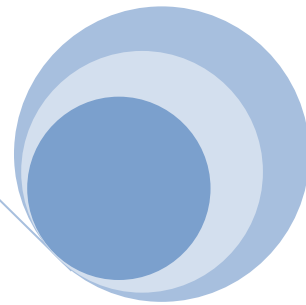


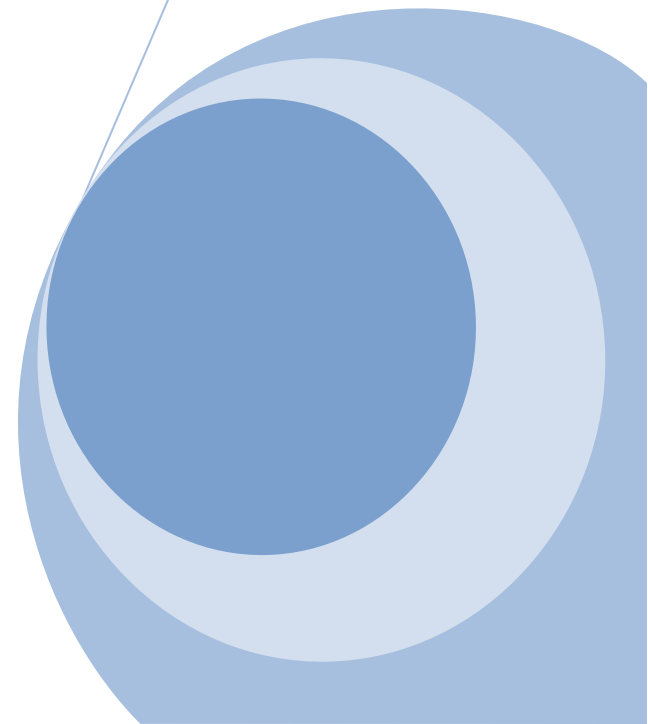


Scottish Borders Licensing Forum



Annual Report 2021 – 2022

November 2022



Introduction

Over the previous year the forum has had only one meeting which was the Licensing Board/ Local Licensing Forum annual meeting in November 2021. Due to the pandemic, a number of scheduled meetings were cancelled. Membership has changed over the period with two resignations. In addition, the convener Mark Hay has had to step down from this role although remains an active member. Licensing Standards and Enforcement Officer (LSEO) Mike Wynne has taken on the role as convener on a temporary basis.

The Police Scotland representative P.C. Sharon Lackenby has retired from the Police although now part of Scottish Borders Council Licensing team. A new Police Scotland licensing officer is yet to be appointed.

The Forum was boosted in numbers with the appointment of Licensing Standards and Enforcement Officers John Scott and Hannah Wood who are statutory members.

Overview of activity:

Licensing Board Attendance

Forum members have continued to struggle to attend regular online Licensing Board meetings however the Licensing Board minutes will continue as a standing item at future Forum meetings, which allows discussion on decisions made. The presence of the Licensing Standards and Enforcement Officers at Licensing Board meetings and Forum meetings ensures any questions raised can be answered in full.

Continuous Professional Development

Due to the lack of meetings there has been no training however, Alcohol Focus Scotland have kindly offered an input on recommendations of working practices for the Forum and advice on reviewing the Licensing Board Policy due in 2023. Their support is acknowledged and dates will be scheduled for early 2023 for this training.

Information continues to be circulated by Public Health representative (Susan Elliot) and has included guidance for new members, Local Licensing Forum Survey report, Minimum Unit Pricing updates and the recent report on Marketing by Alcohol Focus Scotland.

At this year's Forum/Board annual meeting, there will be a training session to members on Equalities.

Alcohol Profile

The annual Alcohol Profile was again updated and remains a useful tool for the Board to use in their decision-making particularly with reference to the requirement to consider Overprovision.

The Profile is referenced within Alcohol Focus Scotland's Toolkit as good practice.

General

The normal functions of the Forum have been restricted since the last joint meeting due to the Pandemic and its resulting lock down and associated restrictions.

Membership of the Forum remains at a critical level despite recent media campaigns to recruit members. This will again be reviewed early 2023 when we hope some interest will be generated.

We hope that we can now look forward to getting back to something like normal in the coming year and to continued working together in the interest of all in the Scottish Borders.