

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the FALKIRK LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2014 at 2.30 p.m.

FORUM MEMBERS

PRESENT: Inspector Billy Drummond (Police Scotland); Gordon Emslie (Personal Licence Holder); Caird Forsyth (Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership); Douglas Frood (Licensing Standards Officer); Aileen Holliday (NHS Forth Valley); Nash Lalli (Personal Licence Holder); Warren Luke (Person resident in Forum Area); Bruce Rennie (District Bowling Association).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Hughes and Turner; and Brett Ingle, Personal Licence Holder.

APOLOGIES: Jill Bennet (Person resident in Forum Area); Lorraine Fisher (Education); David Gibson (Social Work); Rose Mary Glackin (Clerk to Falkirk Council Licensing Board); Madelene Hunt (Person resident in Forum Area); Ian Lovie (Scottish Grocers Federation), and Thomas Ross (Licensing Standards Officer).

CHAIR: Gordon Emslie.

COUNCIL OFFICERS

PRESENT: Alison Barr, Consumer Protection Manager, and Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer.

1. MINUTE

The Forum **approved** the minute of meeting held on 30 September 2014.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE

Gordon referred to discussions at the previous meeting regarding whether or not the Bo'ness Children's Fair was listed as an approved holiday (for the Bo'ness area only) within the existing policy. However, having checked this policy, there is no reference to this and he wondered whether or not this event should be highlighted in the draft policy. It was also suggested that a clearer definition of "bar area" where it appears at Paragraph 9.5, Page 11, be set out in the draft policy.

Thereafter, a short discussion took place in relation to layout plans and the differing linear measurements required by licensing boards. Alison Barr advised that Falkirk licensing board had always requested that all measurements be in m³.

Arlene advised that, in regard to the draft policy, Rose Mary was still waiting on an update from the Research and Information Unit in relation to the accompanying factsheet. She also asked Inspector Drummond for an update on when the Chief Constable's report was likely to be available. Inspector Drummond advised that he would find out and report back.

Noted.

3. FALKIRK ALCOHOL AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Members had previously been provided with a copy of the Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) Annual Report which sets out the ADP reporting requirements which included (a) partnership details; (b) self-assessment; (c) finance framework; (d) core and local indicators and key activities 2013/14; (e) ADP and Ministerial priorities, and (f) attaching as an appendix, guidance notes and commissioning diagram.

Caird made reference to the following:

- the report is produced annually and shared with the Scottish Government and the Community Planning Partnership
- it sets out the work of the ADP within the council area as well as Forth Valley
- the local research commissioned by ADP in identifying assessment of need for appropriate services
- that a Forth Valley Family Support service had been commissioned and achieved through the Public Social Partnership Approach
- there was proposals to employ a Recovery Co-ordinator for the Forth Valley area
- the importance of consulting with service users on their experiences to help determine what is working and what needs improvement
- that recovery is a complex process and not just a “prescription” and highlighted the importance of identifying other factors to help aid recovery
- the work undertaken to train the addiction workforce on recovery orientated systems of care, which was delivered by STRADA
- the joint workforce plans and the staff training which had already been commissioned
- the timescale for the ADP delivery plan review; the strategies for Forth Valley; the list of activities in the Falkirk area to reduce the impact of drug and alcohol addiction; the central role of services and 3rd sector services
- the financial allocation received from various partners and how this is used to help prevent, treat and support people with addictions, which also included substance addiction e.g. tobacco
- part 4 of the report sets out baselines, most recent information, targets for 2015 and progress made within the core and local indicators which were divided into 6 main areas i.e. Health, CAPSM/Families, Community Safety, Local Environment, Services and Prevalence
- the information and comparison figures for the council area, Forth Valley and national averages for various indicators
- comparison examples for the Forth Valley (FV) area included:
 - the rate of drug-related hospital discharges (standardised rate per 100,000 population) is currently 44.3% (FV), with the Scottish average 21.3%. Through funding from FVADPs, a hospital addiction team helps support those who present in the acute setting with alcohol or drug related problems.
 - The rate of drug-related mortality (standardised rate per 100,000 population) was 9 (FV) in 2012 with the Scottish average being 11
 - working with the Scottish Ambulance Service has seen a reduction in the number of fatal overdoses. An assertive outreach programme is delivered to those who experience a non-fatal overdose in the community and this initiative has received national interest.
 - the rate of alcohol-related hospital admission rates (standardised rate per 100,000 population) in the FV was significantly better than the national average
 - the prevalence of hepatitis C among injecting drug users is not significantly different from the national average. A local drive to encourage more drug users to be tested may have

led to increased prevalence. This may not necessarily be a negative trend locally and work on revising a local resource which promotes safety in relation to discarded equipment within our communities is currently being undertaken.

- the progress made in taking forward the ADPs five key commitments and also the Ministerial Priorities for 2013/14 which included an update on each priority
- the promotion of alcohol, drug and substance related information available within communities to assist adults and young people access appropriate treatment
- the ongoing training and awareness for staff to ensure that the proper reporting mechanisms are in place when dealing with families affected by addiction
- promotion of harm reduction and the work undertaken by the harm reduction service
- early intervention has less of an impact on services but requires addict to recognise that they have a problem and require treatment
- the success of the Safe Zone and Safe Base within Falkirk which operates on certain weekends and during the festive period
- the new trend of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) “legal highs” and their availability
- the ADPs local improvement goals and measures for delivering the Ministerial Priorities for 2014/15 were also set out

Members of the Forum went on to discuss various issues arising from the ADPs report with further discussion taking place on the following:

- the upsurge on use, the dangers and availability of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) “legal highs” which are normally labelled “not for human consumption”
- posters and other leaflet information is available for display/distribution within licensed premises to raise awareness of alcohol, drug and substance misuse, with details on where treatment can be accessed e.g. helpline telephone numbers/website information
- a report had been published on 21 October 2014 stating that between 2011 and 2013, 225 youngsters aged nine or under had been admitted to hospital for alcohol abuse. The Forth Valley had been the 3rd highest with 33 admissions
- a report was due to be published detailing the results of a robust survey (SALUS) on youngsters’ drug, smoking and drinking habits on a national and local level
- the statistics on the SCOTPHO website which detail national and local results. Statistical information for 2013 was still to be validated and this was the reason these are not available as yet
- concerns that drinks promotions are taking place within certain licensed premises which are not included within the operating plan
- the amount of support for those testing positive for Hepatitis C as the disease is debilitating and has implications for the carrier and their families
- a member asked how many were tested for Hepatitis C – the figure published (66.7%) reflects 32 positive tests among those people who inject drugs tested for HEP C.

4. PROVISIONAL DATES OF LICENSING FORUM MEETINGS 2015

The Forum considered a report by the Clerk proposing dates and times for meetings of the Licensing Forum from January to December 2015.

Members were advised that parking charges at the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk would be effective from 3 November 2014.

After discussion, the Forum agreed that the afternoon meetings take place at 3.15 p.m. as parking is currently “free after 3”. However, if “free after 3” were withdrawn, arrangements would be made to reimburse members for their parking ticket.

The Forum **agreed** the following dates and times, namely:

Tuesday 13 January at 6.00 p.m.

Thursday 26 March at 3.15 p.m.

Tuesday 19 May at 6.00 p.m.

Thursday 13 August at 3.15 p.m.

Tuesday 20 October at 6.00 p.m.

As with normal practice, a date for the joint meeting with the Licensing Forum and Falkirk Licensing Board would be arranged and confirmed in due course.

Noted.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Annual Fees

Alison advised that the process for the collection of annual fees had changed within the last 2 years and that the new process, which involved finance services issuing an invoice, was working well. She also advised that there was an option for applicants to pay by direct debit on a quarterly basis and that a small number had opted for this arrangement.

Noted.

Mandatory Refresher Training

Alison gave an update on the number of personal licence holders (PLH) who had not yet submitted their mandatory refresher training certificate within the statutory timescale. She highlighted that many of these had moved address but had failed to inform the licensing authority, and due to there being no national database, these PLH could not be traced.

Noted.

Training Event

Alison advised that, as set out in the Licensing Board’s Equalities Strategy, the licensing section were planning to organise and hold a training event/workshop aimed at those persons who are office bearers of members’ clubs.

The event will be interactive and stress the need for the licensing requirements to be passed on when changes occur within these clubs e.g. Secretary retires.

During discussion, it was suggested that the provision of hospitality in club constitutions be included as a possible area in the training event.

No date has been set for the training event, but it is anticipated that it will take place prior to the start of the 2014/15 bowling season.

Noted.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13 January 2015 at 6.00 p.m.