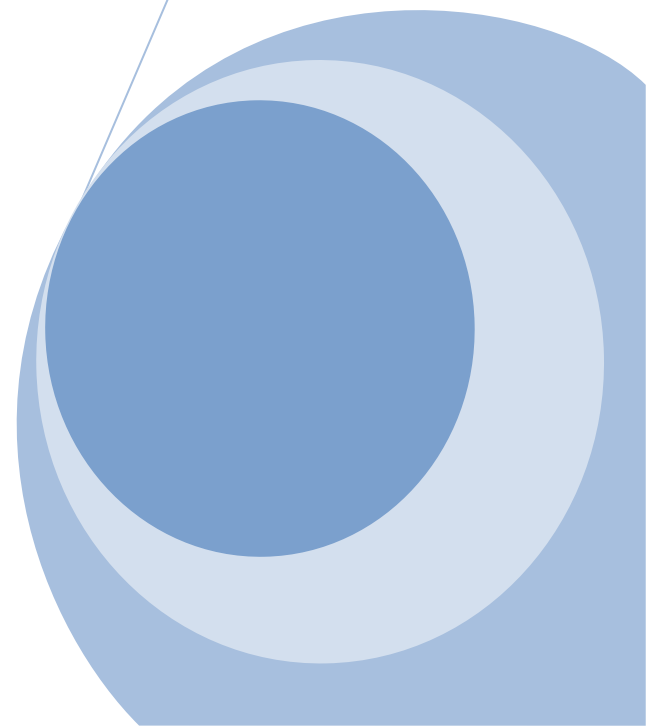
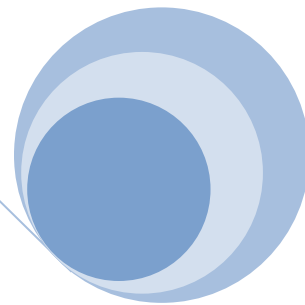




Scottish Borders Licensing Forum

**Annual Report
November 2017-
November 2018**



Introduction

Over the previous year, the Forum has continued to be active and implement the Scottish Borders Local Licensing Forum: October 2017-October 2018.

Membership has remained relatively stable with one resignation received. The Police Scotland representative changed from PC Clayton Lackenby to PC Terrie Ray following her appointment to the Police licensing role.

Ongoing support has continued via Alcohol Focus Scotland, Safer Communities Department and in particular the Forum would like to acknowledge the hard work and support of staff within Democratic Services, Scottish Borders Council.

Overview of activity:

Licensing Board Policy Statement 2018 Review

The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 has amended the normal duration of the Licensing Policy Statement and the Overprovision Assessment to better match the term and duration of the Licensing Boards. This means that a Licensing Policy Statement was due in November 2018 and last for five years.

As the Forum is a consultee in the review of the Policy, the Forum formed a short life working group in January 2018 with recommendations forwarded to the Licensing Board which were taking into consideration and assisted forming the new Policy approved on 26 October 2018.

Licensing Board Attendance

Forum members continue to struggle to attend regular Licensing Board meetings however, the minutes of the meeting are now a standing item at Forum meetings and allow any discussion on decisions made.

Continuous professional Development

The Forum is kept up to date on national licensing developments and this year has received inputs on:

- 'Who Are You' safety campaign – Police Scotland. This campaign raises awareness of the issues of sexual assaults bystanders including those in the licensed trade can assist in prevention of these crimes.
- Underage Drinking Don't Buy it, Don't Supply It – Safer Communities, Scottish Borders Council. This campaign with the assistance of the Licensing Standards Officers focused on advertising at major events in the Scottish Borders to improve

the public awareness of new legislation and responsibilities of adults supplying alcohol to under age persons.

- Best Bar None Scotland – Safer Communities, Scottish Borders Council. A voluntary accredited award scheme where premises demonstrate awareness and prevention in relation to the licensing objectives.

Members of the Forum and Licensing Board have also received joint CPD training with the following presentations

- Alcohol Availability and Harm in the Scottish Borders – Alcohol Focus Scotland
- Introduction of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) – Ian Tunnah, Licensing Standards Officer

Future Training - 'Ask for Angela' safety campaign.

This campaign relates to the safety of persons in licensed premises whereupon a customer requiring assistance can use the phrase 'Is Angela working', to staff discretely alerting them that assistance is required. A Forum member and licensee introduced this system in his premises which has already been of help to a customer. It was discussed at a Forum meeting prompting Police Scotland to consider a forum input and roll out of the system in 2019.

Alcohol Profile (Profile)

The annual Alcohol Profile was updated and published in February 2018 with the introduction of a summary info-graphic to support easy reference. A presentation on the Profile was delivered to the Licensing Board in support of publication.

The Profile is referenced within Alcohol Focus Scotland's toolkit as good practice. As a result approaches have been made by other local authorities and Forum members have met with colleagues to share this good practice.

Attendance at Scottish Government

A member of the forum was invited to attend the Local Government and Communities Committee meeting in Scottish Parliament to participate in the Committee's evidence session on alcohol licensing in Scotland. This input demonstrated how the Borders Forum has developed and cemented their membership and implemented their roles within the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. This was well received and once again reflected the work of the Borders Forum at a national level.

Survey participation

Members of the Forum have been requested to take part in a study carried out by the Faculty of Health, Stirling University, to examine whether and how local public health engagement in alcohol licensing, operates through the local licensing regime to affect alcohol-related harms.