

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 19 AUGUST 2008 at 10.30 a.m.

CH13. SUBSTANCE MISUSE

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Community Health and Safety Committee held on 21 August 2007 (Paragraph CH6 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 30 June 2008 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services (a) outlining how Falkirk Council's local strategy is developing in comparison to the new National Strategy, (b) referring to the local strategy's partnership approach in tackling substance misuse within the Falkirk Council area, (c) advising of the considerable changes and improvement in the quality and delivery methods of services, and (d) detailing the broad range of co-ordinated services which are meeting the diverse needs of substance misuse across the Falkirk Council area.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- Effectiveness of strategies
- Role of Education and Social Work Departments
- Relationship with Alcohol Focus Scotland
- Stenhousemuir pilot project on off-sales licensing

Councillor C MacDonald, seconded by Councillor McLuckie moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Hughes moved:

"Committee notes the significant benefits in areas such as West Lothian and Stenhousemuir in reducing alcohol fuelled anti social behaviour by restricting off sales for those under 21 and 25 respectively.

Committee also notes the outcome of the results of the consultation exercise undertaken by Michael Matheson MSP where 82% of those consulted from across the district want to see the age at which you can purchase alcohol from off sales raised from 18 to 21.

Officers are therefore instructed to open up a dialog with the licensing authority on what a scheme to limit off sales in Falkirk District could be implemented and report back to the next Community Health and Safety Committee meeting.

On a division, 6 Members voted for the Motion and 5 Members for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **NOTED** the contents of the Report

AGREED that a further Report be submitted to the Community Health and Safety Committee outlining achievements, and progress made in dealing with opportunities and challenges which resulted from the developing local and national strategies for tackling alcohol, drugs and tobacco.