

In Focus



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND • ISSUE 16 November 2009

Calling time on cheap drink in Scotland

AFS, BMA Scotland and SHAAP joint campaign for minimum pricing

A minimum price of 40p per unit of alcohol would:

- Reduce alcohol-related deaths by 70 in the first year; 365 by year 10
- Reduce alcohol-related hospital admissions by 1600 in the first year; 6300 by year 10
- Save £950 million from harm reduction (health, employment, crime etc) over 10 years



Heavy drinkers research

Professor Jonathan Chick, a consultant psychiatrist at the alcohol problem service in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, said some research had suggested that heavy drinkers were not so affected by price. But he said these surveys did not reflect really heavy drinking. "Our patients drink, on average, 200 units a week. Some drink double or treble that. People who are really ill with alcohol are not covered in the surveys so we wanted to get the facts on ill drinkers - what they drink, where they drink it and what they spend."

The researchers, from the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and Queen Margaret University, interviewed 377 patients who were referred to alcohol problem services at Edinburgh hospitals in 2008-09. On average they were drinking 198 units a week. Most of the patient's drink was from shops and supermarkets rather than pubs and clubs. The average price they were paying was 43p per unit of alcohol, compared with the 72p average price being paid by Scottish drinkers in 2007. Professor Chick said 70% of the units that were drunk were bought for less than 40p per unit but some of his patients were able to buy cider for as little as 9p a unit, and the lower the price they paid the more units they consumed. "Half of our patients are drinking more than 200 units a week. If they only have to pay another 10p per unit, they are going to have to find an extra £20 on their alcohol bill. Our patients tell us they will not be able to afford to drink in this way and the actual price will be a barrier to their drinking."

Supermarket drink prices survey

A survey of supermarket drink prices has shown that minimum pricing will target cheap, high-strength products, while leaving others untouched. Comparing the lowest available supermarket prices for a selection of spirits, beers, ciders and wines with an illustrative 40p per unit minimum price, the results show:

- Nearly all recognised brands of Scotch whisky are already sold for more than the illustrative minimum price of £11.20
- The majority of large bottles of cheap white cider would see their prices rise, with some more than doubling
- The vast majority of recognised beer and wine brands favoured by responsible drinkers would see no change in their price.

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon said: "These figures shatter the myth that minimum pricing would punish responsible drinkers. The truth is that the great majority of drinks would see no price rise at all. In fact it would be the high strength products sold for rock bottom prices and favoured by problem drinkers which would see their cost increase. Health experts say this would make the heaviest drinkers reduce their consumption. I would call on everyone who cares about Scotland's health to listen to the real evidence about the benefits of minimum pricing, rather than being swayed by lobbyists whose only concern is their own profits."

For a copy of our campaign poster call 0141 572 6700.

Welcome

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

The big issue in alcohol is minimum pricing, and whether opposition politicians will be persuaded of the enormous health, social and economic benefits which Scotland would gain by introducing this measure. While there is consensus that cheap alcohol is too readily available, not all politicians agree that minimum pricing is the best way to tackle the problem. We are continuing to work with SHAAP, BMA Scotland and others to demonstrate the effectiveness of this policy in reducing harm.

Thanks to all who responded to our online survey about the format and content of In Focus. Look out for a new style newsletter at the end of January. If you would like to contribute to this issue, please get in touch.

Best wishes

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setting standards in the sale of alcohol

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National Licensing Conference 2009 - Balancing the Act



This year's National Licensing Conference was the biggest ever with a record number of delegates attending from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The 15th annual conference was once again held at the MacDonald Aviemore Highland Resort and was the first public forum to be held since the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 went live on 1st September 2009.

The conference combined a busy speaker programme, with a keynote speech provided by Kenny MacAskill, Cabinet Secretary for Justice. Other speakers included representatives from both the on and off licence trade, police, law, public health and the Youth Commission.

With the introduction of a new format, this year's conference gave delegates the opportunity to get involved in group discussion - looking at how much our communities have changed over the last 20 years but also looking to the future.

For the first time a "Question Time" style debate, chaired by Jack Law, Chief Executive, saw our panel face questions from delegates around the issues of minimum pricing, promotions and raising the age to 21 in off-sales. With some controversial issues being discussed, delegates rated this session as the most interesting in conference evaluations.

Over 80% of delegates rated the discussion session and debate as good or excellent and comments from delegates included: "The discussion sessions were good and allowed an opportunity for wide ranging discussion in the small group of delegates representing different agencies" and: "Panel debate was a great addition - let's have more of it".

The conference dinner and entertainment was well attended, despite clashing with Scotland's World Cup football qualifier, and included a quiz hosted by dinner sponsors, Irwin Stuart Design.

With next year's planning already underway, we are hoping to be able to take bookings from January 2010, so watch this space.

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 Training Solutions Ltd	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	Gerard 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	0131 343 2298
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 229 6181
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
Blincow Enterprises	Allen Blincow	0777 584 0233
PERTHSHIRE, ANGUS, DUNDEE AND FIFE		
Carnegie College	Jamie Faulds	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		
Dumfries Campus	Carol Giesecke	01387 734 055
Stranraer Campus	Louise McCandlish	01776 888 390
Eyemouth Lift & Truck Training Centre	Nadia Hogg	01890 750 506
Buzzworks Academy	Joanne Powers	01465 670 196
L & M Training	Sandra Horne	01465 714 222



ServeWise Trade News

Weighting game for bars

New weights and measures regulations were announced that will see beer served in two thirds of a pint mugs. The new proposals will now include brandy with spirits to be

sold in 25ml or 35ml measures, allow free pour below 75ml for wine tastings and limit measures of fortified wine to 50ml and 70ml. The new measures could be in place before

Christmas. Premises will also require to have new signage displayed for brandy but it is thought there is likely to be a 12 month transition period. *Source: SLTN 15 Oct 09*

Customer Service in pubs

We think we are getting there when it comes to service in pubs and along comes a new survey which says that only 6% of consumers rate pub service. This would suggest that pubs really do have to something about their customer service levels. Retail Eyes who carried out the survey said it was down to simple things like not being served in turn at the bar.

Source: Source: Dram Oct 09

Glasgow pubs get emergency three-month licensing extension

Pubs in Glasgow have been given an extra three months to have a premises licence in place following further chaos in the wake of the new regime. This came after it emerged that 300 premises across the city still haven't provided details of nominated premises managers.

As a stop-gap fix, Glasgow has told licensees that where a premises manager is not yet officially named on a licence there must be someone on site "fulfilling the obligations and responsibilities of a premises manager". But licensees failing to supply

details of premises managers by December 1 stand to lose their licence.

Board convenor Stephen Dornan said this deadline was a matter of law, adding "no amount of goodwill or discretion on the part of the board can change that."

Licensing lawyer Archie MacIver of Glasgow-based Brunton Miller said: "The Glasgow board has done its best for the trade in what have been very difficult circumstances."

Source: The Publican Nov 09

The ServeWise Online course for staff www.servewiseonline.co.uk - went live on 31st August.

We've developed this course in partnership with Quality Hospitality International who have several years experience in this type of course delivery. ServeWise Online allows licensed trade staff to complete the 2 hour training required by law at a time, place and pace to suit them. In addition to offering a course for staff, we're keen to make the website a 'one-stop shop' for the licensed trade for basic information to keep the name in their minds, so there's lots of links to useful websites on a range of topics in the "Useful links" tab. We get a lot of questions about where the licensed trade can source particular posters and some of these are now available on this website in the "ServeWise signs" tab.



Training

Rory travels to Northern Ireland

Seven trainers from organisations including Social Work, Barnardos and Foster Carers in Belfast, have recently completed our 2 day Rory Trainer Training, with a view to introducing the Rory book and supporting resources to children and families affected by parental alcohol misuse.

John Marletta, Alcohol Services Training Manager, said: "This has been a great opportunity to introduce Rory and to share our knowledge and experience with a new group who have vast experience within the substance misuse and training fields in Northern Ireland".

The training received very positive evaluations from participants who found the Rory resources "creative". One participant said: "I have learned a lot to bring back to the families I work with".



Alcohol and counsellor training numbers up

The number of volunteer alcohol counsellors going through AFS training has doubled from last year. The changes to the funding and the training delivery have now settled and thanks go to the local councils on alcohol who have managed to continue recruiting and working with the new structures. With four training programmes currently being delivered in Glasgow, Dundee, Inverness and Ardrishaig, and two more planned for the new year in Orkney and Glasgow, this shows a continuing demand and a positive outcome for the efforts of all involved.

Attendance figures were also up for our series of autumn workshops. Three additional workshops are being delivered in Oban, Ayr and Alloa through having numbers in these locations which merited the training team visiting them rather than the other way around. Particularly noteworthy were the new topics of Mindfulness and Anti-stigma training which we plan to run again as part of next year's workshop programme. Thanks to all who travelled literally from all over Scotland to attend.

Successful pilot of Alcohol & Drugs in the Workplace training

Alcohol Focus Scotland Trainers John Marletta and Jane Wilson, have now successfully completed pilots of Alcohol & Drugs in the Workplace, providing training to a wide variety of organisations throughout Glasgow and Ayrshire.

The half-day aims to provide managers, supervisors and others who may have a responsibility for employees, with the necessary tools to raise the issue

of alcohol or drugs in the workplace, particularly employees who are engaging in 'risky' drinking practices which may be having an adverse effect on their work or performance.

The training seeks to promote a 'supportive approach' when dealing with such issues and raise awareness of the importance of having an alcohol and drugs policy.

Evaluations have been very positive with 97% of participants stating they would recommend the course to others.

Following the pilot, this training will now be rolled out throughout Scotland to small and medium sized organisations by Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives, with sessions being delivered by Alcohol Focus Scotland Trainers.

For more information on course availability please contact David Adam, Learning & Development Project Co-ordinator on 07500 940877 or email david.adam@nhs.net

"This course was informative and will help in my area of work"

"Very well presented, informative and relaxed".



Events Diary

National Community Conference: Community Engagement and Action around Alcohol Issues Tuesday 8 December 2009

SAS Radisson Hotel, Glasgow

The first conference of its kind in Scotland that addresses how changes can be made to Scotland's relationship with alcohol through engaging local community interest and increasing partnership working.

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

Cross Party Group on Drug and Alcohol Misuse Wednesday 16 December 2009

Refreshments from 5.30pm, meeting from 6-7.30pm

Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh

Annual General Meeting of the group and presentation on "Untold Damage" report (see page 8)

You must register in advance if you would like to attend this meeting. Please contact Diane Thomson on 0141 572 6700 or email: diane.thomson@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

SNAPY Conference: Tuesday 2 March 2010

Marriott Hotel, Glasgow

The conference will allow for the sharing of good practice, skills and resources and the advancement of new and innovative approaches to service development when working with children and young people affected by alcohol misuse throughout Scotland.

The conference will cost £50, but bookings made before 31/12/09 will receive the "2010 discount" of 20% (£10)!

For more information tel: 0141 572 6700 or email: snapy@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

Managing the care needs of drunk and incapable people

New research commissioned by the Scottish Government has found that the cost to NHS emergency departments of treating drunk and incapable people could be up to £1.95m per year. And the cost associated with holding drunk and incapable people in police cells is around £2.1m per year.

The study suggested that people who became severely intoxicated in public belonged to one of three groups:

- "One-offs" who have drunk to excess on a night out, who present to services once and never appear again.
- "Binge drinkers" who are not alcohol dependent but regularly consume large amounts of alcohol and who may present to services more than once.
- "Chronic drinkers" who are alcohol dependent and who may present to services on multiple occasions. The immediate needs of all three groups are the same – to be kept safe.

The study looked at existing services in Scotland set up to address the needs of drunk and incapable people, while

also reducing the excessive burden on emergency services. The main types of service were: permanent premises providing a 24 hour services, 7 days a week in Inverness and Aberdeen; temporary triage or first-aid facilities operating at weekends or for special events (Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen); other services such as custody nurses, police and ambulance protocols and cell monitoring systems.

The research also looked at service models from around the world and found sobering-up facilities were common in Australia and parts of North America. It found there is no single best-practice model, but emphasised the importance of developing services directly in response to local needs and having clear operational protocols agreed with police and local health services.

The study recommends a strategic and partnership approach to planning and funding services to meet the care needs of drunk and incapable people as part of a wider local alcohol strategy. It recommends that Alcohol and Drug Partnerships are best placed to lead on this.

Jack Law, Chief Executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland said: "We believe there is clear need for better alternatives

to A&E departments or police cells for people who are drunk and incapable.

"A police cell is not the most appropriate or safest place for someone who may have alcohol poisoning to be left. While hospitals can offer the proper medical care, people who are drunk are particularly difficult to deal with and may become aggressive and violent, affecting staff and other A&E patients.

"Any designated place of safety must provide counselling to people once they have sobered up to explain the dangers of excessive drinking and offer advice on cutting down to safer, healthier levels. "

The full research study can be viewed at: www.scotland.gov.uk/publications



In Focus survey

Thanks to all In Focus readers who completed our online survey to tell us what you think of the newsletter. We were pleased to hear such positive feedback as well as some useful suggestions for improvement.

Many of you currently read In Focus online so if you would prefer not to receive a printed copy, please let us know.

And thanks to those who offered to contribute to a future issue, whether by writing an article, being interviewed or supplying a case study. We will be in touch soon to take you up on your offer!

Some of the survey results included:

- 99% said In Focus is useful to their work and 96% said it's enjoyable and easy to read.
- 63% said quarterly was fine for number of issues.
- 49% said they read In Focus online, 26% said both online and in print, and 25% in print.
- All sections of the newsletter were seen as 'very useful' or 'useful', with the lead story and general alcohol news seen as the most useful sections.

Fundraising update was seen as the least useful/least read.

- 69% said they would like to see case studies of projects/initiatives, 63% said interviews with experts and 59% said in-depth features on topical issues.
- 73% said they shared In Focus with colleagues.
- 27% said they would like to contribute to a future issue.

Some comments and suggestions:

- "Very easy to read and digest"

- "Include features on where in the world initiatives have been successful"
- "Use operating licensees with real problems"
- "It's very informative"
- "More positive approach to reporting actions which benefit Scotland's relationship with alcohol would lead to better balance."

Look out for a new, improved In Focus starting with the January 2010 issue.

International Council on Alcohol and Addictions Conference



Estoril, Portugal, 11th to 16th October 2009

ICAA is dedicated to prevent and reduce the harmful use and effects of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and addictive behaviours on individuals, families, communities and society.

Alcohol Focus Scotland's relationship with ICAA goes way back to the early 90s and recently Jack Law, AFS Chief Executive was asked to join the Board of Directors.

The title of this year's conference was "Shaping the Future – A Multisectorial Challenge" and focused on identifying future trends in addiction prevention, treatment and policy and how practitioners should respond to these.

Three hundred people from over 50 different countries joined together to present research, discuss policy and new initiatives, and meet up with colleagues from around the world.

This year AFS was asked to present at the opening session on "Innovation in the Prevention of Addictions". Barbara O'Donnell's presentation: "The Scale of the Problem – The Scale of the Response" highlighted Scottish policy and prevention initiatives, including minimum pricing, was well received and provoked much discussion during the conference. Many other countries are following Scotland's debate on minimum pricing with interest.

In other sessions, Jane Wilson from AFS presented on both our early years strategy and workplace substance misuse training, Charlie Bryceland presented on using a community approach, and Jennifer Curran shared recently completed research into alcohol and older people. Theresa Martinus and Dr Maggie Watts of SAADAT also gave presentations on social norms and brief interventions respectively.



Attending a global conference was a great opportunity to learn what's working in other countries, share good practice, and come up with new ideas which could work in Scotland.

The next conference will be in Cancun, Mexico from 24th October 2010.

Alcohol Awareness Week 2009



Public Health Minister Shona Robison and sports stars including Scott Russell and Mike McGregor from Glasgow Rocks basketball team kicked off Scotland's third Alcohol Awareness Week (4th - 10th October) with a larger-than-life game of skittles in Glasgow's George Square.

The annual awareness week brings together the retail and drinks industry, health professionals and the Scottish Government in a bid to foster a culture of responsible drinking throughout Scotland.

As part of this year's Alcohol Awareness Week, Scots were urged to "Get More Out Of" their day, week and weekend; at home, at work and with friends or family by making positive lifestyle choices, changing their drinking habits and drinking more responsibly.

As well as distributing bottles of water, unit measure guides and alcohol information to hundreds of people passing through George Square on the Monday morning, Alcohol Focus Scotland ran an alcohol information stand in Braehead shopping centre for the week. Shoppers stopped by to ask questions, complete our quiz and pick up alcohol leaflets.

Our community project in Blackburn, West Lothian was also busy promoting alcohol awareness during the week in partnership

with NHS Lothian, Access to Employment Business Gateway, West Lothian Health Improvement Team and West Lothian Locality Planning. The thought-provoking play "Acceptance" which tells the story of a young woman's relationship with alcohol, was performed in Blackburn Community Centre and was well attended by local residents.

The evaluation report of Alcohol Awareness Week 2009 will be available on www.alcoholawarenessweek.com in the new year.

Untold damage - children living with harmful parental drinking

New research reveals that a high number of calls to ChildLine from young people concerned about their parents harmful drinking come from children in Scotland compared to the rest of the UK.

The study highlights children's accounts of the severe negative impacts of harmful parental drinking on their lives including emotional stress, physical abuse and neglect.

The research carried out by Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP) and ChildLine in Scotland found that the number of Scottish children talking to the service about harmful parental drinking over a ten year period was higher than the rest of the UK as a proportion of the child population.

In light of the findings, SHAAP and ChildLine in Scotland have made recommendations and are calling on local authorities and the Scottish Government to take them forward.

In 2008/2009 over 200 children in Scotland spoke to a ChildLine counsellor with a concern about a parent's drinking. The majority of those children called the helpline to talk about physical abuse or family relationship problems describing a range of violence and conflict in the home.

Elaine Chalmers, Head of ChildLine in Scotland, said: "Harmful parental drinking can dominate family relationships and affect children's wellbeing in every aspect of their lives.

"Often children are experiencing problems against a backdrop of family separation and loss which they frequently recognise as causing their parents drinking to escalate. Fear, anxiety and chronic worry about their parents or siblings also have a significant impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

"Young people who are living in these situations can also struggle outside the home such as at school and with friends due to the pressure and chaos of their home lives. In many cases ChildLine has been the only place they have talked to about their problems as

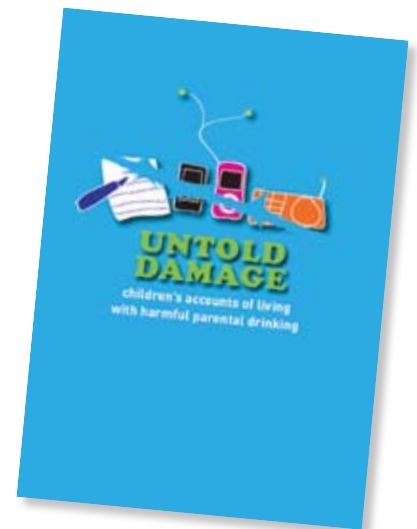
young people are often scared to speak out in case their family split up or they are taken away from them."

Dr Evelyn Gillan, Director of Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems and co-author of the study added: "We know that increased alcohol consumption in Scotland is driving an increase in health and social harm but what is often not acknowledged is the harm this causes to people other than the drinker.

"It's likely that people drinking harmfully will negatively affect the lives of two other close family members. What this study shows is that many of those negatively affected by someone else's drinking are children and the direct impact on their lives includes an increased risk of physical violence and abuse, severe emotional distress and neglect. What is particularly sad, is that many children experience a loss of childhood because they often take on caring responsibilities such as looking after brothers or sisters and this can prevent children doing normal childhood activities."

One girl told ChildLine, "I have trouble with my parents – dad drinks and mum works nights. He gets drunk and gets abusive. He loses his temper and it's scary."

Another boy told ChildLine, "I didn't go to school today – I was too scared. Sometimes I feel like I just want to die."



ChildLine in Scotland and SHAAP recommendations include:

- Better access to safe and confidential places for young people to talk about their problems and get the advice and help they need.
- Better public awareness of the impact of harmful parental drinking on children and the family as well as greater awareness of what services are available to support families in this situation.
- More support for families experiencing loss, bereavement and other major life events.
- Peer support schemes where trained pupils and staff support pupils should be a core part of a schools structure.
- The public health approach to measuring harms caused by alcohol should include data on harm caused to people other than the drinker.
- Alcohol policy should seek to reduce overall alcohol consumption in the whole population to reduce harm and improve the lives of children affected by harmful parental drinking.

Download the report at www.shaap.org.uk



Projects

GINA launches Alcohol and Ageing report

GINA held a very successful event in Glasgow on Wednesday 28 October 2009 where we took the opportunity to launch our Alcohol and Ageing: The Views of Older Women and Carers report. The event attracted 60 people from across Scotland's substance misuse field, voluntary sector and organisations directly working with older people.

The keynote address came from GINA Chair; Moira Plant, Professor of Alcohol Studies at the University of the West of England, who spoke about the trends and patterns of alcohol consumption among older people as well as the issues behind the need for further research into the needs of older women. Other contributions came from Jennifer Curran, Head of Business Development at Alcohol Focus Scotland (who co-wrote the report with

Rachel Brooks the GINA Project Worker and Professor Moira Plant) and Elinor McKenzie, Chair of the Scottish Pensioners Forum.

Jennifer Curran outlined more fully the findings and recommendations from the research, including detailing the pilot carers training which was undertaken, and Elinor McKenzie discussed the experiences of those older women who took part in the focus groups. In the afternoon there was an opportunity for people to examine more closely the recommendations contained within the report and take the first steps towards creating action plans to move the work forward in the coming year. Some of the most common issues raised included work around brief intervention support; the further development and possible expansion of the carers training package;

the need for awareness raising literature for carers who may have alcohol issues and for carers caring for a person with alcohol issues, and further development work to highlight issues around alcohol consumption, older people and medication.

For further information about the work or to receive a copy of the report, please email: gina@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk or telephone 0141 572 6597 or visit our website at www.ginascotland.org.uk. A report from the event will be available shortly.



Alcohol and Ageing - Recommendations

1. Development of age based sensible drinking guidelines
2. Development of alcohol information resources for older people
3. Placement of information in areas identified as being most relevant to older people
4. Delivery of alcohol awareness sessions for older people
5. Focus Groups with older men
6. Development of an Older People's Strategy by Alcohol Focus Scotland
7. Raise awareness among health professionals on the importance of discussing the possible effects of alcohol and medication
8. Work with Carers
9. Explore options for further development work and awareness raising training



Date for your diary!

GINA Women and Alcohol Conference - part of the celebrations for **International Women's Day 2010, March 24th 2010, Glasgow**

An opportunity for the public and voluntary sector to come together to debate current policy issues affecting women, learn from best practice and network with others working to address gender issues within the alcohol and health field. Speaker and programme information coming soon!

To register your interest in receiving further information please email: gina@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk





First SNAPY Regional Forums a success

SNAPY members came together recently to help shape the work of SNAPY and network with those working with children and young people affected by alcohol misuse in their local area.

The forums, which were held across 8 regions in Scotland, began with alcohol awareness training for those who work with children and young people, facilitated by Alcohol Focus Scotland's training team. The training covered issues like units, alcohol's effect on the body, interventions and parental misuse. In the afternoon session delegates were given the chance to discuss and feedback on key issues for children and young people in their region and how their service could benefit from the SNAPY network.

Key themes emerging from the regional forums included:

- Access to and availability of alcohol (minimum pricing)
- Young people's own drinking
- Cultural acceptance of heavy drinking



Participants agreed that the regional forums should be held twice a year and called for training that can contribute to Continuing Professional Development credits, as well as young person-specific training.

Two pieces of work for SNAPY to take forward are a members directory which will include the name, job title, organisation and web address of SNAPY members, and a resource review facility where members can

update and review resources they have used to advise other members on suitability and effectiveness.

If you would like to join a regional forum or receive a copy of the evaluation when it is complete, please get in touch by emailing snapy@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

SNAPY Conference

The SNAPY 2010 Conference will take place at the Glasgow Marriott Hotel on 2nd March 2010. The conference will allow for the sharing of good practice, skills and resources and the advancement of new and innovative approaches to service development when working with children and young people affected by alcohol misuse throughout Scotland.

Building upon last year's launch the conference will include networking opportunities, speakers, workshops and regional forums.

Speakers and workshop topics will be confirmed in the coming weeks. The conference will cost £50, but if delegates book their place by 31/12/09 they will receive the "2010 discount" of 20% (£10)!

Online registration opens in November. Please contact snapy@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk for more information.



National Licensing Development Officer update



The 1st September 2009 was a critical date in the licensing calendar as it marked the full implementation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. A number of local authorities have struggled to cope with the number of licences which required to be distributed to licence holders, and the enforcement agencies have been urged to adopt a 'reasonable' approach until the backlog has cleared. Not surprisingly, as with any new legislation, there are certain areas which are clearer than others, and the months ahead will be interesting as Licensing

Boards and Forums grapple with such issues as the extent of the applicability of the ban on irresponsible promotions.

Local Licensing Forums, which were introduced by the new Act to monitor the operation of the licensing system in their own localities, have been established by all Councils, but are at varying levels of development. The National Licensing Development Officer is in the process of planning training events and updating the

information on the Local Licensing Forum website in order to offer support to Forums in the work they are doing.

You can read more about Local Licensing Forums at www.local-licensing-forums.org.uk

Contact Damien Cohen, National Licensing Development Officer on 0141 572 6705 or email: damien.cohen@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

Community Action - Blackburn (Changing Attitudes to Alcohol)



National Community Conference – Community engagement and action around alcohol issues



The first conference of its kind in Scotland will address how changes can be made to Scotland's relationship with alcohol through engaging local community interest and increasing partnership working.

The conference programme has been formulated to provide relevant information and points of discussion that will help local areas in Scotland to think about how they may begin to do this. The conference will be

chaired by Dr Alan Barr, Scottish Communities Development Centre and we are delighted that Professor Besty Thom of Middlesex University and Graham Hewitson from Angus Council are both going to present. There will be inputs from three community alcohol projects currently working in Scotland – Community Action Blackburn (Changing Attitudes to Alcohol), Focus on Alcohol Angus, and The Fife Alcohol Partnership Project. Delegates will also hear experiences

of partnership working within the community setting from 7 key partners.

The conference is aimed at all who work in community settings where alcohol issues forms part of their remit, including community activists, teachers, practitioners and workers.

For more information please email: community@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk or book online at www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/training_events/events/



CALLING TIME ON CHEAP DRINK

IN SCOTLAND:

Someone dies an alcohol-attributable death every three hours
Alcohol-related death rates are twice those of England and Wales
Alcohol-related deaths have increased by 150% in a generation

A minimum price of 40p per unit of alcohol would:

- Reduce alcohol-related deaths by 70 in the first year; 365 by year 10 (19%)
- Reduce alcohol-related hospital admissions by 1,600 in the first year; 6,300 by year 10 (10%)
- Save £950 million from harm reduction (health, employment, crime etc) over 10 years

Support change – support minimum pricing for alcohol

