

Minute of Meeting Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 05 February 2020	14:00	Corporate Meeting Room 2, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present

G Brand; M Brier; M Dymond; D Reid; I Robertson; and E Smith.

Chair

M Dymond, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

D Campbell, Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) and P Shiach, Committee Services Officer Renfrewshire Council (both Renfrewshire Council).

Also in Attendance

S Jones, Alcohol Focus Scotland.

Apologies

C Cardosi, S McLean and P Pieraccini.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Additional Item

The Convener indicated that there was one additional item which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Convener, being of the opinion that the item which was dealt with at item 7 was competent and relevant, authorised its consideration.

1a Minute of Previous Meeting

There was submitted the Minute of the previous meeting of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum held on 29 May 2019.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

1b Note of Inquorate Meeting

There was submitted the note of the inquorate joint meeting between Renfrewshire Licensing Forum and Renfrewshire Licensing Board.

DECIDED: That the note be noted.

2 Matters Arising

(a) Forum Membership

Under reference to item 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 29 May 2019 the Convener referred to an offer made by the previous Licensing Sergeant to contact Licensees at a Police Scotland Licensing event to be held locally in November 2019 with a view to establishing whether they would be interested in membership of the Licensing Forum.

Sergeant Robertson, who had replaced Constable McEwan, undertook to follow up on this issue and report back to a future meeting of the Forum.

(b) Festive Hours

Under reference to item 7 of the Minute of the previous meeting, the Licensing Standards Officer advised that approximately 70 premises had taken advantage of all or part of the festive terminal hour extensions and that there had been no problems during the period.

D Reid requested that a report on the "Safe Bus" and Street Pastor initiatives be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum. This was agreed

DECIDED:

(a) That a report of the Safe Bus and Street Pastor initiatives be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum; and

(b) That the information be otherwise noted.

3a E-Focus Newsletter - August 2019

(a) E Focus Newsletter – August 2019

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland newsletter for August 2019.

The newsletter provided information the Minimum Unit Pricing evaluation compliance study; alcohol labelling; consultation responses on reviewing fees for occasional licences' Public Health Scotland; incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots Law; research; training and events.

DECIDED: That the newsletter be noted.

3b E-Focus Newsletter - September 2019

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland newsletter for September 2019.

The newsletter provided information on alcohol deaths prevention support; alcohol labelling; policies; research; training and events.

DECIDED: That the newsletter be noted.

3c E-Focus Newsletter - January 2020

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland newsletter for January 2020.

The newsletter provided updates on an analysis of off-trade alcohol sales in the first year of MUP; underage drinkers post MUP; parental drinking in Scotland; the Alcohol Health Alliance on alcohol harm; alcohol-free childhood action network; policies; research; training ; and events.

DECIDED: That the newsletter be noted.

3d Forum Learning and Development

Simon Jones representing Alcohol Focus Scotland led a discussion on support available to Licensing forums from his organisation. He indicated that he intended to visit a number of Licensing Forums offering training opportunities and sharing good practice and seeking to identify challenges and strengths.

The Licensing Standards Officer indicated that the LSO Group regularly discussed Forums and stated that some areas no longer have a Licensing Forum despite the statutory nature of the Forums. He advised that there was a lack of knowledge over the function and purpose of Licensing Forums.

The Health Improvement Lead Alcohol Licensing Officer provided information on her experience with the Glasgow Licensing Forum and suggested that more engagement with the licenced trade and young people was required in Renfrewshire. She also indicated that there was a need to acknowledge that Forums were statutory components of the Act and were necessary to lend credibility to the licensing regime in the area.

D Reid emphasised the need to identify What areas the Forum should concentrate on and detail them in a work plan. She requested that Alcohol Focus Scotland provide

examples of best practice which the Forum could adopt.

The Health Improvement Lead Alcohol Licensing Officer suggested that the Forum review licensing policy more often to ensure that its suggestions could be submitted timeously when the Boards Licensing Policy is reviewed. She requested that the Forum should receive regular reports on the types of licences which were being approved and in which areas, together with information on the particular issues associated with these and how they are dealt with. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

(a) That it be agreed that the Forum review licensing policy more often to ensure that its suggestions could be submitted timeously when the Boards Licensing Policy is reviewed;

(b) That it be agreed that the Forum should receive regular reports on the types of licences which were being approved and in which areas, together with information on the particular issues associated with these and how they are dealt with; and

(c) That it be agreed that the Forum seek ways of engaging with representatives of the Licensed trade and with young people.

4 Police Scotland Update

I Robertson, Police Scotland, provided a verbal update on local licensing issues which had arisen since the last meeting of the Forum on 29 May 2019.

He advised of changes which had taken place within K Division and that a new Divisional Commander was in post who had a focus on licensing.

He indicated that there had been over 900 routine visits to licenced premises which had encountered over 330 incidents and resulted in 116 arrests.

He stated that 2020 would be a busy year for policing I the area with the Euro Championships and the Climate Change conference in Glasgow later in the year. He indicated that all police leave had been cancelled for October.

Sergeant Robertson was then heard in answer to questions from Forum members on the content of the report.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

5 Licensing Standards Officer Update

M Brier, Licensing Standards Officer (LSO), provided an update in relation to licensing activity undertaken since November 2019. The Forum was advised that during the period 11 compliance visits and 16 joint compliance/MUP visits had been made to licensed premises. Six premises had required to be revisited. There had been one complaint visit and two miscellaneous visits

The LSO provided a comparison between the number of premises currently licenced and the figures from May 2019 as under

On sales 102 (106)
On/off sales 186 (189)
Off sales 143 (139)
Total 431 (434).

In addition, there were 14 provisional licences and two premises were no longer trading.

The Licensing Standards Officer was then heard in answer to questions from Forum members on the content of the report.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

6 Protecting Children and Young People from harm

There was submitted a report by the Health Improvement Lead Alcohol Licensing Officer on protecting children and young people from harm relative to exposure to alcohol.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

7 Scottish Government Staffing Changes

The Health Improvement Lead Alcohol Licensing Officer advised the Forum of staffing arrangements within the Scottish Government indicating that J Wilson had been appointed as the Licensing Team Leader. She advised that Mr Wilson was working on draft guidance on the Scottish Government Work Plan, Guidance for Licensing Boards, and a copy would be circulated to the Forum when available. She suggested that this could form a future Development Session for the Forum. She also suggested that the Forum invite Mr Wilson to a future meeting of the Forum. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

(a) That a copy of the Scottish Government document, Guidance for Licensing Boards, be submitted to the Forum when available and that this document form part of a Development Session for the Forum; and

(b) That the Licensing Team Leader, Scottish Government be invited to a future meeting of the Forum.

8 Date of Next Meeting

DECIDED: Members noted that the next meeting of Renfrewshire Licensing Forum was scheduled to be held at 2pm on 27 May 2020.