

ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND

WHAT PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF ALCOHOL PROBLEMS WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT MUP

CONTEXT

"IN 2018, THE MINIMUM UNIT PRICE (MUP) OF ALCOHOL WAS SET AT 50P PER UNIT IN SCOTLAND. THIS CHANGE WAS INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE WHETHER INCREASING THE PRICE OF ALCOHOL WOULD REDUCE HOW MUCH PEOPLE DRINK AND SAVE LIVES. EVALUATION TO DATE HAS SHOWN IT IS DOING JUST THAT, BUT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT NEED TO VOTE ON WHETHER MUP SHOULD REMAIN OR CHANGE. AFS HAS BEEN SPEAKING TO PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF ALCOHOL MISUSE AND RECOVERY TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT MUP AND RELATED ISSUES."



"WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CRISIS WITH ALCOHOL DEATHS, SO WE SHOULD NOT BE THINKING ABOUT DOING AWAY WITH MINIMUM UNIT PRICING. WE SHOULD ABSOLUTELY BE INCREASING THE LEVEL OF MINIMUM UNIT PRICING."

WE NEED TO KEEP MUP!

"I WOULD PLEAD WITH POLITICIANS, DON'T SCRAP MINIMUM UNIT PRICE. BEFORE YOU DO THAT, SEE THE DAMAGE THAT IT'S DOING, MAYBE VISIT YOUR LOCAL HOSPITAL, GO TO A DRYING OUT CLINIC, THEN MAKE YOUR DECISION AFTER THAT."



"THE PRICE OF CIGARETTES GOES UP WITH INFLATION, WHY NOT ALCOHOL? WE KNOW IT WORKS!"



"ALCOHOL HAS A HUGE IMPACT ON THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE AND THAT IS STRETCHED ALREADY. MINIMUM UNIT PRICE PUTS IN PLACE SOMETHING THAT WILL RESTRICT PEOPLE FROM DRINKING AS MUCH. WE NEED TO MOVE THE FOCUS ALONG AND LOOK AT THE DAMAGE CHEAP, CHEAP DRINK CAUSES."

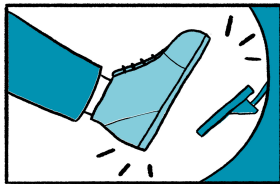


WE ARE ANGRY, BUT WE HAVE HOPE FOR CHANGE

"ALL POLITICIANS ARE DOING IS FAFFING ABOUT, ALCOHOL IS SEEN AS MORE 'FRIENDLY', BUT IT DOESN'T STOP PEOPLE FROM DYING. I LOST MY BROTHER, AND THESE PEOPLE HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THINGS, I'M ANGRY AND I'M PASSIONATE, WE'RE ALL HERE TRYING TO BETTER OUR LIVES AND NEED HELP!"



"ALCOHOL ISN'T BEING TREATED AS HEALTH EMERGENCY. OUR FOOT HAS CAME OFF THE GAS WITH ALCOHOL, IN FACT OUR FOOT WAS NEVER ON THE GAS TO BEGIN WITH."



BALANCED VIEWS

"IF OTHER THINGS AREN'T GETTING PUT IN PLACE TO HELP, THEN YEAH, IT NEEDS TO KEEP GOING UP... BUT IT'S ABOUT PUTTING THE HELP ALL THE WAY AROUND, NOT JUST THINKING THAT'S [MUP] GONNA FIX THE PROBLEM, BECAUSE IT'S NOT, IT NEEDS TO BE LOTS OF THINGS... AND IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN OVERNIGHT."

"I WOULD SAY THAT THE WAY THAT ALCOHOL IS ON SPECIAL OFFER AND THE FACT I CAN GO INTO A SUPERMARKET DRUNK AND BUY ALCOHOL NEEDS TO CHANGE."



THE IMPACT OF CHEAP ALCOHOL



"SO IT'S NOT JUST ALCOHOL, IT'S THE VIOLENCE THAT COMES WITH ALCOHOL, THE DOMESTIC ABUSE, ALL THESE THINGS THAT COME WITH ALCOHOL, IT'S NOT JUST THE ALCOHOLISM ITSELF, IT'S ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT COME WITH THAT AS WELL."

BETTER HEALTH FOR EVERYONE



"CULTURAL CHANGE HAPPENS AROUND INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUPPORT SERVICES AND YOUTH CENTRES IN MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES FOR THEM TO CHANGE THE CULTURE AWAY FROM ALCOHOL AND INTO OTHER THINGS."

PEOPLE OVER PROFIT



"WHY SHOULD WE TAKE THESE MEASURES ONLY TO MAKE ALCOHOL RETAILERS AND THE ALCOHOL INDUSTRY MORE PROFITABLE? IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE..."

FUTURE GENERATIONS

"WHAT WE REALLY NEED IN THIS COUNTRY IS A CULTURAL CHANGE AROUND ALCOHOL"



"PUTTING THE PRICE UP, IT MIGHT NOT STOP THE GENERATION THAT IS CURRENTLY DEPENDENT BUT IT WILL STOP THE ONE AFTER"

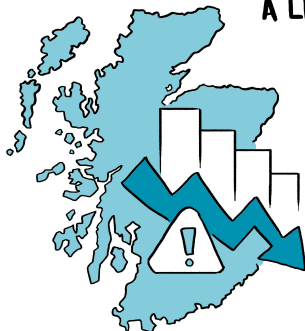
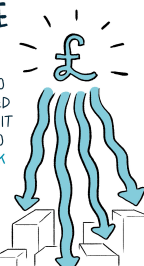
A LEVY FOR TREATMENT AND CARE

ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND, ALONGSIDE PARTNER ORGANISATIONS, ARE RECOMMENDING THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES AN ALCOHOL HARM PREVENTION LEVY. SHOPS AND SUPERMARKETS SELLING ALCOHOL WOULD PAY A LEVY, WHICH WOULD BRING THE ADDITIONAL MONEY INTO THE PUBLIC PURSE. THIS MONEY COULD BE USED TO FUND LOCAL ALCOHOL TREATMENT, CARE AND PREVENTION SERVICES. AFS IS CALLING FOR THIS MONEY TO BE USED AT LOCAL LEVEL TO FUND ALCOHOL PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND CARE SERVICES ACROSS SCOTLAND.



LEVY AS A SOURCE OF FUNDS

"WE NEED TO LOOK AT WHAT WE DO WITH THE MONEY THAT'S BEEN RAISED THROUGH ALCOHOL AND MINIMUM UNIT PRICING AND CHANNEL IT BACK INTO RECOVERY COMMUNITIES AND BACK INTO TREATMENT PROGRAMMES."



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

ALCOHOL-FOCUS-SCOTLAND.ORG.UK
@ALCOHOLFOCUS

