve the best possible service
- there is a desire to champion causes

FADP Priorities 2013/14

- communication – messages in relation to misuse of substances for the whole community
- access to appropriate treatment and support and recovery services for individuals with substance misuse problems
- training/awareness addressing acceptability/culture of alcohol and drugs within the whole community
- ensure all services have “gold thread” approach to ensure that the safety of families is paramount
- children affected by parental substance misuse (CAPSM)
- ensure correct support for families and friends of those affected by substance misuse
- service user involvement and to ensure fit for purpose service; importance of feedback from service users
- harm reduction; referrals for services/help is normally made by the individual themselves
- drug related deaths; 13 deaths in 2013 which was a reduction on the previous year’s figure. To date there have been 4 in 2014
- reduction of availability and recovery of drugs; importance of information from various sources to assist Police Scotland address these issues

Falkirk Licensing Forum

- new body formed as part of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005
- FADP representation on the Licensing Forum
- link between the ADP outcomes (set by Scottish Government) and the licensing objectives
- licensing policy and licensing applications; through consultation
- sharing information with the Licensing Board
- activity – services (education, prevention treatment, availability, enforcement, CAPSM)

Size of the Problem in the Forth Valley

- there are 50,000 people dependent on alcohol or drinking at hazardous levels
- there are an estimated 8,500 people in the Forth Valley who use illegal drugs with approximately 2,000 opiate and/or benzodiazepine users; problems with addiction to prescription and “over the counter” drugs
- in Falkirk there is approximately 4,250 illegal drug users
- increase in prevalence amongst 35-64 age range not the younger ages as commonly thought

Size of the Problem – Alcohol

- the impact of alcohol has not to be underestimated with referrals for alcohol misuse far outweighing those for drugs
- both men and women report that the place where they drank most was in the home
- this has a knock on effect; increase in domestic violence
- people living in the most deprived areas are 6 times more likely to die an alcohol related death
- affluence is not a protective factor
- 649 hospital discharges with alcohol diagnosis for Falkirk (Forth Valley 1,318)
- Falkirk area had 421 deaths from 2000-2012 identified as alcohol related with a total of 802 for the whole Forth Valley
- there is a strong link between domestic violence and alcohol
- 3 in 5 incidents of violent crime reports that the attacker was under the influence of alcohol

Size of the Problem – Drugs

- in 2011/12 there were 257 new individuals presented for drug treatment with a total of 558 for Forth Valley
- the average age is 31
- in 2011/12, 36% of individuals from Falkirk had dependent children
- the drugs of choice are heroin and cannabis
- in 2011 there was 11 drug related deaths in the Falkirk area with a total of 26 for Forth Valley

Size of the Problem – Young People

Alcohol – Forth Valley 2010

- 47% of 13 year olds and 76% of 15 year olds have had an alcoholic drink – beer, lager or cider
- 16% of 13 year olds and 33% of 15 year olds have had alcoholic drink in the last week

Tobacco – Forth Valley 2010

- 4% of 13 year olds and 10% of 15 year olds are regular smokers

Drugs – Forth Valley 2010

- 11% of 13 year olds and 18% of 15 year olds have used drugs
- 8% of 13 year olds and 10% of 15 year olds had used drugs in the last month
- most common drug used was cannabis
- the drug was supplied by a friend of the same age
- 23% of 13 year olds and 24% of 15 year olds would not know where to go for help

The Forum went on to discuss various issues arising from Caird's presentation with further discussion taking place on the following:-

- alcohol consumption can be more harmful at home due to no measures being used
- recommended weekly alcohol units for men and women
- dual diagnosis of those presenting with both drug and alcohol problems
- impact on health, work and family life caused by alcohol and drug dependence
- being in possession or supplying illegal drugs was an offence, however, once drug was taken the only offence would be driving while under the influence of drugs
- powers and the work of Police Scotland relating to search and recovery of illegal substances

- the various tests/visits carried out by officers from Police Scotland to licensed premises to help minimise risk of illegal drug possession/supply; and the benefit and good results from intelligence
- differing drinking patterns between certain groups i.e. early retired, young people
- presentation of those with mental health issues due to early and long term cannabis use
- necessity to educate to help prevent/reduce the level of alcohol and drug use
- the intervention and equipment available
- differences in attitude to alcohol particularly between certain European countries and USA

5. ITEMISED PRICING SYSTEMS

Thomas advised that the Licensing Board had applied a specific condition to a number of licensed premises whereby they required all sales of alcohol to be made through an itemised till. However, the interpretation of an itemised till can be quite different and given the various types of till systems can make the enforcing of the condition problematic.

He further advised that members of the Licensing Board had recently undertaken visits to several premises to look at the different till systems in operation. He outlined the advantages computerised till systems gave licence holders and referred to tracking sales; stock control; age prompts; ID information; time lock etc.

After discussion, it was noted that in order for the condition to be enforced, a consistent approach in relation to itemised tills would be beneficial and the Forum would seek the Boards' consideration of including this as part of the work for the statement of licensing policy.