Notice of Meeting and Agenda
Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 11 September 2023	14:00	Corporate Meeting Room 2, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

MARK CONAGHAN
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

Colin Dickson; Margaret Dymond; Fiona Hewitt; Shirley McLean; James McSorley; Trevor Mills; Ian Robertson; Donna Reid.

Chair

J McSorley, Convener.

Attending the Meeting

Members attending 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 and Transparency Statements

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

1 **Minute of Previous Meeting** **4 - 8**

Minute of previous meeting held on 23 May 2023.

2 **Matters Arising**

Matters arising from Minute of previous meeting held on 23 May 2023.

3 **Police Scotland Update**

Verbal update by Police Scotland on local licensing issues.

4 **Licensing Standards Officer Update**

Verbal report by the Licensing Standards Officer on local licensing issues.

5 **Alcohol Related Deaths in Renfrewshire 2022** **9 - 10**

Report by Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

6 **Action Plan**

Discussion by the Convener.

7 **Alcohol Focus Scotland Newsletter - May 2023** **11 - 18**

Newsletter from Alcohol Focus Scotland - May 2023.

8 **Alcohol Focus Scotland Newsletter - June 2023** **19 - 25**

Newsletter from Alcohol Focus Scotland - June 2023.

9 **Alcohol Focus Scotland Newsletter - July 2023** **26 - 33**

Newsletter from Alcohol Focus Scotland - July 2023.

10 **Alcohol Focus Scotland Newsletter - August 2023** **34 - 39**

Newsletter from Alcohol Focus Scotland - August 2023.

11 **Future Meetings** **40 - 42**

Report by Clerk.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Members are asked to note that the next meeting will be the joint meeting with the Licensing Board, to be held on 27 November 2023.

Minute of Meeting
Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 23 May 2023	14:00	Corporate Meeting Room 2, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

PRESENT

M Dymond, T Mills, J McSorley (Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership), D Edmonds (Renfrewshire Alcohol & Drug Partnership), Sergeant Moore-McGrath (Police Scotland), J Hampsay and S MacFarlane, both Fair Trading Officers (Communities and Housing Services).

IN ATTENDANCE

D Campbell, Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing), J Barron and D Cunningham, both Assistant Committee Services Officers (all Finance & Resources).

APOLOGIES

P Pieraccini, C Dickson and D Reid.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

1 ELECTION OF CONVENER

It was noted that in terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 the Forum must elect one of its members to be Convener. M Dymond, seconded by T Mills proposed that Mr J McSorley be appointed as Convener. This was agreed unanimously. Mr McSorley assumed the chair at this point.

DECIDED: That Mr McSorley be appointed as Convener of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

2 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was submitted the Minute of the previous meeting of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum, held on 13 February 2023.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Under reference to Item 5 of the Minute of the previous meeting of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum held on 13 February 2023 relative to the Licensing Policy Update, the Convener advised that the statement on behalf of the Licensing Forum had been submitted to the Licensing Board.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the statement on behalf of the Forum in respect of the Licensing Policy Update had been submitted to the Licensing Board.

4 POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

Sergeant Moore-McGrath advised the Forum that she would cease to be the Licensing Sergeant at the end of this week and that Sergeant Ian Robertson would resume this role.

Police Scotland provided a verbal update on local licensing issues which had arisen since the previous meeting in February 2023 and outlined various statistics which were being provided as part of their annual update to the National Policy Unit.

Police Scotland had attended 460 licensed premises in the Renfrewshire area within the last year in relation to incidents and had undertaken 1110 pro-active and/or reactive inspections of licensed premises. Police Scotland had carried out various campaigns including anti-disorder and anti-social behaviour inspections and the “Talk-to” campaign which would run from June to September 2023. In addition, Sergeant Moore-McGrarth indicated that Pub-watch had resumed. She advised that the increase in post-covid events throughout Renfrewshire had placed demands on Police Scotland.

Sergeant Moore-McGrath was then heard in answer to questions from members on the update.

The Convener and D Edmonds advised the Forum about the Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership roll out of Naloxone within Renfrewshire.

DECIDED: That the verbal update be noted.

5 LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER UPDATE

The Fair Trading Officer provided a verbal update relative to licensing activity undertaken since the previous meeting in February 2023. Two premises had been visited in connection with operating plans, three premises were no longer licensed and the premises licence annual fee remained outstanding for four premises.

The Fair Trading Officer outlined the proposed implementation of a duty rota of Licensing Standards/Trading Standards Officers who would respond to enforcement emails and was then heard in answer to questions from members on the update.

DECIDED: That the verbal update be noted.

6 CONSULTATION - RENFREWSHIRE LICENSING BOARD'S STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2023-2027

The Convener provided a verbal update relative to the Renfrewshire Licensing Board's Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2027 consultation.

The Convener proposed that further discussion of the Policy be continued to a future meeting of the Forum and that a collective response to the consultation would be submitted to the Licensing Board on behalf of the Forum. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(a) That discussion of the Renfrewshire Licensing Board's Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2027 be continued to a future meeting of the Forum; and

(b) That a collective response to the consultation be submitted on behalf of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum to Renfrewshire Licensing Board.

7 RENFREWSHIRE LICENSING BOARD'S FESTIVE POLICY 2023/2024

There was a general discussion relative to the policy of extended opening hours for licensed premises for the festive period 2023/2024.

The Convener proposed that further discussion of this Policy be continued to a future meeting of the Forum and that a collective response to the consultation would be submitted to the Licensing Board on behalf of the Forum. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(a) That discussion of Renfrewshire Licensing Board's Policy on Festive Hours 2023-2024 be continued to a future meeting of the Forum; and

(b) That a collective response to the consultation be submitted on behalf of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum to Renfrewshire Licensing Board.

8 LOCAL LICENSING FORUMS - TRAINING/AWARENESS SESSION

The Convener reminded members of the Forum of the Scottish Government Licensing Training/Awareness Event being held on 9 June 2023 and asked if anyone could attend and feedback to the Forum at a future meeting.

T Mills advised he could attend.

The Convener advised he had spoken to the Convener of the Renfrewshire Licensing Board relative to other areas of training/awareness, as part of the Action Plan, and that this may be discussed further at the November Joint meeting of Renfrewshire Licensing Board and Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

DECIDED:

(a) That Mr Mills would attend the Scottish Government Training/Awareness event on 9 June 2023;

(b) That the event information email be resent to members of the Forum; and

(c) That training/awareness be discussed at the November joint meeting of Renfrewshire Licensing Board and Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

9 ACTION PLAN

There was a discussion relative to Forum membership in terms of engaging another member from the Licensed Trade and a young person to fill the outstanding vacancies. The Convener advised he would make contact with the current members who had not attended recent meetings to establish if they wished to remain part of the Forum and make contact with other Services and Organisations with the aim of increasing membership to the quota of 12 persons.

Forum members agreed that it would be beneficial to increase the Forum's knowledge in various areas such as Security and Events. The Convener asked that if members had any other suggestions to assist with increasing membership or knowledge topics that they notify him.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Convener would pursue various avenues to update/increase membership numbers of the Renfewshire Licensing Forum; and

(b) That members of the Forum would advise the Convener of suggestions for membership and knowledge topics.

10 ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland Newsletter for March 2023.

M Dymond advised that she may have received April and May newsletters from Alcohol Focus Scotland and that if she had she would forward these to the Clerk for distribution to members of the Forum.

DECIDED: That the March 2023 newsletter be noted.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

DECIDED: Members noted that the next meeting of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum was scheduled to be held on 11 September 2023.

Subject: **Briefing Paper: Alcohol-Specific Deaths 2022**

From: **Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership**

Date: **Tuesday, 29th August 2023**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this briefing paper is to advise on the number of alcohol-specific deaths which occurred in Scotland and Renfrewshire in 2022. The National Records of Scotland published these figures on Tuesday, 29th August 2023.

2. Scotland

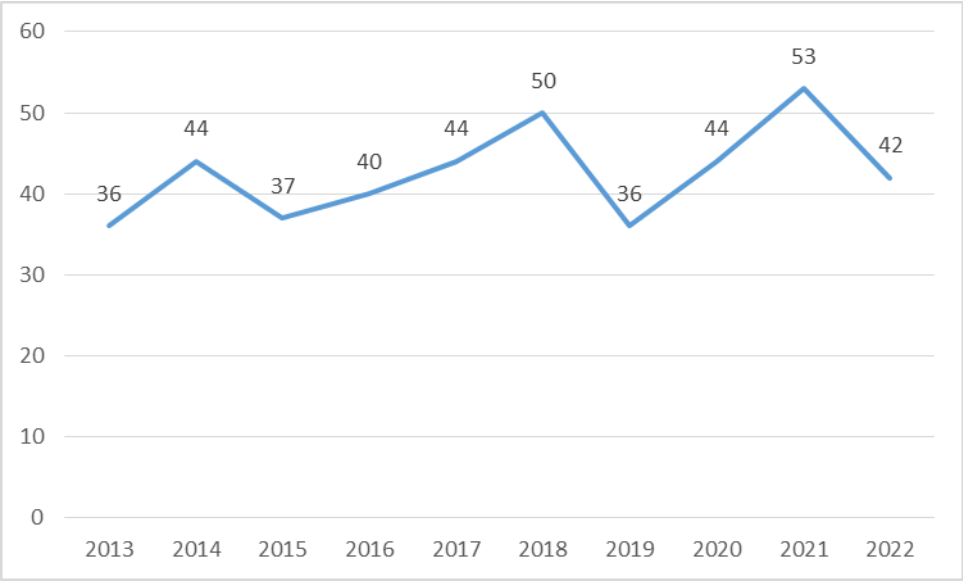
According to figures published by National Records of Scotland on 29th August 2023, 1276 people died in Scotland from causes solely attributed to alcohol. This figure represents an increase of 2% (31 deaths) compared to 2021 and an increase of 25% (256 deaths) on 2019. This means that 3 people a day or 24 people per week lose their lives because of alcohol in Scotland.

- In 2022, the average age at death for females was 58.7 years and for males it was 60.0 years.
- Male deaths continue to account for around two thirds of alcohol specific deaths. However, female deaths increased by 31 to 440 deaths in 2022 while males remain the same.
- There are 4.3 times as many deaths from these causes in the most deprived areas as in the least deprived areas but the equality gap has been narrowing.
- Scotland continues to have the highest alcohol-specific death rate of the UK constituent countries in 2021, the latest year for which comparable data exists. Data for the rest of the UK is yet to be released for 2022.

3. Renfrewshire

There were 42 alcohol-specific deaths in Renfrewshire in 2022. This is a decrease of 21% (11 deaths) compared to 2021. This is in contrast to Scotland which has seen a slight increase.

Figure 1: Renfrewshire Alcohol-specific alcohol related deaths 2013-2022



- Across all 32 local authorities in Scotland Renfrewshire has the 8th highest rate of deaths per 100,000 population (2018-2022).
- Across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC), there were 326 alcohol-specific deaths, an increase of 2% compared with the previous year.

Figure 2: NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde no. alcohol specific deaths

Area	2021	2022	% change
Renfrewshire	**53**	**42**	**- 21%**
East Dunbartonshire	15	24	+60%
East Renfrewshire	16	9	-44%
Glasgow city	188	202	+7%
Inverclyde	26	28	+8%
West Dunbartonshire	40	21	-47%
NHS GGC	338	326	+2%

Newsletter from Alcohol Focus Scotland
View this email in your browser

May 2023

UPDATE

Families urge First Minister not to backtrack on alcohol marketing pledge

Family members and friends affected by a loved one's drinking have published an open letter to Humza Yousaf, First Minister, urging him not to backtrack on the Scottish Government's longstanding pledge to tackle alcohol marketing due to alcohol industry concerns – ignoring the concerns of those most affected.

Having seen and heard the alcohol industry's vocal response to the Scottish Government's proposals to restrict marketing, the signatories stated:

"...we also have a voice and we need to be heard. We do not have the power or influence of the alcohol industry, we do not have an army of lobbyists or a multi-million pound PR machine to amplify our voices. Our daily lives are shaped by chaos, exhaustion, disappointment, grief and loss. We do not have the time, energy or resources to compete with the industry. But you have let our voice be drowned out by those with money, power and influence."

Read the letter and add your support

UPDATE

Ireland To Introduce Mandatory Health Warnings on Alcohol Products

become the first country in the world to introduce mandatory health warnings on alcohol products.

Under the regulations, alcohol product labels in Ireland will include important information, such as calorie content and grams of alcohol. These labels will also prominently display warnings about the risks associated with alcohol consumption during pregnancy, as well as the dangers of liver disease and cancers caused by alcohol.

Stephen Donnelly, Irish Minister for Health, who signed off on the new policy, said "I welcome that we are the first country in the world to take this step and introduce comprehensive health labelling of alcohol products. I look forward to other countries following our example."

Find out more from Alcohol Action Ireland

UPDATE

Local Alcohol Profiles

Alcohol Focus Scotland has updated the **Local Alcohol Profiles** developed for each of Scotland's 32 local authorities.

The local area profiles highlight key facts demonstrating the high level of alcohol harm in Scotland, including:

- The number of people drinking over the recommended low-risk drinking guidelines
- The number of hospital admissions and deaths as a result of alcohol, and
- The cost of alcohol harm to the public purse.

Find your local authority's Alcohol Profile

Updated CRESH Webmap

The Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health (CRESH) has **previously investigated** the links between alcohol environments and health, finding that availability of alcohol in Scotland is related to behaviours, harms and health inequalities.

CRESH have now updated their digital webmap to include data for 2020, in addition to 2012 and 2016. The webmap allows users to visualise the availability of alcohol in Scotland down to the neighbourhood level. The data is available across a range of geographies including Scottish Government Data Zones, health board, local authorities and parliamentary constituencies. Users can also view availability over a variety of time periods and look at where alcohol is sold by type of licensed premises.

Access the map. Please note that the CRESH Map also includes tobacco sales.

TRAINING

Training: Alcohol and Older Adults

This training session is for anyone supporting older adults, such as health care professionals, sheltered housing staff, and care services.

On completion of the course you will have:

- An enhanced awareness and understanding of the problems caused by alcohol and age specific problems.
- Increased awareness of the effects to the drinker as well as those around them such as family, friends and support teams.
- Increased confidence and skills to work with and support older adults
- A better understanding of how to engage with support functions and local activity, awareness of interventions.

Date: Thursday 29th June 2023
Time: 09:30 - 12:30

More information and how to book

TRAINING

Licensing Standards Officers training

This is a mandatory qualification for Licensing Standards Officers employed by their local Council. It may be useful for other people involved in monitoring licensed premises such as Licensing Board administration staff.

Dates: Monday 26th - Wednesday 28th June
Time: 9:00 - 5:00 each day

Visit our website to find out more and book your place

CAMPAIGN

106 Community Leaders Call on World Health Organization to Stop Closed-Door Meetings with Alcohol Lobbyists

Alcohol Focus Scotland is part of a group of 106 community and public health leaders from 60 countries and six continents calling on the World Health Organization (WHO) to stop its closed-door meetings with alcohol lobbyists, which allow companies that profit from alcoholic products to have unprecedented access to leaders who are responsible for advancing global health.

Alcohol companies and their lobby groups work relentlessly to undermine policies to prevent and reduce harm. The letter also highlights how they also work to undermine the health and safety of communities at the local level. For example, in many African countries, multinational alcohol companies are deploying unethical practices to drive alcohol use, including using “beer promotion girls” and aggressive marketing that exposes children to alcohol promotions.

New campaign shares letters to loved ones lost to alcohol and drugs

‘Everyone knows someone’ is the message behind See Beyond - See the Lives - Scotland, a new campaign from the University of Stirling, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs, Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP), and The Salvation Army.

The website shares hard-hitting stories and videos from family and friends, in the form of a letter to their loved one who has died. The messaging is deliberately stark and designed to “challenge and provoke”. They hope the stories and images will shatter myths surrounding drug and alcohol use and deaths and encourage the public to show compassion for those experiencing problems with substance use and the people left behind when a loved one dies.

Hear the stories

Factors associated with public awareness of the relationship between alcohol use and breast cancer risk

A new study published in BMC Public Health found that awareness of the risk of alcohol use associated with breast cancer was low, with just 1 in 5 (21%) of respondents correctly identifying the relationship. In a blog post published by the Institute of Alcohol Studies (IAS), the lead author explains the importance of increasing public awareness of the breast cancer risk associated with alcohol use.

Read the blog summary

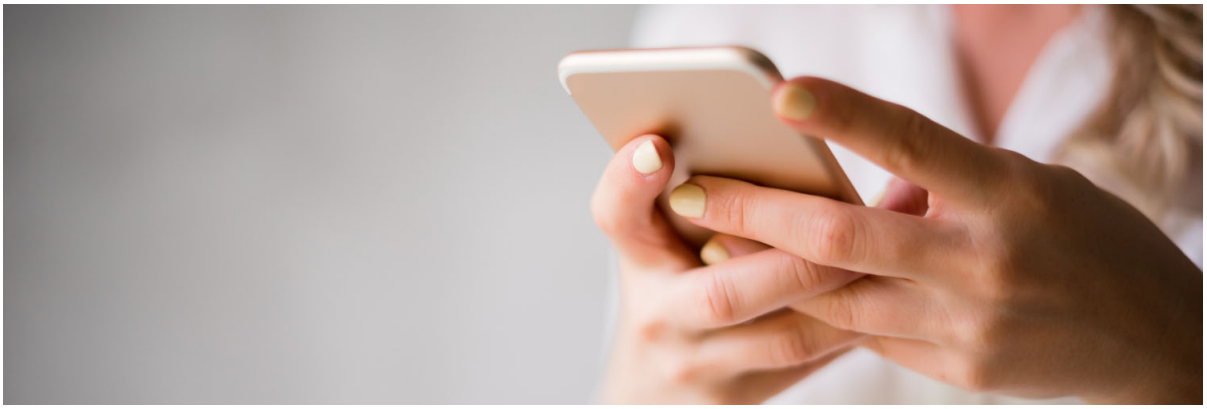
RESEARCH

Online sale and delivery of alcohol – A growing risk to our community

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) in Australia has published a new report which distils evidence about harms from the online sale and delivery of alcohol and outlines 13 evidence-based policy recommendations.

Alcohol harm is exacerbated by the online sale and delivery of alcohol, which has vastly increased availability and accessibility, creating unique risks to community health and safety. FARE CEO Caterina Giorgi said that “every phone is a bottle shop”, making it difficult for those trying to avoid or cut back on alcohol consumption to escape the constant marketing and sales tactics.

Read the report and their recommendations



RESEARCH

Effective alcohol policies are associated with reduced consumption among demographic groups who drink heavily

A new study concludes that how much people drank on average was significantly related to the extent to which there were effective alcohol control policies in place.

Published in Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research, researchers looked at whether drinking patterns are associated with alcohol control policy. The extent of effective alcohol control policies in place was measured using the International Alcohol Control (IAC) Policy

It looked across 10 countries, including England and Scotland, using self-report surveys of consumption.

Read the study

EVENT

British Liver Trust: Love Your Liver Roadshow

The British Liver Trust will be visiting Edinburgh on **Tuesday 13th June 2023** with the Love Your Liver roadshow, to raise awareness of the liver disease crisis in Scotland among the general public and Members of the Scottish Parliament. The roadshow will be located at **the Mound Precinct, Edinburgh, EH2 2EL**.

Drop in any time between 10am and 4pm for a free liver screener and scan. The **free non-invasive liver scan** enables people to get an immediate insight into the health of their liver. Individuals whose reading indicates liver damage are provided with a letter to take to their GP requesting follow-up tests and appropriate management via NHS pathways.

Find out more about the Roadshow

EVENT

CPG on Improving Scotland's Health

The next meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Improving Scotland's Health will be held online on Wednesday 7 June 2023, 12:30 - 13:45.

The theme will be "People and planet: a human rights based approach to public health." The intersection between people and environmental issues is a topical concern, and the framing of human rights is a live debate at UN level.

We are pleased to announce the first two speakers for this event are:

- Alan Miller, Professor of Human Rights Law, University of Strathclyde
- Pete Ritchie, Executive Director, Nourish Scotland

registration link. Please contact the secretariat at CEO@ashscotland.org.uk if you would like to become a member of the CPG.

Find out more about the CPG

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June 2023

UPDATE

Public Health Scotland evaluation supports continuation of MUP

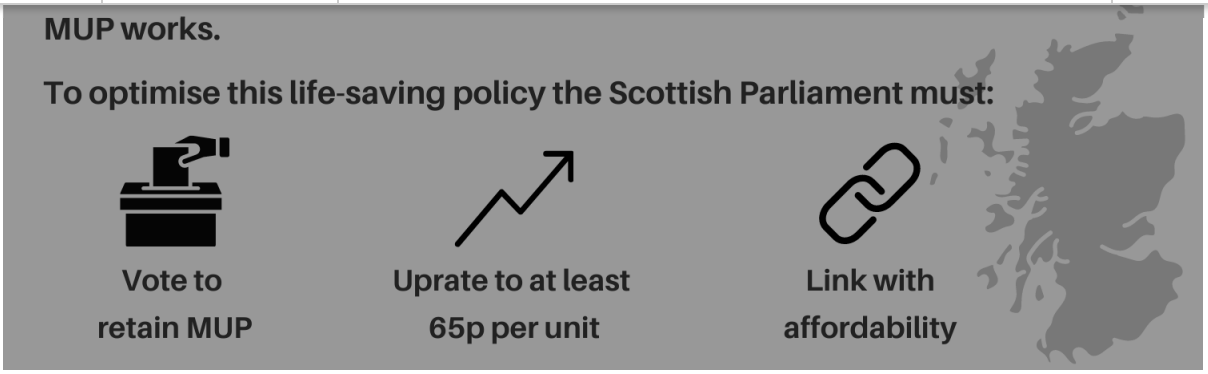
Scotland's national public health body Public Health Scotland (PHS) has reported that they are "confident that MUP is an effective mechanism to reduce alcohol-related harm in Scotland" and they "support the continuation of MUP beyond April 2024."

On Tuesday 27th June, Public Health Scotland published its final report on the independent evaluation of the impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) for alcohol in Scotland, which showed that MUP has had a positive impact on health outcomes, including addressing alcohol-related health inequalities. The evaluation also showed there was no clear evidence of substantial negative impacts on the alcoholic drinks industry in Scotland.

MUP led to a 3% reduction in alcohol consumption at a population level. It has reduced deaths directly caused by alcohol consumption by an estimated 13.4% and hospital admissions by 4.1%, with the largest reductions seen in men and those living in the 40% most deprived areas.

Welcoming the findings of the evaluation, Alison Douglas, chief executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland, said "Now we know that minimum unit pricing is truly life-saving, the policy must be continued, and the price increased. To scrap it now or leave it at a level that will quickly lose its effect would condemn hundreds of people to unnecessary suffering."

Find out more



UPDATE

New cancer strategy includes vision that "alcohol is no longer a major cause of cancer"

The plan includes the need to target specific cancer risk factors such as tobacco, obesity and alcohol. Alcohol causes 6.5% of deaths in Scotland and 28% of those are due to cancer. While alcohol as a risk factor remains a key challenge, particularly in relation to liver disease and liver cancer, the new strategy recommends following the WHO best buys of making alcohol less available, less affordable and less attractive.

Read the strategy

UPDATE

Alcohol and diabetes: a guest blog post from Diabetes Scotland

Diabetes Scotland support Alcohol Focus Scotland's mission to reduce alcohol-related harms, understanding that type 2 diabetes, alcohol problems and obesity are all part of a wider public health challenge which can't be tackled in isolation.

In this blog post, Diabetes Scotland explore the relationship between alcohol consumption and diabetes, highlighting that it is complex and our understanding of it is still evolving. People who drink heavily are at higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes, partly but not only due to the contribution alcohol can make to overweight and obesity. However, the food and drink environment is currently skewed towards health-harming products. That's why Diabetes Scotland support measures to tackle the problem at its source.

POLICY

Liver Cancer Crisis debate

Stuart McMillan MSP led a debate on Scotland's liver cancer crisis.

Drawing attention to the liver disease and liver cancer crisis in Scotland, which particularly affects people living in our most deprived areas where deaths from alcohol are highest. He emphasised the importance of prevention and early detection of liver cancer, which has seen a significant increase in mortality rates over the past decade.

Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, reiterated the government's commitment to reducing alcohol-related harm through population-level prevention strategies and working towards earlier cancer diagnosis.

Watch the debate
Read the official report

CAMPAIGN

Alcohol Awareness Week 2023

Alcohol Awareness Week is an annual event dedicated to raising awareness about the impact of alcohol consumption on individuals, families, and communities. It plays a vital role in educating and supporting individuals and communities.

This year's Alcohol Awareness Week takes place from 3-9 July 2023

Find out more from Alcohol Change UK

A Human Rights Bill for Scotland

The Scottish Government is gathering views to help inform how it will take forward the Human Rights Bill. The Bill will incorporate a range of economic, social and cultural rights (such as the right to health) into Scots law for the first time. Although Scotland is already bound by international human rights treaties, embedding these rights into Scottish law will further emphasise the importance of all people being treated with dignity, and ensure that human rights play a central role in strategies, policies and decision-making. The new human rights law will also mean public bodies and others have duties to uphold our rights. Alcohol Focus Scotland believes that this has the potential to transform lives in Scotland – including people seeking support in relation to alcohol and their families.

The consultation will run until Thursday 5 October 2023.

Find out more and respond to the consultation

Response to Call for Evidence on the Review of National Outcomes

The Scottish Government recently undertook a review of the **National Outcomes**. These outcomes underpin Scotland's wellbeing framework helping it to achieve its purpose by setting an overall vision for life in Scotland.

Alcohol Focus Scotland contributed to the response submitted by the **NCD Alliance Scotland**. We suggested changes to the National Outcomes and associated indicators on health, children and young people, communities and the economy. We have called for reference to the commercial determinants of health and the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), with a focus on alcohol, tobacco and related products, and high fat, salt, and sugar (HFSS) foods.

Read the response

Find out more about the National Outcomes

RESEARCH

Reducing alcohol use through alcohol control policies in the general population and population subgroups: a systematic review and meta-analysis

New research published in eClinicalMedicine, part of the Lancet Discovery Science, demonstrates the effectiveness of alcohol control policies in reducing alcohol consumption.

The systematic review found that alcohol taxation and minimum unit prices (MUP) are the most effective policies in reducing alcohol consumption. For example, doubling alcohol taxes or introducing an MUP of 50p per UK unit reduces alcohol consumption by 10% on average.

The researchers concluded that high levels of alcohol consumption and related health consequences can be effectively tackled through implementing evidence-informed alcohol control policies, while more research is needed to uncover difference across population subgroups, which is important for policies that promote health equity.

Read the blog summary

Read the study

RESEARCH

Alcohol consumption and risks of more than 200 diseases in Chinese men

New research published in Nature Medicine found a link between alcohol and 33 diseases not previously listed by **World Health Organization** as alcohol-related.

The researchers looked at the associations of alcohol consumption with 207 diseases,

gout. Among Chinese men, alcohol consumption increased multiple disease risks, highlighting the need to strengthen preventive measures to reduce alcohol intake. The study – which used genetic analysis – also found no health benefits of moderate drinking.

Read a blog post by the lead author

Read the study

RESEARCH

Unpacking assertions made by the alcohol industry and how they make them: An analysis of submissions into Australia's National Alcohol Strategy

A new study on industry influence in Australian policymaking calls for systematic scrutiny of submissions made into government policy processes to ensure policymakers are aware of misinformation and poor-quality evidence when policy decisions are being made.

Published in the Drug and Alcohol Review, the study analysed alcohol industry submissions into the consultation on Australia's National Alcohol Strategy to determine the content and the ways in which evidence was used and misused. The study found that the alcohol industry consistently made five common assertions: ‘Drinking alcohol in moderation has health benefits’; ‘Alcohol isn't the cause of violence’; ‘Targeted initiatives, not population level alcohol policies, are needed’; ‘Strong alcohol advertising regulations are not necessary’; and ‘Minimum unit price and pricing and taxation policies more broadly are not needed’. The industry also frequently misused and misrepresented evidence.

Read the study

EVENT

Our Learning and Development Team will be exhibiting at the Family Wellbeing Hub in August!

An opportunity to find out what support is available to help you and your family, this in-person event will showcase family services from across Glasgow, and nationally. The focus is on the themes of mental and physical health, plus food and nutrition. Glasgow City Parents Group believe these are important needs to be met in order for any child to be able to learn in school.

Location: Glasgow City Chambers
Date and time: Wednesday, 23 August 2023 18:30 - 20:30.

Find out more and reserve your free spot

ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND
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www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk
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July 2023

UPDATE

Figures reveal 40% drop in alcohol treatment in Scotland over 10 years

Analysis of figures recently published by the Scottish Government shows there has been a 40% reduction in the number of people accessing alcohol services in the last decade. This decline has occurred alongside an increase in alcohol harms and deaths, pointing to difficulties in accessing treatment, rather than a decreased need for treatment.

Alcohol Focus Scotland has warned that if we don't act now to prevent and treat alcohol problems, Scotland could be turning the clock back 30 years to when death rates soared to record levels.

Laura Mahon, Deputy Chief Executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland, said: "The drop in the level of treatment in Scotland over the last ten years is shocking and deeply concerning.

"[This] coincides with a period when budgets for Alcohol & Drug Partnerships were cut. At the time, many of us feared that those cuts would affect service provision and it now appears that is the case. The fact that this drop in support is only now coming to light is also of real concern. The Scottish Government urgently needs to invest in alcohol treatment – as they have in drug services – and to monitor provision to ensure these vital services are maintained."

Early access to person-centred treatment is essential to help people avoid developing more severe problems or even losing their life to alcohol. These figures highlight the need for urgent investment in this vital area.

that investment in specialist services is prioritised to ensure that they are supported earlier and to relieve future demand on our NHS. This must be accompanied by preventative action on low prices and aggressive marketing which encourage and normalise high levels of alcohol consumption."

Read more

New survey finds public support for alcohol control policies across all political backgrounds

According to recent polling from the Alcohol Health Alliance, seven in ten people want government policy to be protected from the influence of the alcohol industry and its representatives. Additionally, over half of people surveyed welcome improved marketing regulations, with six in ten believing that alcohol display and promotion in shops and supermarkets should only be visible to people intending to browse or purchase alcohol.

Professor Sir Ian Gilmore, Chair of the Alcohol Health Alliance, said: "The results of the YouGov survey clearly show that people in the UK want to see politicians doing more to protect their health and that of their families and their communities.

"People want the opportunity to lead healthy lives and make healthy choices but current legislation, or lack of, makes this difficult when important health information is being withheld from labels and children are being bombarded by alcohol adverts.

Read Pouring over public opinion: Alcohol Policies in the UK

Challenge and Change: Lived Experience Voices on Alcohol Marketing

The Alcohol Focus Scotland Involvement team shares why it is important to listen to and highlight the voices of people affected by alcohol.

We have launched a new blog series called "Challenge and Change", which aims to give a platform to people to share their experiences and views. In the first blog post, our Involvement team write about their recent work on alcohol marketing and share what

Read the blog post

Get in touch and share your story

POLICY

EASL Policy Statement for Reducing Alcohol Harms 2023

The European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) have released a policy statement on reducing alcohol harms.

EASL argue that evidence-based interventions that reduce population-level alcohol consumption are both effective and cost-effective at reducing deaths from alcohol-related liver disease and reducing other negative health, social, and economic impacts of alcohol consumption. They recommend policies including minimum unit pricing, banning alcohol marketing, and restricting the availability of alcohol.

In the policy statement, they note that many states have failed to implement proven and effective measures, usually due to lobbying and interference by the alcohol industry. EASL highlight that the irreconcilable conflict of interest between the alcohol industry and health must be acknowledged and confronted.

Read the policy statement EASL's full recommendations

TRAINING

Working with children and young people

Take a look at Alcohol Focus Scotland's upcoming training sessions which introduce resources developed for use with children, young people, or families affected by alcohol harm. Participants will learn how to use our materials to help build children's resilience,

Find out more and book your place:

- **Children Harmed by Alcohol Toolkit (CHAT)**: Thursday 24 August
- **Oh Lila** (pre-school aged children): Wednesday 6 September

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TRAINING

Alcohol Awareness Week 2023: Interview with Diane Thomson

Diane Thomson, Senior Learning and Development Coordinator at Alcohol Focus Scotland, talks about what surprises people about alcohol and the courses we offer.

A trainer with AFS for just over 10 years, Diane runs our two Alcohol Awareness courses. In this interview, she talks about the importance of alcohol awareness training for everyone, including challenging societal attitudes and misconceptions, and how people react to some of the facts they are given.

“In our society, we’re almost drenched in alcohol. It’s almost like a metaphor!”

Read the interview

Want to better understand alcohol, its impact, and basic ways to provide basic support and signpost others affected by alcohol use?

Find out more and book your place:

- **Alcohol Affects Us All (enhanced Alcohol Awareness)**: Tuesday 29 August
- **Alcohol Awareness**: Thursday 31 August

Scottish Parliament Committees Call for Views

A number of Scottish Parliament subject committees have published calls for views to investigate the sustainability of Scotland's finances, scrutinise the forthcoming budget, and examine the impact of the Scottish Government's spending and taxation plans.

Find out more and respond to the committees:

- **Finance and Public Administration Committee: The Sustainability of Scotland's Finances** – by Wednesday 16 August
- **Health, Social Care and Sport Committee: Pre-budget Scrutiny 2024-25** – by Friday 25 August
- **Equality, Human Rights and Criminal Justice Committee: What impact do the Scottish Government's spending and taxation plans have** – by Friday 25 August

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RESEARCH

Not all home drinking is equal: A latent class analysis of drinking patterns and alcohol consumption levels following initial COVID-19 restrictions in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdoms

New research published in the Drug and Alcohol Review, concludes that drinking contexts, sex, and age influenced alcohol consumption during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although research generally shows that people consume more alcohol at home, the study findings suggest that "home" as a drinking context has subgroups that need to be taken into account.

People who reported drinking in home and social settings were more likely to report increased alcohol consumption. Similarly, people who reported drinking alone also

reported consuming less alcohol than males in all groups. This disparity was more pronounced within older age groups.

The authors argue that their findings demonstrate the influence of the social environment on home drinking behaviours and highlight a need for improved policy targeting risky drinking in home settings. Further research should explore whether COVID-19-induced shifts in alcohol use persist as restrictions are lifted.

Read the study

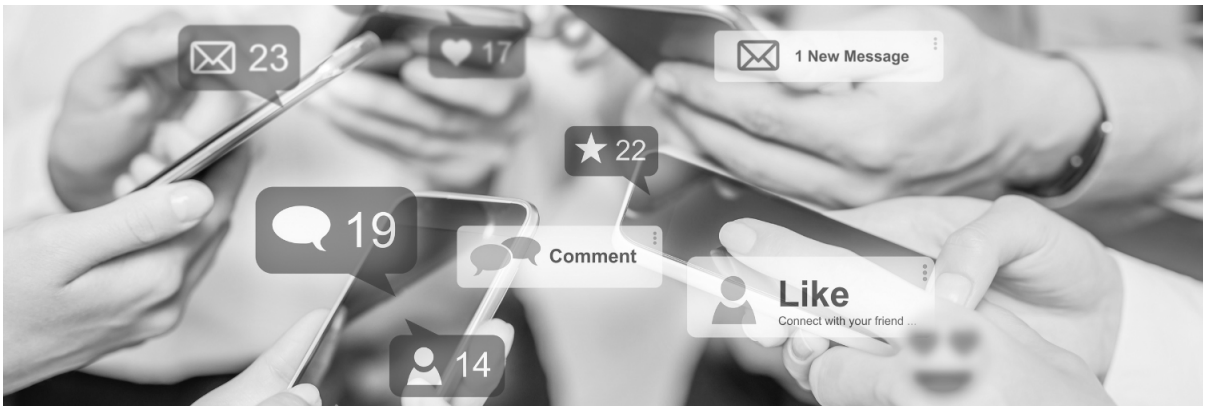
RESEARCH

Instagram sober journeys: How relapse narratives and viewing orders influence audience response on social media

New research published in Computers in Human Behaviour examined the potential of using social media to share recovery stories and positively influence attitudes and support for policies to reduce alcohol harms.

Self-disclosures of recovery journeys on social media have increased in recent years. The study examined the effects of relapse narratives and the order in which people viewed someone's story. Viewers were more likely to interact with and identify with people's stories if they were viewed in chronological order, and if the stories included a relapse narrative. In turn, this prompted positive attitudes and support for policies to reduce alcohol harm.

Find out more



EVENT

Our Learning and Development Team will be exhibiting at the Family Wellbeing Hub in August!

An opportunity to find out what support is available to help you and your family, this in-person event will showcase family services from across Glasgow, and nationally. The focus is on the themes of mental and physical health, plus food and nutrition. Glasgow City Parents Group believe these are important needs to be met in order for any child to be able to learn in school.

Location: Glasgow City Chambers
Date and time: Wednesday 23 August, 18:30 - 20:30.

Find out more and reserve your free spot

EVENT

WHO Less Alcohol Webinar Series

The World Health Organization has announced the return of the Less Alcohol Webinar Series for its third edition.

Each hourlong webinar will include a keynote presentation, three to four spotlight country cases, active moderation and an interactive experience for online participants. All events are free with prior registration available at the links below:

- **Alcohol and the environment: how to green alcohol control policies?** Monday 18 September, 13:00 CET
- **Alcohol monopolies: what does it take for alcohol monopolies to work?** Wednesday 18 October, 13:00 CET
- **Youth and alcohol: do new trends demand new solutions?** Tuesday 7 November, 13:00 CET

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August 2023

UPDATE

Unacceptable rise in alcohol-specific deaths

1,276 people lost their lives because of alcohol in 2022 according to National Records of Scotland.

Each of these deaths was preventable and we need to do more to reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, their families and communities.

Alcohol Focus Scotland are urging the Scottish Government to take action to combat the **40% reduction** in access to specialist alcohol services in addition to delivering on commitments made in the 2018 Alcohol Framework to introduce preventative policies to save and improve people's lives.

Laura Mahon, deputy chief executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland, said, "For the third year in a row we've seen deaths caused by alcohol increasing. This is completely unacceptable, with each of these deaths being preventable. We need to be going further and faster in our efforts to reverse this appalling trend."

Read more

POLICY

Alcohol marketing: “If it’s changed, it’s our future it will help” say children and young people

tighter restrictions on alcohol marketing and promotion in Scotland and provides 16 recommendations for the Scottish Government to consider.

Young people involved in the work supported the phasing out of alcohol sponsorship from sports teams and sporting events, and the introduction of restrictions in local shops and supermarkets to make alcohol less visible to young people. They also want a reduction in the volume of online and television alcohol advertising that young people see. Participants also suggested "toning down" the content of alcohol advertisements, to make them less appealing to children and young people. Many young people also highlighted that newer drinks have packaging and flavours that attract the attention of children and young people.

The young people involved in this project said they hoped introducing new restrictions on alcohol marketing would lead to "healthier and happier people".

Read a blog post about the report
Read the report and the recommendations

TRAINING

Working with children and young people

Take a look at Alcohol Focus Scotland's upcoming training sessions which introduce resources developed for use with children, young people, or families affected by alcohol harm. Participants will learn how to use our materials to help build children's resilience, describe the impact of harmful parental drinking, and support children and families affected by a family member's drinking.

Find out more and book your place:

- **Rory: Friday 8 September 2023**
- **Children Harmed by Alcohol Toolkit (CHAT): Thursday 14 September 2023**

Alcohol Awareness

Want to better understand alcohol, its impact, and basic ways to provide support and signpost others affected by alcohol use?

Find out more and book your place:

- **Alcohol Awareness: Wednesday 27 September 2023**
- **Alcohol Affects Us All (enhanced Alcohol Awareness): Friday 29 September 2023**

CONSULTATIONS

Scottish Parliament Committees Call for Views on Finance and Pre-Budget Scrutiny

Alcohol Focus Scotland has responded to two Scottish Parliament Committee's calls for views on the sustainability of Scotland's finances and pre-budget scrutiny.

We highlight the significant economic burden of alcohol use in Scotland, particularly to our health service, and propose the introduction of an alcohol harm prevention levy to help combat the unprecedented financial challenges Scotland is facing. The Scottish Government should use its fiscal powers to raise revenue from the sale of alcohol, making the 'polluter pay', to help offset the significant costs to the public sector of dealing with the consequences of alcohol harm and fund public services, including improved recovery-oriented services. This should go hand in hand with the implementation of cost-effective preventative policies, such as minimum unit pricing and alcohol marketing.

Read our responses:

- **Finance and Public Administration Committee: The Sustainability of Scotland's Finances**
- **Health, Social Care and Sport Committee: Pre-budget Scrutiny 2024-25**

RESEARCH

“I don't want to introduce it into new places in my life”: The marketing and consumption of no and low alcohol drinks

A recent publication in the International Journal of Drug Policy highlights the ways in which the expanding NoLo market may present challenges and opportunities in relation to public health.

The study looked at the promotion of NoLo products and the tendency to focus on addition marketing, encouraging people to drink NoLo products in addition to their typical weekly drinking patterns, such as at the gym. NoLo consumption is also depicted as a short-term measure, accompanied by the expectation that "real" alcohol can be consumed in traditional drinking spaces and contexts.

In this study there was no evidence of NoLos being consumed on top of existing alcohol consumption, despite this finding being reported elsewhere. Participants reported being more likely to drink NoLos in place of alcohol and incorporate them into their existing drinking routines.

Find out more

RESEARCH

The effectiveness of alcohol label information for increasing knowledge and awareness: a rapid evidence review

New research published in the BMC Public Health suggests that alcohol labelling is an effective intervention that should be added to the broader suite of policy options.

The researchers looked at the effectiveness of bottle labels for improving understanding of

in drinking alcohol, enabling them to make informed decisions around consumption, and perhaps provide a route to changing behaviour. The literature review suggests that the specific format of the label matters, prompting careful consideration of the design and placement of labels.

Thus, effective alcohol labelling is an intervention that policymakers should consider. The authors also note that public support for labelling is high.

Read the study

EVENT

CPG on Improving Scotland's Health: AGM

The next meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Improving Scotland's Health will be the AGM, held online on Wednesday 6 September 2023, 12:45 - 13:15.

The meeting is only for interested MSPs and registered group members who have completed a declaration of interest form. Members will have already received the Zoom registration link. Please contact the secretariat at CEO@ashscotland.org.uk if you would like to become a member of the CPG.

Find out more about the CPG

EVENT

WHO Less Alcohol Webinar Series

The World Health Organization has announced the return of the Less Alcohol Webinar Series for its third edition.

are free with prior registration available at the links below:

- **Alcohol and the environment: how to green alcohol control policies?** Monday 18 September, 13:00 CET
- **Alcohol monopolies: what does it take for alcohol monopolies to work?** Wednesday 18 October, 13:00 CET
- **Youth and alcohol: do new trends demand new solutions?** Tuesday 7 November, 13:00 CET
- **Measuring alcohol policy implementation: are existing tools and methods fit for purpose and use?** Thursday 7 December, 13:00 CET

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To: **Renfrewshire Licensing Forum**

On: **11 September 2023**

Report by: **Clerk**

Heading: **Dates for Future Meetings**

1. Summary

1.1 This report details proposed arrangements for meetings of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum until September 2024.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Forum considers and approves the dates for future meetings of the Forum as detailed in the report; and

2.2. That it be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Conveners of the Forum and the Licensing Board to determine a date for the Joint meeting with the Licensing Board.

3. Background

3.1 In terms of the Constitution approved at the meeting of the Forum held on 2 October 2007, there is a requirement for the Forum to meet no less than four times per year and for one of these meetings to be a joint meeting with Renfrewshire Licensing Board.

3.2. It has been the custom and practice that the Forum meet on a quarterly basis, with meetings being held during February or March, April or May, August or September and October or November.

3.3. It is proposed that meetings of the Forum be held on:-

Monday 19 February 2024;
Monday 22 April 2024; and
Monday 16 September 2024.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial -** None

2. **HR & Organisational Development -** None

3. **Community Planning -** None

4 **Legal –** None

5 **Property/Assets -** None

6 **Information Technology -** None

7. **Equality & Human Rights -** The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website

8. **Health & Safety -** None.

9. **Procurement** - None.

10. **Risk -** None.

11. **Privacy Impact –** None

12. **CoSLA Position –** n/a

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