

In Focus



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND • ISSUE 15 July 2009

Countdown to 1 September...

The biggest changes to Scotland's licensing system for 30 years come fully into effect at 5am on Tuesday 1 September.

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 brings in a new system of premises and personal licences, mandatory training for anyone involved in the sale of alcohol, opening hours set by the local Licensing Board on a 'premises by premises' basis, and a ban on irresponsible promotions.

But despite a transition period of 18 months, there are concerns that both the licensed trade and licensing authorities are not ready for the imminent deadline and this could leave hundreds of pubs, clubs and off-licences across Scotland facing the possibility of being unable to sell alcohol come September.

In response to the concerns, Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill announced that managers who had submitted their personal licence applications by the end of August but hadn't yet received their licence from the Board, could continue selling alcohol after 1 September, providing they have gained their licensing qualification.

The problems seem to have arisen either because applications haven't been submitted in time, or training has not yet been completed, or because Licensing Boards are unable to process the backlog of applications.

For the first batch of applications last March, ServeWise saw an increase in training numbers as people submitted their application to be a personal licence holder and premises manager in with their premises licence. But this slowed down when people realised they didn't have to name a premises manager until September 09 so left training and personal licence applications



to the last minute. This has been exacerbated by some Boards not starting to process personal licence applications until fairly recently because they were busy dealing with premises licence applications. There are still many licensees out there who think that completing their training is enough and don't appreciate they have to apply for a personal licence.

AFS has been encouraging licence holders and staff to complete their training as soon as possible. We now offer the City & Guilds exams for ServeWise PLH and Staff qualifications online which means candidates can download their provisional results at the end of the exam.

Our annual licensing conference on 9 and 10 September will be the ideal opportunity for those involved in alcohol and licensing to get together for the first time since the law will be in place. The theme of this year's conference is "Balancing the Act" and we are delighted to again have the Justice Secretary, Kenny MacAskill MSP, as our keynote speaker. The delegates will have the opportunity to discuss all the issues around the new Act as well as other key issues affecting the trade like the Scottish Government's plans to introduce minimum pricing, social responsibility fees and raising the purchase age to 21 for off-sales.

Minimum pricing update

Alcohol Focus Scotland, SHAAP and BMA Scotland are continuing to work together to campaign for the introduction of a minimum price per unit for alcoholic drinks.

We are encouraged by the growing support for minimum pricing from the licensed trade, medical professionals and social welfare groups.

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Welcome

Welcome to Alcohol Focus Scotland's July In Focus which covers the latest alcohol news, events, training and projects.

In Focus has been published in its current format for over two years now and we're keen to find out what you think of the content and design of the newsletter and hear your ideas for improvement.

We would be really grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete our online survey which you should receive by email.

Alternatively, you can contact me on the number and email address below.

Please do get in touch if you have any contributions for the next issue, due at the end of October.

Best wishes

Gillian Bell

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ServeWise

Annual Continuous Professional Development event for ServeWise Trainers



This event has continued to grow from year to year with a record number of people in attendance this time. As always the day aimed to cover a wide range of topics relevant to ServeWise Trainers.

Joanna Brynes of Young and Partners Solicitors once again provided the Licensing Law clinic. Joanna has supported ServeWise for many years, despite several changes of company. She has provided the law clinic at every CPD event which has consistently evaluated as the most popular spot. We'd like to thank Joanna for her support and are pleased to note that she will be speaking at the National Licensing Conference in September.

Three Alcohol Focus Scotland staff spoke at the event. Jack Law, Chief Executive, explained the Scottish Government's approach with its Changing Scotland's Relationship with Alcohol Strategy and the work Alcohol Focus Scotland is doing in a European context to improve Scotland's drinking culture. Mary Ellmers, Head of Training, outlined the development



of DrinkWise trainers. This provides an opportunity for ServeWise Trainers who wish to develop other areas of alcohol training. Barry McGinness, Marketing Officer, covered the general principles of marketing and some pitfalls and looked at opportunities for further promotion of ServeWise courses.

More pubs are offering poker games or leagues to their customers, which means ServeWise Trainers are getting more

questions on the topic. Dougie Greenshields of the Gambling Commission gave a brief overview of the rules and limitations that apply. Steve Mudie of the Scottish Licensed Trade Association gave suggestions for alternative ways the licensed trade can capitalise on the opportunities offered by the new Act and finally, Tom Johnston of Young & Partners Solicitors, gave a highly entertaining account and some very useful advice on "How Not To Lose Your Licence".

ServeWise launches online training for staff

From the 1st September 2009 all staff who serve or sell alcohol will have to have completed a minimum of 2 hours training, covering specified points and overseen by a qualified trainer or a personal licence holder. ServeWise already offers a range of options to the licensed trade to meet this requirement:

- A Workbook for Staff of Licensed Premises – price £5.99, available from servewise@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk and from www.amazon.co.uk
- A free leaflet - "A Personal Licence Holder's guide to delivering successful

staff training", which can also be downloaded from our website

- The ServeWise Staff course, which leads to candidates sitting the City & Guilds "7104 Certificate for Staff Working in Scottish Licensed Premises" and gaining an accredited, nationally recognised qualification.

We are now working with a company that specialises in online training, Quality Hospitality International (QHI), to develop a course that staff can complete by computer, at a time and place to suit them. Learners will access the course

via a website, and a qualified Trainer oversees their progress. Learners can choose to sit the whole course at one time, or to complete it over several sessions. They can take as much time as they need to complete the course, can email the tutor if help is needed and can revisit sections if desired. This also means that people travelling to Scotland who wish to work in a bar to fund their travels will be able to complete their course before they leave home!

We expect the ServeWise Online Staff Training Course to be available shortly – watch our website for details.

ServeWise Centres

CENTRE NAME/LOCATION	CONTACT NAME	TEL NO
GREATER GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY		
Alcohol Focus Scotland	ServeWise Admin	0141 572 6703
Catersafe	Annemarie Scott	0141 649 2446
Anna Walls Consultancy	Anna Walls	07841 401 357
GNE Consultants	Gordon Emslie	07909 754 134
Reid Kerr College	Morag Ritchie	0141 581 2218
LMB Licensing Training	Louise Ballantyne	07860 797 217
Make-It-So Solutions	John Macaulay	0141 561 3748
People Solutions Scotland	Sue Beatt	0141 404 1990
Westfield Training & Consultancy	Dorothy Moore	0844 800 9882
GRAMPIAN & HIGHLANDS		
Hospitality Training Partnership	Ian Skyes	01463 798 404
Go Training	Anne Harper	01224 863 042
T Tops Training	Douglas Tucker	01542 840 432
Ramsay McGhee Training & Services	Ramsay McGhee	01381 620 110
Hospitality Training	Gerald Rattray	01224 749 100
Skye & Lochalsh Council on Alcohol	Donald Beaton	01478 612 633
Highfield Training Centre	Linda Davidson	01343 545 455
TKM Consulting	Liz Taylor	07833 617 462
EDINBURGH & THE LOTHIANS		
Anderson Strathern Solicitors	Susan Young	0131 625 7272
Dunedin Training Services	Kevin Hanratty	0131 522 2035
Isabel Thomas Associates	Isabel Thomas	0131 339 4080
Licensing Training Services Ltd	Yvonne Davidson	0131 220 2022
Lorimer Training	Adrian Lorimer	07780 903 372
McDonald and Carroll Consultancy	Catherine McDonald	07968 988 737
Trevor Messenger Associates	Trevor Messenger	07752 984 792
Young & Partners	Tom Johnston	01383 721 621
ARGYLL & THE WEST OF SCOTLAND		
Encat Training	Sheila Baird	01546 602 628
Jura Stores	Stephen Martin	01496 820 231
Blinchow Enterprises	Allen Blinchow	0777 584 0233
PERTSHIRE, ANGUS, DUNDEE AND FIFE		
Carnegie College	Heather Malcolm	0844 248 0115
Ellnic Training	Lyndsey Nicoll	01259 731 100
FLTA Training	John Barclay	01333 303 153
Tickety-Boo (Scotland) Ltd	Val Fotheringham	01786 825 205
SOUTH SCOTLAND		
Borders College	Stephanie Bell	01896 662 571
Dumfries & Galloway College	Carol Giesecke/Louise McCandlish	01387 261 261
Eyemouth Lift Truck Training Centre	Nadia Hogg	018907 50586
Buzzworks Academy	Alison Blair	01292 670 195
L & M Training	Sandra Horne	01465 714 222

ServeWise exams now available online

Alcohol Focus Scotland is now able to offer the City & Guilds exams for the Certificate for Scottish Personal Licence Holders and the Certificate for Staff Working in Scottish Licensed Premises online. Candidates still attend the course as usual, but rather than sitting a multiple-choice exam on paper,

they sit it via computer. Otherwise it's very similar – there's still an invigilator in the room checking that the exam is rigorously controlled, and that no cheating is possible. The great advantage for the candidate is that their provisional results can be downloaded at the end of the exam, with

an overview of which areas they scored most highly in. The results are checked by City & Guilds, confirmed and certificates sent out as usual.



Trade news

Forecourts lose out

Five Glasgow forecourts have been refused licences under the 2005 Act. It is understood the applications were knocked back on the grounds that the communities local to each store did not depend on them for the sale of alcohol.

Source: SLTN 11/6/09

Good deeds see licence reissued

A retailer who has battled anti-social behaviour and under-age drinking was re-issued a personal licence by Angus Licensing Board. Mr Bhattarai had his licence suspended in 2006 following a number of incidents when under-age youths were sold alcohol from premises he operated. The Licensing Board heard how Mr Bhattarai has been a prominent figure in the Arbroath Initiative – a campaign led by shopkeepers and councillors against under-age drinking. Councillor David Fairweather said: "Mr Bhattarai has taken cheap lines of cider off his shelves, advanced the over 21 policy and tried to combat people acting as agents and has made sure all his staff receive proper training."

Source: Courier & Advertiser July 09

Board says no to adult venues

South Ayrshire Council looks set to ban adult entertainment in licensed venues. The new draft policy proposes a ban on lap dancers, pole dancers and strippers. Following a consultation of the trade and public the board has received over 100 letters supporting it. A spokesman for South Ayrshire Council said that no final decision on adult entertainment had been made yet.

Source: SLTN 23/7/09



Training

AFS becomes ILA Scotland learning provider



Alcohol Focus Scotland is pleased to announce we have become an approved ILA (Individual Learning Account) Scotland learning provider.

ILA Scotland is a Scottish Government scheme that helps people pay for learning that they can do at a time, place and pace to suit them. It's for people aged over 16 who have an income of £18,000 a year or less, or who are on benefits.

You could get up to **£200** towards the cost of an Alcohol Focus Scotland training course with a learner account from ILA Scotland.

Alcohol Focus Scotland courses covered by the scheme include:

- COSCA Counselling Skills Certificate (4 modules)
- COSCA Counselling Skills – each module
- Fast Track Counselling Training
- Alcohol Awareness Training
- Certificate for Scottish Personal Licence Holders (On and Off-licence versions)
- Certificate for Staff Working In Scottish Licensed Premises (On and Off-licence versions)
- ServeWise Trainers Qualification

For many people, ILA Scotland funding has been just the incentive they've needed to get back into learning. Over 100,000 people in Scotland have already opened up an

individual learning account and so far, more than 90,000 courses have been booked using their accounts.

Mary Ellmers, Alcohol Focus Scotland's Head of Training said: "We were delighted to be accepted as an ILA Scotland learning provider. This opens up a range of our alcohol awareness and licensing training courses to people who are interested in knowing more but who may not otherwise have been able to access training. Ultimately this will lead to more people being skilled up on alcohol issues which can affect people in both their personal and professional lives."

Further information is available from the ILA Scotland helpline on 0800 100 1090 or at www.ilascotland.org.uk

First Steps for DrinkWise

The DrinkWise name and logo are being relaunched by Alcohol Focus Scotland and are already poised to make an impact on managing alcohol problems in Scotland – focussing first in the workplace.

In terms of absenteeism and sickness in the UK, 17 million working days a year are lost to alcohol-related illness (and 31% of organisations are affected by sickness associated with drug use). Data from Alcohol Statistics 2007 suggest that excessive drinking amongst the Scottish population as a whole is a serious problem with the wider economic costs in Scotland being £417.8 million.

In response to the increasing emphasis being placed on this priority area by the Scottish Government, the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives commissioned Alcohol Focus Scotland

and the Scottish Drugs Forum, to develop and produce learning materials and a training programme. These will add to the skills base for managers and supervisors offering direct interventions with colleagues suspected of or being disciplined through their organisation's alcohol and drug policy. Included in part of this work is the roll out of a national training programme for workplaces throughout Scotland around alcohol and drug policies and the skills required by managers to manage staff with an alcohol and/or drug problem and their attendance.

The Scottish Football League has also asked Alcohol Focus Scotland to help inform their young developing players around alcohol issues in Scotland. This will involve meeting 30 teams of young footballers and working with them to

manage their 'coming of age' around alcohol in line with the expectations of being a professional athlete.

And this is where DrinkWise steps up to the mark. Already a national team of DrinkWise trainers are being identified to take these tasks on for the late summer and autumn of this year. The trainers, some of whom are being recruited from our ServeWise network, will be quality controlled and managed by the Training team at Alcohol Focus Scotland. They will offer half day training around alcohol and drugs or shorter alcohol information presentations.

For further information please contact: johnmarletta@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk



Alcohol Training Workshops



Location: Alcohol Focus Scotland, 166 Buchanan St, Glasgow

Cost: £95 (£50 for half day workshops)

Date	Workshop
1 September	Trauma and addictions
3 September	Mental health recovery and addictions
8 September	Alcohol and substances
10 September	Rory – helping children understand parental alcohol problems (half day)
15 September	Women and alcohol
17 September	Counselling skills for reception staff (half day)
28 September	Motivational interviewing
6 October	Using alcohol brief interventions in a non-medical setting
20 October	Integrating CBT mindfulness in relapse prevention
22 October	Alcohol and residential/homeless care
27 October	Anti-stigma training
30 October	Alcohol and young people
5 November	Fetal alcohol syndrome

Fast Track Counsellor Training and COSCA Counselling Skills Certificate also available. Counsellor Supervisor Training will run 7/8 November and 5/6 December in AFS.

For more information on all our training courses visit: www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/training_events/alcohol_training/

Events Diary

Cross Party Group on Drug and Alcohol Misuse
Wednesday 2 September 2009,
Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh

The topic for this meeting will be 'Alcohol and older people'

For more information and to book a place tel: 0141 572 6287 or email: diane.thomson@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

National Licensing Conference 2009 - Balancing the Act
Wednesday 9 &
Thursday 10 September,
MacDonald Aviemore
Highland Resort



This is widely acknowledged as the key licensing event of its kind with the widest representation across the licensing field. The theme this year is "Balancing the Act".

A number of free places for Local Licensing Forum Convenors are still available.

For more information tel: 0141 572 6703 or book online at www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/training_events/events

Alcohol Awareness Week
Sunday 4 - Saturday 10 October 2009

For more information visit www.alcoholawarenessweek.com

National Counselling Forum
Saturday 24 October 2009,
Dewar's Conference Centre, Perth

This years theme is – The future of counselling – what will it mean for me?

For more information tel: 0141 572 6700 or book online at www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/training_events/events



Youth, Alcohol & Crime - International Conference, Friday 13 November 2009, The Watershed, 1 Canon's Row, Harbourside, Bristol

Cost - £150 (student discounts available)

An international conference, Youth, Alcohol & Crime (problems and effective responses) has been arranged by the Alcohol & Health Research Unit at the University of the West of England, Bristol. This meeting will bring together leading authorities on issues related to young people, alcohol, crime and disorder.

For more information tel: 0141 572 6700 or book a place contact Jan Green, University of the West of England.

Tel: 0117 328 8800 or email: jan.green@uwe.ac.uk



Alcohol Awareness Week 2009 Preview

Alcohol Focus Scotland is supporting the 3rd national Alcohol Awareness Week which takes place from **4-10 October**.

The theme is "Get more out of" - by drinking responsibly, you can get more out of your day, your weekend, your family time, your night out etc.

Packs containing posters, coasters and tent cards will soon be available – AFS members

will already have received an email asking for orders.

There are lots of things you can do to help promote Alcohol Awareness Week - from publicising the website to running an event for the public, staff or service users. A toolkit which is full of ideas will shortly be available to download from the campaign website:

www.alcoholawarenessweek.com



Promoting alcohol awareness in the workplace



AFS has teamed up with the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives to run alcohol awareness sessions in 40 workplaces across Scotland

between now and April 2010. We will be working with SCHWL to identify workplaces where we can hold an alcohol information stand and encourage as many people as possible to find out about responsible

drinking, test their alcohol knowledge in our quiz, or 'walk the line' wearing beer goggles. The workplaces targeted are likely to include local authorities, health boards and medium sized companies.

AFS condemns UK's strongest beer

In response to BrewDog's launch of the UK's strongest beer, Alcohol Focus Scotland's Chief Executive Jack Law said:

"This company is completely deluded if they think that an 18.2%abv beer will help solve Scotland's alcohol problems. It is utterly irresponsible to bring out a beer which is so strong at a time when Scotland is facing unprecedented levels of alcohol-related health and social harm.

"Just one bottle of this beer contains 6 units of alcohol - twice the recommended daily limit.

"People choosing to drink only 'premium' products are not somehow immune from the harm caused by alcohol. It is a drug which kills when taken in excess, regardless of how fancy the production process or packaging."



Fit for Football – Fit for Life – alcohol awareness

Alcohol Focus Scotland was delighted to be part of the new Fit for Football – Fit for Life programme that was launched on 10 June at Hampden Park.

A major component of the programme – a partnership between the Scottish Football League and the New Football Pools – is alcohol awareness training sessions which AFS will be providing to teenage players from 30 clubs across the Scottish Football League.

The training will not only impact on the young players, it will impact on the wide community of people involved in football.

Speaking at Hampden AFS Chief Executive Jack Law said: "Football and footballers have a huge impact on the process of people making positive choices about alcohol. We will ensure that the young players in the SFL understand the impact of alcohol and the effects it can have. If fans see players making positive choices they are likely to behave in a similarly responsible fashion."



Alcohol kills 1 Scot every 3 hours

New research shows alcohol-related illnesses could be killing one in 20 Scots - twice as many as previously thought.

The study totalled the proportion of 53 different causes of death - ranging from stomach cancer and strokes to assaults and road deaths - in which alcohol consumption played a part, to show that nearly 3,000 deaths in 2003 were alcohol-related. This is double the figure for deaths from illnesses caused almost entirely by alcohol consumption alone, such as alcoholic liver disease and means one Scot may be dying from alcohol-related causes every three hours.

While alcohol-related deaths accounted for 5% of all deaths in Scotland, this proportion rises to more than a quarter of deaths in men and a fifth of women aged 35-44.

In addition, around 41,414 people were discharged from hospital due to alcohol consumption - more than one in twenty (7.3%) of patients over 16, and 50% higher than figures based on wholly attributable conditions.

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon said: "This research shows that alcohol misuse is taking an even higher toll on Scotland's health than previously thought. To have one in 20 Scots dying from alcohol-related causes is a truly shocking statistic.

"Drinking alcohol is part of Scottish culture, but it's clear that many people are drinking too much and damaging their health in the process. Alcohol misuse is the biggest public health challenge we face and the Scottish Government has made crystal clear our determination to get to grips with it."

Jack Law, Chief Executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland said: "These statistics show the urgent need to reduce Scotland's overall alcohol consumption. It is particularly concerning to note that over 1000 Scots under the age of 55 died because of alcohol.

"The evidence shows that the most effective way to reduce consumption, and consequently harm, is to increase the price of alcohol. Introducing a minimum price per unit of alcohol would increase the price of the cheapest, most harmful drinks which appeal to heavier drinkers e.g. strong white ciders and cheap spirits. Minimum pricing would save lives as well as saving the taxpayer hundreds of millions of pounds in NHS, crime and employment costs."

The full study is available at:
www.isdscotland.org/isd/5964.html

Licensing for Public Health

Alcohol Focus Scotland and Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP) have jointly published "Licensing for Public Health".

While liquor licensing has always served a public health function, what the new Licensing Act does for the first time is make the protection and improvement of public health an explicit purpose of the licensing system.

This publication follows up the many requests received from licensing officials and board members for more clarity on what is meant by "public health" and for guidance on what the public health principle might mean for them in practice.

Download Licensing for Public Health at: www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/leaflets_publications/publications



LSOs working together

Following last year's National Licensing Conference, Alcohol Focus Scotland was approached by several Licensing Standards Officers keen to explore the idea of forming a national group to address the many issues being raised. We agreed to help through providing some initial facilitation. We began by convening a small working group of LSOs and with their help, issued an online survey to all LSOs across Scotland to identify the key issues. It clearly showed that there was a desire for a regional or national group. The next steps were therefore to arrange a national

meeting to discuss the possibilities. A discussion event was held on Friday 5th June hosted by the Scottish Government at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

Chief Executives of Councils and all Licensing Board clerks were informed of the event and 40 LSOs attended on the day. Key points agreed were:

- Three or four regional groups to be formed, with each feeding into a national group
- Two main roles were identified:

1. To share best practice among LSOs (this already happens in an ad hoc manner)
 2. To liaise with other national groups and represent the concerns of LSOs
- Each Regional Group will have two office bearers - Chair and Vice Chair/Secretary. These will attend the National LSO Representative Body.

A number of LSOs volunteered to form a steering group to take forward the work of developing the constitution and setting up of the Regional and National groups.



Minimum pricing update

Continued from page 1

Speaking at an alcohol summit in June, Dr Peter Anderson, a World Health Organisation expert, said Scotland was seen as a “public health leader”. He told the summit of politicians, retailers and health professionals: “You had the courage to introduce smoke-free pubs, let us hope you have the courage to introduce a minimum price for alcohol”. Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer, said he too had been convinced that a minimum price would help save lives: “If we do that, people who in the course of the next year are going to die are going to be drawn back from the brink.”

Paul Waterson, Chief Executive of the Scottish Licensed Trade Association said: “The link between excessive drinking and promotions and deep-discounting in off-sales - particularly supermarkets - is the major contributing factor we see with alcohol problems in Scotland.

“Not only does the SLTA agree with minimum pricing, it’s a view shared by

licensed trade leaders from the rest of the UK and Ireland.”

Welsh Assembly ministers have stepped up the pressure on the UK government to bring in minimum pricing by writing to cabinet members arguing the evidence for action is “overwhelming”.

However, some Scottish politicians remain unconvinced. While recognising the scale of the alcohol problem facing Scotland, it’s clear we have more work to do to persuade Labour, the Conservatives and the Lib Dems that minimum pricing will reduce consumption and reduce harm.

The target groups for our campaign are the media, politicians, and the general public. With these three groups we are aiming to increase their knowledge and understanding of the issue and dispel some of the myths which are around like minimum pricing being a tax which will go to the Government (which it won’t) or that it will mean a blanket increase in the price of all drinks (which it won’t). These myths

have unfortunately increased opposition to a measure which has the potential to make a real difference to the level of alcohol-related harm in Scotland.

Over the next six months we will use the media and community events to tell people the facts about minimum pricing and what benefits it would bring to them.

Finally, we had always hoped that minimum pricing would encourage producers to reduce the strength of their drinks and already the producers of White Lightning have announced a reduction in strength from 7.5% abv to 5.5% abv. Whatever the reason behind this move, it’s certainly a move in the right direction.

You can read our minimum pricing briefing paper online:

www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/leaflets_publications/briefing_papers

Have your say about minimum pricing on our web forum: www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/forum

Scots with alcohol problems not getting treatment they need

A new report outlines the extent to which services for people with alcohol problems in Scotland currently meet the level of need for treatment.

The Scottish Alcohol Needs Assessment, which was launched in Glasgow on 6 August, shows that in 2006/07, around 17,000 Scots accessed treatment for alcohol problems but this represents only 1 in 12 of people who could benefit from specialist help.

Compared with England, Scotland has a 48% higher level of access to specialist

alcohol treatment but none of the Scottish areas achieved even a medium level of treatment as measured by North American standards.

Figures indicate that approximately 1,172,200 people in Scotland are drinking at hazardous/harmful levels and approximately 206,000 people are alcohol dependent.

Dr Maggie Watts, Chair of the Scottish Association of Alcohol and Drug Action Teams (SAADAT) said: “Our Association has been concerned about the gap between need and service availability for many years.

It has pressed for this work to be done since 2003 and so is delighted to have the report’s conclusions available. Local Alcohol and Drug Partnerships will use these findings to inform the development of services provided for people with alcohol problems and continue to work to reduce the harms associated with alcohol use.”

The Scottish Alcohol Needs Assessment was commissioned by SAADAT and funded by the Scottish Government.

The full report can be accessed at: www.saadat.org.uk

Projects



GINA, the Gender Issues Network on Alcohol, has a new Development Officer. Dee Gildea comes to Alcohol Focus Scotland with 11 years experience of working in the third sector on issues relating to poverty, social inclusion, equality and human rights. She has worked in the fields of housing, disability, community regeneration and most recently managing the Building Bridges Equality Programme at SCVO for 6 years which included a unique

positive action Women and Leadership Programme.

Dee has a specific interest in gender and disability issues and is looking forward to working in partnership with the GINA stakeholder group and wider members at this pivotal time for health and alcohol services in Scotland. As well as developing new activities and continuing to share good practice and raise awareness of the impact

Gender Issues Network on Alcohol
Tel: 0141 572 6597 or
Email: gina@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk
Visit: www.ginascotland.org.uk

of gender on alcohol consumption and service delivery through events, publications and research; a GINA national conference is planned for early 2010.

If anyone would like to find out more about GINA's activities or future plans please contact Dee at denise.gildea@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk telephone 0141 572 6590 or visit the GINA website at www.ginascotland.org.uk

Alcohol and Ageing – the views of older women and their carers

In 2008 Alcohol Focus Scotland and the GINA Stakeholder Group agreed that the GINA project would carry out some developmental work looking at the issue of women, alcohol and ageing. There is evidence that today’s population of older people may be relatively heavier drinkers than in previous generations. This is particularly true of those who have been affected by the changing social context of drinking, and have lived through changing attitudes towards the acceptability of female drinking.

GINA worked with Age Concern and Help the Aged in Scotland, and the Scottish Pensioners Forum to coordinate a series of focus groups with 50 older women and disseminate 1160 questionnaires via their networks to gather qualitative and quantitative information on this topic. As part of this project AFS also worked with The Princess Royal Trust for Carers to develop training for carers in relation to alcohol and ageing. A report “Alcohol and Ageing: The Views of Older Women and Carers” has now been produced which gives an interesting insight into the older generation’s drinking behaviour and attitudes towards alcohol.

The report supports the growing body of research in this relatively unexplored area of work which suggests that there

is a significant increase in the numbers of people who are drinking more heavily as they get older, especially after retirement. This reflects a surge in those with “late-onset” alcohol abuse. A survey by a London based alcohol and drug charity of more than 800 people over the age of 60 found 13 per cent said they drank more after retirement - despite the risks to their health. Of these, almost one in five drank alcohol because of depression, while 13 per cent drank to deal with bereavement and more than one in ten said that they most often drank when they were alone.

Douglas McLellan, Policy Advisor with Age Concern and Help the Aged in Scotland said: “There is a huge unmet need among older people, which this report highlights. Age Concern and Help the Aged in Scotland was pleased to support the focus groups as part of the research. Those that took part felt that the focus groups were well designed and were unanimous in their praise for Alcohol Focus Scotland’s work in this area. The information gained from the groups has benefited Age Concern and Help the Aged in Scotland greatly. This along with the final report will assist us in informing the future policy work of the organisation.”

The report will be formally launched at a special event in September where people

can come along and discuss the issues and recommendations contained within the report.

Jack Law, Chief Executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland said: “The report makes a number of strong recommendations which Alcohol Focus Scotland and GINA will be planning for over the coming months. In our role as the lead national alcohol charity, we have devised a strategy for working with older people to ensure the key areas from the report are moved forward. We will be looking to develop specialist resources specifically addressing alcohol issues for older people. We will also look to significantly heighten their understanding of the implications of alcohol consumption in older age, and continue our work with carers. This is essential to ensuring we have a healthier and thus more independent population of older people in Scotland.”

Find out more about the recommendations from the report and register your interest to be sent details about its launch in September by contacting Dee Gildea on 0141 572 6597 or email: gina@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

After the event the report will be available to download from the GINA website: www.ginascotland.org.uk



SNAPY Regional Forums

Would you like to help shape the work SNAPY does and network with those working with children and young people affected by alcohol misuse in your local area? We are looking for practitioners who are interested in being part of 8 regional forums across Scotland.

The day will begin with alcohol awareness training for those who work with children and young people, facilitated by Alcohol Focus Scotland's Training Team. After lunch, the afternoon session will give you the chance to discuss and feedback on key issues for children and young people in your region and how your service could benefit from the SNAPY network.

Registration now open:

Greater Glasgow
Glasgow, 18th August (limited spaces left)

Edinburgh & Lothian
Edinburgh, 25th August

Highlands & Islands
Inverness, 7th September

North East Scotland
Dundee, 16th September

Registration will open in August:

South of Scotland
Dumfries, early October

Mid-Scotland & Fife
Perth, 28th October



Registration will open in September:

Central Scotland
Hamilton, 3rd November

West of Scotland
Greenock, 17th November

The regional forums are an ideal opportunity to gain free alcohol awareness training covering issues like units, alcohol's effect on the body, interventions and parental misuse. It is also an opportunity to express your views through the SNAPY network.

If you would like more information, to take part in the forums or join the SNAPY network please email:
snapy@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

Staff profile

Damien Cohen, National Licensing Development Officer



What is your role within Alcohol Focus Scotland?

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 introduced Local Licensing Forums for the first time. The thinking behind their introduction was to offer a community perspective of the operation of the licensing system in their area and to give advice and recommendations to the Licensing Board (in relation to broad issues rather than individual cases). My remit is to provide information and support to Local Licensing Forums (LLFs) to assist them in the discharge of their functions and in so doing, to develop engagement by the Forums with local communities and a better understanding of the public health objective which was also introduced for the first time in the 2005 Act.

What do you like about working in the voluntary sector?

I enjoy most of all the feeling that it generates for me that I am doing something which is worthwhile and something which will hopefully have a

positive impact on the lives of many people.

What is the best part about your job?

Being based in the centre of Glasgow is an obvious plus. The people in the office are all very friendly and also extremely knowledgeable which is proving of great assistance to me.

What would you change about your job?

So far I have not come across any aspect of my job which I would like to change. I appreciate, of course, that it is early to assess but I am looking forward to the stimulation and challenge which the job provides.

How can people get in touch with you?

By calling me on 0141 572 6705 or 07889 251914, emailing: damien.cohen@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk or dropping into the office on 1st floor, 166 Buchanan Street.

How long have you worked with Alcohol Focus Scotland?

I started in my post as National Licensing Development Officer (NLDO) on Monday 29th June 2009.

What is your background?

I have (for my sins!) spent most of my career in the legal sector and am now what is termed a 'lapsed' or 'non-practising solicitor'. I managed my own legal practice for a number of years and have more recently worked at Stow College, Glasgow observing, delivering, monitoring and evaluating educational activities.

Community Action – Blackburn (Changing Attitudes to Alcohol)



Good news on funding

The Robertson Trust has confirmed funding for the final 18 months of the Community Action on Alcohol project in Blackburn.

The project has also received £17.5K per year for the next two years from West Lothian Council. This, along with the £20K received from Drinkaware, will be

used to develop and progress actions to address the issues identified by the Blackburn community.

Can't Tell Don't Sell

Primary 7 pupils at Blackburn, Murrayfield and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary Schools recently participated in a competition to design a poster highlighting the issue of under age and agent purchase. The posters were of an extremely high standard and everyone who participated is to be congratulated.

The poster that will be used has been produced from using sections from the entries submitted by Diane Rodden, Aaron Brown and Rachel Dodd of Blackburn, Jamie Neil McBeth of Murrayfield and Dani Leith of Our Lady of Lourdes.



Blackburn Community Newsletter

Linda Graham, a resident of Blackburn, has taken on the role of editor of the Blackburn News. The July edition of the newsletter has now been distributed to every household in Blackburn and is available to view online at

www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/blackburn/



National Conference on Community Action on Alcohol

The Community Reference Group is formed by representatives from Scottish Government, SAADAT, SHAAP, The Robertson Trust, Alcohol Focus Scotland and the Scottish Government Alcohol Industry Partnership. Their primary aim is the sharing of good practice identified

through the workings of the three community based projects in Scotland: Community Action Blackburn (Changing Attitudes to Alcohol); Focus on Alcohol Angus; and the Fife Alcohol Partnership Project. At a recent meeting it was proposed that a national conference on

community projects be held. Planning is at a very early stage with the proposed date being December 2009 so as to ensure outcomes from the conference can be fed into the consultation on the Single Outcome Agreements which are due to be prepared at the beginning of 2010.



Fundraising Update

Thank You

A big thank you to Standard Life for supporting our work by reprinting thousands of some of our most popular alcohol information leaflets – Alcohol and older people, Alcohol and behaviour, When problem drinking affects your family, and Alcohol and pregnancy. We are very grateful for their support which enables us to continue to provide this much-needed information for the public and professionals.

Sue completes Southern Upland Way Challenge

Congratulations and thank you to Sue Brodie who walked the 212 mile Southern Upland Way in 12 days and raised over **£800** for Alcohol Focus Scotland. As you may remember from the last In Focus, Sue decided to take on the challenge in memory of her sister who died from alcoholic liver disease last summer.

Sue asked us to use the money she raised for projects working with children, women or schools so we have decided it will go towards rolling out our Rory learning resource packs and training for teachers, counsellors and social workers in how to use them. The resource pack helps children understand the feelings they might experience when living with someone who has an alcohol problem and encourages them to speak to a trusted adult.

You can still donate online at
<http://alcoholfocus.workwithus.org/>



Well Done AFS ladies!

Well done to our staff members who completed the Glasgow women's 10K on Sunday 10 May. Not only did they promote responsible drinking to the runners and huge crowds gathered on the day by wearing 'Pace yourself...drink

responsibly' t-shirts, but they raised over £1500 which we will use specifically to fund alcohol information campaigns aimed at women.

You can still donate online at:
<http://alcoholfocus.workwithus.org/>



Following in Livingstone's Footsteps for Bighearted Scotland



On 5th November 2009 Barbara O'Donnell, Director of Services at Alcohol Focus Scotland, will begin her journey to follow in the footsteps of David Livingstone as part of Bighearted Scotland's challenge.

Bighearted Scotland is a group of charities that includes Alcohol Focus Scotland, CLIC Sargent, Epilepsy Scotland, Momentum, Penunbra and Scottish Native Woods.

The challenge is to spend the first day white water rafting down the Zambezi, the next two days canoeing and then two days trekking in the area discovered by David Livingstone. The end of the challenge takes place in an African community where the group will help by working on the playground and planting trees.

Fundraising for charities is always hard work but this year in particular charities are finding it harder and harder to raise funds with the economic downturn. That's the main reason Barbara has decided to take on the challenge and she has been encouraged by the kindness and generosity of friends and colleagues.

Each member of the team requires to raise a minimum of £2,750 along with an individual donation of £325 to secure a place on the trip.

If you would like to support Bighearted Scotland you can either send a donation to Barbara at Alcohol Focus Scotland (making cheques payable to Bighearted Scotland) or donate online at:
www.justgiving.com/revbarbara

