

Our Ref: CALF/AZ/2017
Your Ref:

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10th February, 2017

If you have difficulty reading this document please contact Anna Ziarkowska on 01224 664935

Dear Sirs

PROPOSED CONSIDERATION OF DRAMATIC INCREASE IN ALCOHOL RELATED DEATHS IN ABERDEESHIRE CONSULTATION PROCESS

At the last meeting of the Central North Aberdeenshire Licensing Forum, which took place on Wednesday, 25th January, 2017, Members raised a concern about the dramatic increase in alcohol related deaths in Aberdeenshire area and agreed to contact yourself to convey their intention to put this matter forward to the Licensing Board for the policy review consideration.

Please find enclosed the research paper on Alcohol Related Deaths and Hospital Admissions which provided headline figures on alcohol-related deaths and hospital admission performance.

It was observed that alcohol related death rate in Aberdeenshire has been steadily increasing since 2010 whilst the national situation in the rest of Scotland and council areas have improved. It was also reported that Aberdeenshire has the lowest rate of alcohol related hospital admissions in Scotland and this number has been declining over last years. Members discussed the statistics on alcohol-related deaths and hospital admissions in Aberdeenshire and potentials correlation between those two indicators. Members were particularly concerned about the alarming increase in alcohol consumption in Aberdeenshire in recent years and then considered various options of how Forum could approach this problem.

Following on from the discussion, it was proposed:

- a) to launch community-wide discussion/consultation to make people aware of the problem,
- b) to engage with premises license holders to encourage people to shift away from home drinking,
- c) to invite off-sale trade representative to the next Forum meeting and consult with them possible solutions;

During the discussion Members suggested to raise this matter to the Board's attention with a view to encourage Board to take these concerns into account when reviewing the licensing policy. Members also expressed a wish to persuade Board to consider the presented statistics and to undertake certain precautions to prevent situation getting worse.

As the Forum and the Board share the common goal of having the community's best interests at the heart of decision-making, Forum Members felt it is necessary to cooperate and deal with apparent issues to promote the responsible use of alcohol across Aberdeenshire area.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks.

Yours faithfully

Bill Duncan
Vice-Chair of Central Aberdeenshire Licensing Forum