

Notice of Meeting and Agenda 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

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

G Brand; M Brier; C Cardosi; M Dymond; PC K Kean; S McLean; P Pieraccini; D Reid; E Smith.

Chair

M Dymond, Convener.

Further Information

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at <http://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx>

For further information, please either email democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk or telephone 0141 618 7112.

Members of the Press and Public

Members of the press and public wishing to attend the meeting should report to the customer service centre where they will be met and directed to the meeting.

Items of business

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------|
| 1a | Minute of Previous Meeting | 1 - 4 |
| | Minute of previous meeting held on 29 May 2019. | |
| 1b | Note of Inquorate Meeting | 5 - 6 |
| | Note of Inquorate meeting of the Joint Renfrewshire Licensing Forum and Licensing Board. | |
| 2 | Matters Arising | |
| 3 | Alcohol Focus Scotland | |
| 3a | E-Focus Newsletter - August 2019 | 7 - 16 |
| | August 2019 Newsletter. | |
| 3b | E-Focus Newsletter - September 2019 | 17 - 26 |
| | September 2019 Newsletter | |
| 3c | E-Focus Newsletter - January 2020 | 27 - 38 |
| | January 2020 - Newsletter. | |
| 3d | Forum Learning and Development | |
| | Discussion led by Aiden Collins/Simon Jones, Alcohol Focus Scotland. | |
| 4 | Police Scotland Update | |
| | Verbal report by Police Scotland representative on local licensing issues. | |
| 5 | Licensing Standards Officer Update | |
| | Verbal report by the Licensing Standards Officer on local licensing issues. | |
| 6 | Protecting Children and Young People from harm | 39 - 46 |
| | Presentation by Health Improvement Lead - Alcohol Licensing. | |
| 7 | Date of Next Meeting | |
| | Members are asked to note that the next meeting of the Forum is scheduled for Wednesday 27 May 2020 at 2.00 pm. | |

Minute of Meeting

Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 29 May 2019	14:00	Corporate Meeting Room 3, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present

M Brier; M Dymond; D McEwan; S McLean; P Pieraccini; D Reid 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).

Declarations of Interest

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

Order of Business

The Chair intimated that she proposed to alter the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting by considering item 6, Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Section 142 Draft Guidance for Licensing Boards – Consultation of the agenda following item 1, Minute of Previous Meeting of the agenda.

1 Minute of Previous Meeting

There was submitted the Minute of the joint meeting between Renfrewshire Licensing Forum and Renfrewshire Licensing Board held on 6 February 2019.

DECIDED: That the Minute be noted.

2 Matters Arising

a Licensee representation on the Forum

The Convener referred to the continuing vacancies on the Forum for Licensees and requested suggestions on how these vacancies could be filled.

D McEwan indicated that he would contact Licenses seeking interested parties prior to the forthcoming Police Scotland Licensing event.

DECIDED: That D McEwan contact Licenses seeking interested parties prior to the forthcoming Police Scotland Licensing event.

3 Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 - Section 142 Draft Guidance for Licensing Boards - Consultation

There was submitted a consultation document from the Scottish Government relative to a consultation on Section 142 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 on revised draft guidance for Licensing Boards.

The purpose of the consultation was to invite views on the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Section 142 Draft Revised Guidance for Licensing Boards. The deadline for responses to the consultation was 11 June 2019.

Following full discussion, E Smith indicated that she would prepare a response on behalf of Renfrewshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership and circulate this to the Forum for information.

DECIDED: That E Smith prepare a response to the draft consultation on behalf of Renfrewshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership and circulate this to the Forum for information.

4 Police Scotland Update

D McEwan, Police Scotland, provided an update on local licensing issues undertaken since the last meeting of the Forum held on 6 February 2019.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

5 Licensing Standards Officer - Update

M Brier, Licensing Standards Officer (LSO), provided an update in relation to licensing activity undertaken since the Licensing Forum meeting held on 6 February 2019. The Forum was advised that during the period 119 visits to licensed premises had been undertaken, 89 of which were compliance visits. A total of 18 premises had required to be revisited.

The LSO provided information on the number of licensed premises in the Renfrewshire area with a breakdown of on and off-sale premises, the number of premises which were no longer licensed and the number of premises licenses issued by the Licensing Board at its last meeting.

The LSO was then heard in answer to questions from members of the Forum on the update.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

6 Alcohol Byelaws Review

The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that a report on the review of Alcohol Byelaws would be submitted for consideration to the meeting of the Finance & Resources and Customer Services Policy Board in June 2019.

DECIDED: That the information provided be noted.

7 Proposed Renfrewshire Festive Terminal Hours 2019-2020

There was submitted a report by the Clerk advised the Forum that the Licensing Board would welcome comments prior to its determination of festive hours for 2018/19. The Convener suggested that the terminal hour policy had worked well previously and proposed that the Forum support terminal hours which were broadly in line with 2018/19. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That the Licensing Forum agree to support festive terminal hours policy as approved by the Licensing Board during the 2018/2019 festive period.

8 Future Meetings - Proposed Dates

There was submitted a report by the Clerk proposing dates for future meetings of the Forum as under:

Wednesday 11 September 2019;
Wednesday 20 November 2019;
Wednesday 5 February 2020; and
Wednesday 27 May 2020.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the proposed dates for future meetings of the Forum, as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report be approved; and
- (b) That it be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Conveners of the Licensing Board and the Licensing Forum to determine which of these meetings will be a joint meeting with the Licensing Board.

Minute of Meeting

Joint Renfrewshire Licensing Forum and Licensing Board.

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 20 November 2019	14:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present

REPRESENTING THE LICENSING FORUM

Colette Cardosi; Colin Dickson; Margaret Dymond; Donna Reid, (Renfrewshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership); and Elaine Smith.

REPRESENTING THE LICENSING BOARD

Councillor Bill Brown; Councillor Michelle Campbell; Councillor Andy Steel; and Councillor Jane Strang.

Chair

M Dymond, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

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

Apologies

G Brand, M Brier, K Kean, S McLean, P Pieraccini, Councillor J Adam-McGregor, Councillor M Campbell, Councillor N Don., Councillor J Hood, Councillor S Kerr and Councillor K Montgomery.

1 Quorum

Ten minutes after the appointed time for the meeting a quorum was not present and in terms of the constitutional document agreed at the meeting of the Forum held on 2 October 2007 the meeting stood adjourned.

Monthly newsletter from Alcohol Focus Scotland

[View this email in your browser](#)



reducing harm caused by alcohol



eFocus August 2019

news

MESAS - Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) for alcohol evaluation: Compliance (licensing) study

NHS Health Scotland have reported that Minimum Unit Pricing for alcohol has been implemented effectively, with compliance high amongst licensed premises in Scotland.

Published on August 1, this first study assessed how well MUP has been complied with through the experiences of inspection and enforcement practitioners, who are responsible for ensuring licensing conditions (including MUP) are met. Licensing Standards Officers, Trading Standards Officers and police officers with a licensing remit were interviewed about their experience of implementation and compliance issues, and their perception of whether there had been any changes in the unlicensed sale of alcohol.

Practitioners reported licensed premises were largely compliant with MUP legislation and where examples of non-compliance were identified, all issues were considered minor and swiftly resolved. Inspection and enforcement practitioners did not report any known increase in illegal and unlicensed alcohol activity related to the introduction of MUP. [Read the full report.](#)

Half of young drinkers are unaware of health messages on alcohol packaging



Just half of 11-19 year old drinkers recall seeing health messages or warnings on alcohol packaging – despite being an important target market for this information, according to new research.

Published in the Journal of Public Health, the research – led by the University of Stirling and the Cancer Policy Research Centre at Cancer Research UK – investigated to what extent 11-19 year olds in the UK were aware of product information, health messaging or warnings on alcohol packaging during the previous month.

Alison Douglas, chief executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland said, “This research shows the glaring gap in the information provided to consumers by alcohol producers. There is less information required on a bottle of beer than on a pint of milk. It is particularly worrying that many young people who are starting to use alcohol are not aware of seeing even the most basic information on alcohol labels. The industry has had almost three years to update their labels and are still failing consumers. It is time for government to act to mandate the provision of the CMO guidelines and health warnings.” [Read more.](#)

Portman Group agree to guidelines on labels

After three years of delaying tactics the alcohol industry is now being urged to include the Chief Medical Officers' low-risk guidelines of 14 units a week on all labels. The Portman Group, which represents alcohol producers and retailers last week changed its advice. Alcohol providers have until this September to update

packaging but until now virtually all labels have carried the old guidance. The group now says all members have agreed to carry the 14-unit guidance 'as soon as they feasibly can' – and it has urged the rest of the industry to follow suit.

What would you choose?

What would you choose – annual tax giveaways of more than £1 billion to support the alcohol industry or paying the salaries of 40,000 nurses?



The UK government is choosing to support the alcohol industry by cutting alcohol duty. This costs the treasury more than £1bn every year – that's enough to fund 40,000 nurses or 28,500 police officers. What would you choose? [Tell your MP.](#)

The Alcohol Health Alliance believe the government should choose to reduce the harms of alcohol instead of supporting the drinks companies that fuel it. This is why we are asking the government to increase alcohol duty by 2% in this year's Budget.

Will you join us? [Send a postcard to your local MP and let them know what you think.](#)

Help us make eFocus better!

We want to create content that is useful and relevant to you. Can you take a minute to tell us what you think so we can focus on the topics that interest you the most?

[Share your thoughts in our short survey.](#)



Protecting children from alcohol harm



We are delighted to introduce David Robertson as our new Senior Policy Development Coordinator with the remit for pursuing an alcohol-free childhood.

Coming from a background in tobacco control at ASH Scotland David will be working to ensure that children are:

1. Free from commercial, environmental and social pressures to drink
2. Free from the emotional and physical impact of people's drinking
3. Free from health and social harms caused by consuming alcohol.

To hear about David's initial insights into the concept of an alcohol-free childhood [see his blog](#).

If you're interested in finding out more about this work and want to get involved [contact David by email](#).

policy

Consultation responses

> The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Consultation on reviewing the fee for occasional licences and considering a limit on the number and duration of occasional licences

AFS has [responded](#) to a [consultation on occasional licences](#). The Scottish Government is reviewing the fee for occasional licences and considering placing a limit on the number of occasional licences that can be issued. This type of licence has been reported to be causing issues in many areas across Scotland – significantly increasing alcohol availability and yet being granted on a seemingly unlimited basis. With licensing boards spending between 5% and 50% of their total activity processing this type of application, and given the resource pressures currently facing boards, we believe that there is a very strong case for increasing the fee to help boards cover the associated costs.

> The New National Public Health Body ‘Public Health Scotland’ – Scottish Government and COSLA

AFS has [responded](#) to the Scottish Government and COSLA [consultation](#) on the new public health body ‘Public Health Scotland’ on 8th July, highlighting the vital role of the third sector as an active partner and shared leader in national level action, including advocacy and prevention. We stated the importance of ensuring that the new body continues the work of NHS Health Scotland and ISD in monitoring and evaluating alcohol policy in Scotland and advocated for clear mechanisms and commitments to be in place to avoid undue influence by commercial interests on public health policy.

Open consultations

> Incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots Law: consultation

The Scottish Government has [launched a consultation](#) on how best to incorporate 'gold standard' for children's rights into domestic law and improve the lives of children and young people.

> Exposure to Parental Alcohol Use Rather Than Parental Drinking Shapes Offspring's Alcohol Expectancies

Alcohol expectancies (AE), that is, the anticipated effects of alcohol, start developing early in childhood and are important predictors of alcohol use years later. Whereas previous research has demonstrated that parental drinking relates to children's AE, this study aimed to test whether exposure to parental alcohol use mediates the link between parental alcohol use and positive and negative AE among children (6 to 8 years) and early adolescents (12 to 15 years). The study results indicated that, for specific expectancies, exposure to fathers' alcohol use shapes offspring's cognitions about the effects of alcohol, rather than fathers' alcohol use in general. Prevention efforts could focus on lowering the degree to which fathers expose their drinking, which might be more easily changeable than drinking in general. [Read the abstract.](#)

> A content analysis of tobacco and alcohol audio-visual content in a sample of UK reality TV programmes

This study analysed tobacco and alcohol content, and estimates of population exposure to this content, in a sample of reality television programmes broadcast in the UK. They used 1-minute interval coding to quantify tobacco and alcohol content in all episodes of five reality TV programmes aired between January and August 2018 (Celebrity Big Brother; Made in Chelsea; The Only Way is Essex; Geordie Shore and Love Island), and estimated population exposure using viewing data and UK population estimates. Tobacco content appeared in 110 (2%) intervals in 20 (18%) episodes, and alcohol in 2212 (42%) intervals and in all episodes. The programmes delivered approximately 214 million tobacco gross impressions to the UK population, including 47.37 million to children; and for alcohol, 4.9 billion and 580 million respectively. The study concluded that tobacco, and especially alcohol, content is common in reality TV. The popularity of these programmes with young people, and consequent exposure to tobacco and alcohol imagery, represents a potentially major driver of smoking and alcohol consumption. [Read the abstract.](#)

training

Alcohol Focus Scotland learning opportunities

Learning and development is an integral part of our work at Alcohol Focus Scotland. Our wide range of evaluated training courses can help people understand, manage and prevent the harm caused by alcohol. We can provide training for

- People working in the licensed trade and in the regulation of licensing
- Early years workers, teachers and others working with children and young people affected by a family member's drinking
- Employers who want to raise awareness of and manage alcohol/drug issues in the workplace
- People in a professional or personal role caring for someone affected by alcohol
- Volunteers and staff on telephone helplines providing alcohol information and support

To find out more about our diverse learning opportunities visit our [website](#), and read our [Learning Brochure](#).

E-Learning Coming Soon!

At Alcohol Focus Scotland we're always working to develop and deliver quality, effective and evidence based learning solutions. Most recently we've been working to develop our first e-learning course, Alcohol Affects Us All. Once available, the course will be accessible from anywhere, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and across all devices.

Currently at an advanced stage, we hope to launch the package later in 2019.

Stay tuned for further updates or email us now at: training@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk to register your interest.



Personal Licence Holder Refresher (PLH) deadline passed

If your licence expires on or before 1st September 2019 and you have not yet completed a refresher training course and submitted your renewal application get in touch with your local licensing board.

Alcohol Focus Scotland will continue to offer comprehensive refresher courses to meet the requirements of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, please get in touch for details. Call us on 0141 572 6700.

Personal Licence Holder (PLH) full course (can include refresher)

> *Wednesday 11th September, Thursday 10th October, Wednesday 6th November, Wednesday 4th December 2019, Glasgow*

AFS runs Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holder and Refresher courses once a month at our offices in Glasgow. [Find out more](#) about course dates, times and costs.

Licensing Standards Officers course

> *Wednesday 6- Friday 8 November, Glasgow*

This is a mandatory three day course for Licensing Standards Officers employed by local councils. [Find out more](#)

events

Alcohol and everything else - when drinking isn't the only issue

Alcohol Change UK's annual conference in Wales

Alcohol misuse is both a problem in itself and a coping mechanism for other problems. To provide the best support for people who may be drinking for complex reasons, services need to know how to address a range of complex needs. Read the [full agenda](#) and [book your place](#).

> 18 September 2019, Glyndŵr University, Wrexham

Scottish Cancer Conference 2019

The Scottish Cancer Conference is a unique gathering of organisations involved with cancer; from patients to pharmaceutical companies and from clinicians to charities, presenting an unrivalled opportunity to share, learn, network and understand the latest developments in our combined efforts to beat cancer. For more information and to book your place visit the [Scottish Cancer Conference website](#).

> 18 November 2019, thestudio Glasgow

Alcohol Evidence in Policy and Practice

6th Masterclass on Alcohol Evidence, Public Health Policy, & Practice for Policymakers; Charities; Practitioners & Researchers.

This three day course is aimed at anyone wishing to gain an in-depth understanding and up to date insight into evidence and innovative practice in alcohol policy in the UK and internationally, and covers Alcohol Policy Overview, Alcohol Use and Effects, Price, Place and Promotion, and Advocacy, Action and

Opposition. For more information and how to book visit the [UKCTAS website](#).
> **19 - 21 November 2019, Norton House Hotel, Edinburgh**

Alcohol workshops, seminars and conferences

Are you organising an alcohol-related workshop, seminar or conference? Please let us know and we can help you promote it here in eFocus and on the AFS website.



Alcohol Focus Scotland, 166 Buchanan St, Glasgow G1 2LW
tel. 0141 572 6700 email. enquiries@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk
www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk



Monthly newsletter from Alcohol Focus Scotland

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eFocus September 2019

news

New Alcohol Deaths Prevention Support Available from AFS

AFS is delighted to announce a new package of support on alcohol deaths prevention for ADPs and Public Health teams. Support for alcohol death audits will include a new researcher support network and guidance on how to undertake audits. These are reports which examine the case histories of people who have died by alcohol and may also include interviews with those who knew them, in order to see where opportunities may exist for support for others. The guidance will be published in summer 2020.

The researcher support network will be a bimonthly meeting point for researchers and planners either currently working on or interested in undertaking audits. The guidance will let planners and researchers new to the field get ahead of potential challenges, and more experienced areas reflect on work done elsewhere. [Read more.](#)

For more details, or to get involved, please contact [Simon Jones](#), 0141 572 6593.

Right to know - it's time for industry to tell us what's in our drinks



The Scottish Government is considering taking control of alcohol labelling - and not a minute too soon. Just last month, the Portman Group (an alcohol industry membership body) announced that they are encouraging their members to display the current low-risk drinking guidelines on labels.

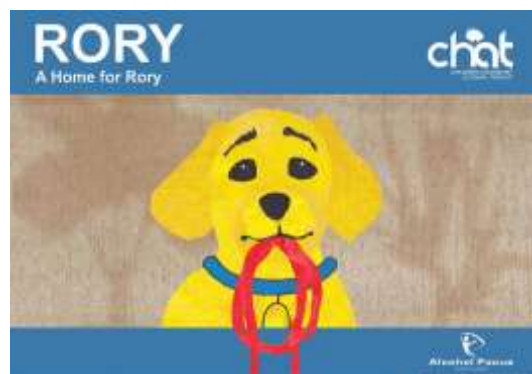
This has confused many of us, who have been expecting this to happen this very month – the UK Government said that the guidelines would be reflected on drinks from 1 September 2019. Three years since the guidelines were updated, this newest commitment is too little, too late. Overall, the government's reliance on voluntary agreements with the industry has failed: more information is found on a pint of milk than a bottle of vodka. Now is the time to mandate alcohol labelling, rejecting industry promises that aim to further delay action.

[Read more.](#)

NEW add-on to the C.H.A.T. pack - A home for Rory

Do you work with foster carers or kinship carers? We're delighted to introduce the new *A Home for Rory* series of books.

This new suite of books continues the story of Rory - a little dog whose owner has an alcohol problem.



While the original book helps children understand that problems like this exist and that it can be difficult to talk about them, the new series enables a child to explore the feelings they may have when their family circumstances change and they have to be looked after by another family member.

[Read more.](#)

Conversation boosts honesty over drinking in pregnancy, study finds

A "conversational approach" is the most successful way of encouraging honest disclosure of drinking habits by pregnant women, a new study says.



This contrasts with previous research that had recommended midwives should use formal screening tools, such as structured questionnaires. The new study, from Stirling and Edinburgh universities, said it was important to build trust.

It said the questions had to be flexible and not simply asked verbatim. [Read more.](#)

What would you choose?

What would you choose – annual tax giveaways of more than £1 billion to support the alcohol industry or paying the salaries of 40,000 nurses?



In the past few years the UK government has chosen to support the alcohol industry by cutting alcohol duty. This costs the treasury more than £1bn every year – that's enough to fund 40,000 nurses or 28,500 police officers. What would you choose? Tell your MP.

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policy

Cross-Party Group #scothealth2021

The next meeting of the CPG will be the annual general meeting on Wednesday 18 September. [See more](#) about what the Cross-Group has been up on in the last year.

If you're interested in becoming a member please contact [Valerie Smith](#).

Addressing the impacts multiple substance use by smokers

The Scottish Tobacco-free Alliance are setting up a short life working group on Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs to identify issues to be addressed in relation to research, information provision, treatment and coordinated policy development where combinations of drug or alcohol use in the presence of smoking are found. A modest number of meetings will be organised over the next year but virtual participation is also encouraged. Contact Iain Stewart on istewart@ashscotland.org.uk for further information.

research

> Can a policy-induced reduction in alcohol consumption improve health outcomes and stimulate the UK economy?: A potential 'double dividend'.

This study investigated the 'net' impacts of a reduction in consumption accounting for the reallocation of household spending and the expenditure of any increase in government revenues. The impact of a reduction in alcohol consumption due to: a change in consumer tastes that generate a reallocation of household spending; an increase in alcohol duties accompanied by the use of increased revenues to stimulate government expenditure was simulated. There was evidence of a trade-off between employment and health benefits for the case of a tastes-induced switch from alcohol consumption, but this is less severe than past analyses would suggest (and does not apply to economic activity more generally). For the case of increased taxation on alcohol (and increased government spending), there is in fact no trade-off between employment on the one hand and health on the other; employment and economic activity are stimulated while health outcomes improve. The study concluded that there is a potential 'double-dividend' of improved health outcomes and increased economic activity as a consequence of a rise in alcohol duties. [Read the abstract.](#)

> Alcohol Use in Pregnancy and Miscarriage: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

A systematic review of studies reporting alcohol exposure during pregnancy and miscarriage. Meta-analysis of data from 231,808 pregnant women finds those exposed to alcohol during pregnancy have a greater risk of miscarriage compared to those who abstained. For alcohol use of 5 or fewer drinks per week, each additional drink per week was associated with a 6% increase in miscarriage risk. This review provides evidence that alcohol consumption during pregnancy is associated with a dose-mediated increase in miscarriage risk. Future studies evaluating change in alcohol use in pregnancy are needed to provide insight into how alcohol consumption prior to pregnancy recognition impacts risk. [Read the abstract.](#)

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eFocus January 2020

news

NHS Health Scotland publish two new MUP studies

In January 2020, NHS Health Scotland published two further studies as part of the MESAS MUP evaluation.

Analysis of off-trade alcohol sales in first year post MUP

The first analysis of alcohol sales following the introduction of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) has shown that the volume of pure alcohol sold per adult in Scotland fell by 3.6%

Compared to the 12 months before implementation of MUP, the volume of pure alcohol sold per adult in the off-trade in Scotland decreased from 7.4 to 7.1 litres. In England and Wales – where MUP has not been implemented – the volume of pure alcohol sold in the off-trade during the same year increased from 6.3 to 6.5 litres.

In response to the analysis, Alison Douglas, chief executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland said, "A reduction of 3.6% in alcohol consumption in the first 12 months following the introduction of MUP is great news for Scotland's health. Particularly significant is the contrast to England and Wales, who don't have MUP, where sales of alcohol have increased in the same time period.

[Read more from Alcohol Focus Scotland](#)

[Read the report and summary briefing from NHS Health Scotland](#)

First study published looking at under 18 drinkers post MUP

The study found that for under-18s the price of alcohol was not seen as an important factor in their drinking behaviour, and overall they did not report changing what they drank, how much they drank or how they obtained their alcohol, in response to the increase in price alone.

The study was designed to help understand the lived experience of the young people who took part. It is not representative of the impact of MUP on all young people in Scotland.



In response to the findings Alison Douglas, chief executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland said, "This study provides a unique - and concerning - insight into the lives of a group of teenage drinkers and shows that the cost of alcohol is only one factor in their alcohol consumption.

"The apparent ease with which these young people are able to acquire alcohol raises serious questions about enforcement of existing licensing legislation and age-verification arrangements which are there to protect young people. It is also deeply worrying that adults are regularly providing under 18s with drink, despite the potential effects of alcohol on brain development and on young people's wider mental and physical health."

[Read more from Alcohol Focus Scotland.](#)

[Read the full report and briefing from NHS Health Scotland.](#)

Both these studies form part of the programme to evaluate minimum unit pricing. This robust and thorough evaluation has been put in place to help look at the wider impact of minimum pricing. Find out more about it on the [NHS Health Scotland website](#).

Parental drinking in Scotland



In December 2019, Alcohol Focus Scotland published a new report on Parental Drinking in Scotland. The discussion paper focuses on the Scottish data and inquiry results from the UK report *Like sugar for adults* which was published in October 2017 and followed by an peer-reviewed article reporting on the survey in November 2019.

The paper highlights that parental drinking, even at low levels, can have an impact on children's emotional wellbeing and at higher levels can contribute to their risk of physical harm. The research, however, clearly conveys the unintentional nature of most of the harm experienced by children as a result of parental drinking. Often parents, services and relevant family support staff are not fully aware of the impact that lower-level drinking can have on children's immediate emotional and physical wellbeing or the emotional availability and comfort-giving of parents.

The discussion paper will be used to highlight the impact that low level parental drinking can have on children and stimulate policy development in Scotland. [Read the report.](#)

Work with us! Policy and Public Affairs Coordinator
- Closing date tomorrow

We are seeking a skilled policy professional to join our passionate team in the delivery of our strategic priorities. You will have a varied and challenging role, with a focus on developing and communicating our policy advocacy work, sharing the latest research, and keeping the team up to date on developments in parliament.



This role will form a crucial part of AFS's work to influence policy, including in relation to a forthcoming Scottish Government consultation on alcohol marketing and AFS's manifesto for the 2021 Scottish parliamentary elections, and so provides an exciting opportunity for anyone wishing to progress their policy career. For further details and to apply [visit the AFS website](#). Closing date Wednesday 29th January at 9am.

Alcohol Health Alliance Commission on alcohol harm



The Commission on Alcohol Harm has launched a call for evidence as part of its inquiry into alcohol harm and the changes needed to reduce the harm caused by alcohol.

The Commission will hold three oral evidence sessions across the UK later this year, and has launched a call for written evidence, with submissions welcomed before the deadline of 12 noon on 17 February 2020.

The Commission is interested in receiving evidence from academic researchers,

charities, healthcare professionals, professional bodies, commissioners and those affected by alcohol harm in their personal, professional or family life. [Find out more.](#)

Alcohol-free Childhood Action Network

Alcohol-free Childhood Action Network (ACAN) is a new network that brings together organisations and individuals from education, health care, family support, advocacy and research to examine and formulate policy raise awareness and identify ways to improve current practice in Scotland.



Following the first meeting in Glasgow on 5 December 2019 we hope that ACAN will become a network capable of inspiring, developing and supporting action to uphold children's rights not to be harmed by alcohol. A report and presentations from the event can be found [here](#). New members welcome. [Find out more.](#)

Action on Sugar Call for 'Ready to Drink' Alcoholic Beverages to be Reduced in Sugar and Calories



Popular 'ready to drink' pre-mixed spirits sold in major UK retailers are unnecessarily high in hidden sugar and calories new research from Action on Sugar has found.

The organisation has called for drinks companies to be forced to reformulate their products immediately so they comply with the agreed criterion set by government in the Soft Drinks Industry Levy (SDIL), or pay the fine.

The group of experts warn that sugary alcoholic drinks are contributing to obesity, type 2 diabetes, various cancers, liver damage and tooth decay as consumers are unknowingly drinking large amounts of sugar and calories. Action on Sugar is now urging the government to prove it really is committed to prevention and reducing inequalities, by stepping in and taking control of not only the food and drink industries, but also the alcohol industry.

In response to the study, Alison Douglas, chief executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland said, “This research provides another example of the alcohol industry choosing to withhold basic information from consumers. At the moment it’s impossible to make an informed choice. Unlike for other food and drink, there is no legal requirement to provide details on sugar content or ingredients on alcoholic products. We need reliable information directly on bottles and cans where it can usefully inform our decisions.

“Alcohol Focus Scotland welcomes the Scottish Government’s statement that they will consider mandatory action if industry don’t act. Sadly alcohol producers have proven time and time again they won’t do this voluntarily. It’s time they were required by law to do so. The public want and need this information and have a right to be provided with it.”

[Read more](#)

policy

Cross-Party Group #scothealth2021

Dates for your diary 2020

The Cross Party Group will take place on:

- Wednesday 26th February 2020, 5.30pm to 7pm – Committee Room 4 – Chair Brian Whittle MSP.

- Wednesday 17th June 2020, 5.30pm to 7pm – Committee Room 5 – Chair David Stewart MSP.
- Wednesday 16th September 2020 , 5.30pm to 7pm– Committee Room 4– Chair Kenneth Gibson MSP. This will also be the AGM.

[Find out more](#) about what the Cross-Party Group has achieved in the last year.

If you're interested in becoming a member please contact [Valerie Smith](#).



research

> National, regional, and global burdens of disease from 2000 to 2016 attributable to alcohol use: a comparative risk assessment study

This study investigated gender, age, and geographical differences in the alcohol-attributable burden of disease from 2000 to 2016. Globally, the researchers estimated that there were 3.0 million alcohol-attributable deaths and 131.4 million disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) in 2016, corresponding to 5.3% of all deaths and 5.0% of all DALYs. Alcohol use was a major risk factor for communicable, maternal, perinatal, and nutritional diseases, non-communicable diseases, and injury deaths.

The results demonstrated that alcohol use is a leading risk factor for the burden of disease, and disproportionately affects people in low HDI countries and young people. Given the variations in the alcohol-attributable burden of disease, cost-effective local and national policy measures that can reduce alcohol use and the resulting burden of disease are needed, especially in low-income and middle-income countries. [Read the abstract.](#)

> Improving Knowledge that Alcohol Can Cause Cancer is Associated with Consumer Support for Alcohol Policies: Findings from a Real-World Alcohol Labelling Study

Knowledge that alcohol can cause cancer is low in Canada. Alcohol labels are one strategy for communicating alcohol-related harms, including cancer. Extending existing research observing an association between knowledge of the alcohol–cancer link and support for alcohol policies, this study examined whether increases in individual-level knowledge that alcohol is a carcinogen following an alcohol labelling intervention are associated with support for alcohol policies. Cancer warning labels were applied to alcohol containers at the intervention site, and the comparison site did not apply cancer labels. Pre-post surveys were conducted among liquor store patrons at both sites before and two-and six-months after the intervention was stopped due to alcohol industry interference. Limiting the data to participants that completed surveys both before and two-months after the cancer label stopped, logistic regression was used to examine the association between increases in knowledge and support for policies. Support for pricing and availability policies was low overall; however, increases in individual-level knowledge of the alcohol-cancer link was associated with higher levels of support for pricing policies, specifically, setting a minimum unit price per standard drink of alcohol (OR = 1.86, 95% CI: 1.11–3.12). Improving knowledge that alcohol can cause cancer using labels may increase support for alcohol policies. [Read the abstract and article.](#)

> How did a lower drink-drive limit affect bar trade and drinking practices?

The aim of this study was to qualitatively explore how a reduction in the drink-drive limit from 0.08% to 0.05% BAC in Scotland, was experienced by bar owners or managers, including any resultant changes in customer drinking or business practice. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 16 owners and managers of on-trade premises in Scotland in 2018, approximately three years after the drink-drive limit was reduced. Data were analysed using thematic analysis. The study found that most participants reported no long-term financial impact on their business, but a few, mainly from rural areas, reported some reduction in alcohol sales. Observed drinking changes included fewer people drinking after work or leaving premises earlier on weekdays. Adaptations to businesses included improving the range of no/low-alcohol drinks and food offered. Changes such as these were seen as key to minimising economic impact. The researchers concluded that opposition to legislative measures that impact on commercial interests is often strong and receives significant public attention. This

study found that Scottish businesses that adapted to the drink-drive limit change reported little long-term economic impact. [Read the article](#).

training

Alcohol Focus Scotland learning opportunities

Learning and development is an integral part of our work at Alcohol Focus Scotland. Our wide range of evaluated training courses can help people understand, manage and prevent the harm caused by alcohol. We can provide training for

- People working in the licensed trade and in the regulation of licensing
- Early years workers, teachers and others working with children and young people affected by a family member's drinking
- Employers who want to raise awareness of and manage alcohol/drug issues in the workplace
- People in a professional or personal role caring for someone affected by alcohol

To find out more about our diverse learning opportunities visit our [website](#), and read our [Learning Brochure](#).

Licensing training

Personal Licence Holder (PLH) full course (can include refresher)

> *Wednesday 12 February, 17 March, 22 April 2020, Glasgow*

AFS runs Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holder and Refresher courses once a month at our offices in Glasgow. [Find out more](#) about course dates, times and costs.

Licensing Standards Officers training

> *3 day training course -Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19th March 2020, Glasgow*

This is a mandatory three day course for Licensing Standards Officers employed by local councils. [Find out more](#) about course dates, times and costs.

events

Free training workshop: International Human Rights in Scots Law

The Scottish Government's Human Rights Task Force is currently working to develop new legislation that will incorporate more international human rights into Scots law.

This training is designed to enable all interested civil society organisations and human rights advocates to increase their knowledge and understanding of the what, why and how of incorporating human rights. [Find out more and book your place.](#)

Alcohol workshops, seminars and conferences

Are you organising an alcohol-related workshop, seminar or conference? Please let us know and we can help you promote it here in eFocus and on the AFS website.



Alcohol Focus Scotland, 166 Buchanan St, Glasgow G1 2LW
tel. 0141 572 6700 email. enquiries@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk





Protecting Children and Young People From Harm

Elaina Smith
Renfrewshire Local Licensing Forum
20th November 2019

Rights, Respect, Recovery

Vision

Scotland is a country where “we live long, healthy and active lives regardless of where we come from” and where individuals, families and communities:

- have the right to health and life - free from the harms of alcohol and drugs;
- are treated with dignity and respect; and
- are fully supported within communities to find their own type of recovery.

Prevention and Early Intervention	Developing Recovery Oriented Systems of Care	Getting it Right for Children, Young People, and Families	Public Health Approach in Justice	Alcohol Framework 2018
Fewer people develop problem drug use	People access and benefit from effective, integrated Person centred support to achieve their recovery	Children and families affected by alcohol and drug use will be safe, healthy, included and supported	Vulnerable people are diverted from the justice system wherever possible, and those in the system are fully supported	A Scotland where less harm is caused by alcohol

Alcohol Framework 2018: Preventing Harm

Overarching commitment

Number	Action	Responsibility	Timing	Contributes to
1	We will put the voices of children and young people at the heart of developing preventative measures on alcohol. This will involve encouraging and seeking the views of children and young people.	Scottish Government	Ongoing	Protecting Young People

Positive attitudes, positive choices: attractiveness – marketing and advertising

Number	Action	Responsibility	Timing	Contributes to
9	We will press the UK Government to protect children and young people from exposure to alcohol marketing on television before the 9pm watershed and in cinemas – or else devolve the powers so the Scottish Parliament can act.	Scottish Government	From 2018 and on an ongoing basis	Protecting Young People
10	We will consult and engage on the appropriateness of a range of potential measures, including mandatory restrictions on alcohol marketing, as recommended by the World Health Organization, to protect children and young people from alcohol marketing in Scotland.	Scottish Government	Beginning in 2019	Protecting Young People Whole Population Approach

Why Restricting Marketing?

Alcohol marketing

- Alcohol marketing is extensive and promotes alcohol as a positive and commonplace element of everyday life.

Impact of marketing on children

- Exposure reduces age at which they start drinking; increases likelihood they will drink; and increases amount they consume

Brand recognition

- Children more familiar with Dan and Brad from Fosters than with.....

Nudge effect

- Affects all of us
- Triggering those in recovery





An Alcohol-Free Childhood



- 90 children, aged 9-11
- 3 Edinburgh primary schools

"Life with alcohol may be good to adults but more than unsafe for children."

"It sometimes makes people feel left out at parties when everyone is drinking. Children can feel sad, ignored and not listened to."

"There are four aisles of alcohol in the Asda."

"The Champions League sponsor is Heineken. The logo is green and black. At the start of the match, they announce the sponsor and you can see the adverts all over the stadium."

"Every time I go to get a snack from the fridge, it's staring me in the face."

"My sister tripped over bottles in the stairs – she's four - and she cut her face."



Children's Parliament Recommendations

1. Stop people drinking in public spaces
2. Provide more bins and encourage recycling
3. Remove adverts for alcohol so that children can't see them
4. Stop alcohol sponsorship of events at which children may be present
5. Use advertising to highlight the impact alcohol has on children's lives
6. Make alcohol less visible (shops)
7. Make alcohol less visible (TV)
8. Think about alcohol use on holiday, in airports and train stations
9. Inform children about their rights
10. Provide support for children and families when they need it

Why a topic for the Forum to consider?

Protecting children and young persons from harm is key element of licensing legislation



53
Renfrewshire
under 18's
treated for
acute alcohol
intoxication in
2018-19

(NHS GGC ED Statistics)

1637 people
were referred to
alcohol support
services in
2018-19

(National Waiting Time Framework)



27% of current
Child Protection
cases relate to
alcohol

(Renfrewshire SW Services)

Is there a role
for the
Licensing
Board Policy
Statement

