



Alcohol Focus
SCOTLAND



Impact Report 2017-18

Reducing harm caused by alcohol

Who we are

Alcohol Focus Scotland is an independent charity working to prevent and reduce the significant harm that alcohol causes to health, families and communities in Scotland.

As Chief Executive, Alison Douglas leads the team working across policy, communications, learning and development. Mary Cuthbert OBE is the Chair of Alcohol Focus Scotland's Board.

What we do

- gather and share evidence of the harm caused by alcohol
- promote effective policies to prevent and reduce this harm
- develop learning opportunities and resources to support best practice

Sobering statistics

- 22 alcohol-related deaths every week
- 36,235 alcohol-related hospital admissions every year
- Alcohol is a factor in more than two fifths of violent crime
- 51,000 children live with a problem drinking parent
- £3.6 billion annual cost to Scotland

Highlights of the year

Supreme Court Ruling on MUP

On 15 November 2017, the UK Supreme Court rejected the Scotch Whisky Association's appeal against minimum unit pricing for alcohol. This decision brought to a close the legal challenge, paving the way for the Scottish Government to implement MUP in May 2018. This welcome news came five years after the Scottish Parliament passed the legislation and follows ten years of

"Today's decision is a massive victory for Scotland's health and for our democracy. Minimum unit pricing will save the lives of hundreds of Scots and improve the lives of many more. Let's get it in place as soon as possible."

Alison Douglas | Chief Executive

#mupsaveslives



reducing the harm caused by alcohol
alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk



resolute campaigning by Alcohol Focus Scotland and others. We used the opportunity of the court decision to influence discussions and highlight the evidence by proactively engaging the media and securing significant coverage.

Following the court ruling we responded to the Scottish Government's consultation supporting the proposed 50 pence per unit price.

Alcohol Focus Scotland and Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP) were delighted to receive an award from the Alcohol Health Alliance UK in recognition of our long campaign for minimum unit pricing to be introduced.



Practical resources for children affected by parental drinking

Thirty-four practitioners attended our first Oh Lila and Rory CPD event in Glasgow where they had the opportunity to share their experiences and learn new ideas, as well as to hear from experts on a range of topics.

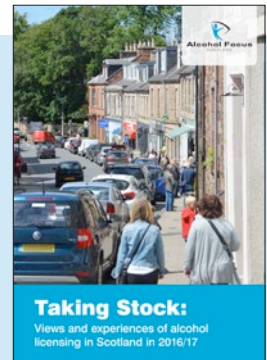
Commenting on the event one participant said it was: "Fabulous interactive day. [I] will definitely be using the websites and cascading what I have learned to staff and parents."

We continued to train practitioners to use our resources to support children, young people and their families. We trained 118 new people to use C.H.A.T (Children Harmed by Alcohol Toolkit) as well as 45 teachers on Rory and 61 nursery teachers to use Oh Lila. All our courses saw positive learning outcomes, including significant improvements in confidence amongst attendees to raise the issue of harmful parental drinking with a child/family.



Taking Stock: Views and experiences of alcohol licensing in Scotland

Informed by the views of around 170 people involved in the licensing system, our *Taking Stock: Views and experiences of alcohol licensing in Scotland* report published in December 2017 highlighted progress within the licensing system and made recommendations for improving it. These recommendations include introducing a national licensing policy and updating the current guidance on the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 to avoid inconsistency in the interpretation and application of the law across the country. The report was distributed to around 600 people including licensing professionals, alcohol and drug partnerships, public health teams, police, MSPs and Scottish Government. A parliamentary motion lodged in support of the work received cross-party support.



Improving capacity in the licensing system

Following the local government elections in May 2017 we provided statutory training to all 40 of Scotland's licensing boards. This training provided licensing board members with the vital knowledge and understanding necessary to undertake their role and responsibilities. A total of 392 licensing board members were trained. Course evaluations demonstrated increased knowledge and understanding across all learning objectives.

"The trainer was very informative, thorough and engaging, I now feel confident in my role on the licensing board."

To support licensing boards and other professionals working within the licensing system, we published an updated version of our licensing resource pack in September 2017. The pack provides guidance to support the collection of evidence on local harm and to inform the development of licensing policy statements and overprovision policies, which are due to be updated by November 2018.



Leave our kids alone!

We joined with Obesity Action Scotland to raise the issue of protecting children from the damaging impact of alcohol and junk food marketing. Exposure to alcohol marketing reduces the age at which young people start to drink, increases the likelihood that they will drink and increases the amount of alcohol they will consume once they have started to drink. We hosted an event attended by around forty academics, health and policy workers, followed by a separate parliamentary event to bring the topic to MSPs. The event identified areas of public policy concern such as vulnerable consumers, poverty and exclusion, and the advertising techniques used to encourage over-consumption and how we can prevent this.



Like Sugar for Adults

Collaborating with partners the Alcohol and Families Alliance and the Institute of Alcohol Studies, we participated in a UK-wide research project exploring the impact of non-dependent parental drinking on children. The research included views from nearly 1000 parents and their children gathered through surveys and focus groups as well as a public inquiry session with a range of experts. The resulting report 'Like Sugar For Adults', launched at The Houses of Parliament in October 2017, concluded that parental drinking even at levels below the low-risk guidelines can negatively impact children and young people.



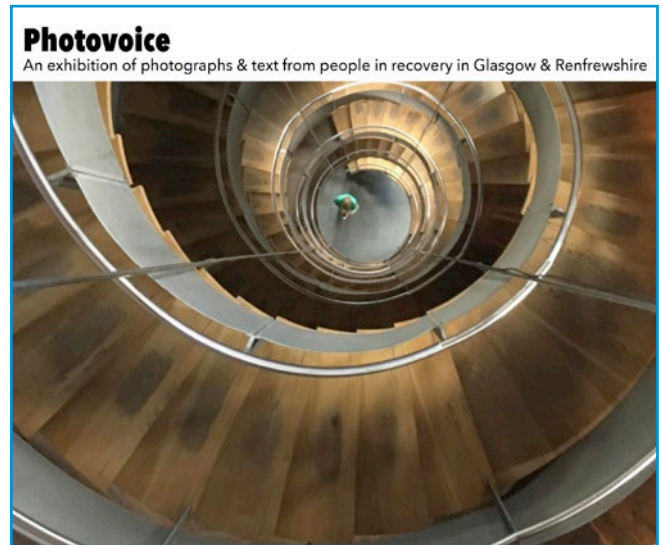
Working together

For the second year we successfully acted as joint secretariat of the Cross Party Group (CPG) on Improving Scotland's Health: 2021 and beyond. The group met three times, continuing to develop a shared understanding with members of parliament of the issues related to health-harming industries. Presenters at these meetings included then Minister for Public Health and Sport, Eileen Campbell MSP, and the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland, Bruce Adamson. The CPG now has three cross-party Co-Convenors, more than 60 organisational members and seven MSP members. The CPG is one of 38 initiatives featured in the NCD Alliance's Civil Society Global Atlas as an example of national good practice.

Effective local action

We helped local alcohol and drug partnerships (ADPs) build knowledge, understanding and confidence by hosting Knowledge Exchange events on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and alcohol-related deaths.

We also supported ADPs and health partners to influence local licensing policy and practice by running tailored training on licensing legislation.



We partnered with local agencies in Glasgow and Renfrewshire to each run a Photovoice project encouraging people in recovery to share their experiences through photographs. The projects demonstrated the value that people in recovery place on peer support and supportive social environments. These experiences provide valuable insight for designing effective local and national policy. To celebrate the project and highlight participants' experiences we hosted a week-long exhibition in Glasgow's Buchanan Galleries shopping centre.

Influencing policy

This year we responded to 15 national policy consultations on key topics including minimum unit price, diet and healthy weight, and violence reduction. We also provided written and oral evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee on the Draft Budget highlighting the importance of prevention and funding for ADPs.

We provided all MSPs with briefings on key topics such as minimum unit pricing and alcohol-related deaths to inform debate and share relevant information. We also supplied tailored briefings for individual MSPs on a range of issues.

Year in numbers...



14

conference presentations



392

licensing board members trained



3,265

Twitter followers



4

events for ADPs



600

people received our Taking Stock report



52,748

visitors to our website



118

practitioners trained to use CHAT



85

practitioners attended Alcohol Affects Us All training



3

publications distributed



106

practitioners trained to use Rory and Oh Lila



160

media stories and broadcast interviews



24

responses to national and local policy consultations



50

practitioners attended new Alcohol and Older people training



58

managers trained on alcohol in the workplace

Summarised accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
Income		
Voluntary income	632,533	595,746
Charitable activities	189,557	133,302
Bank interest	101	565
Total income	822,191	729,613
Expenditure		
Learning and Development	297,340	269,661
Policy, Research and Advocacy	283,836	237,267
Communication and Information	181,381	146,950
Generating voluntary income	20,539	26,062
Total expenditure	783,096	679,940
Net movement in funds	39,095	49,673
Funds		
Unrestricted – Designated funds	315,000	300,000
Unrestricted – General fund	246,042	207,896
	561,042	507,896
Restricted	13,587	27,638
Total funds	574,629	535,534

Alcohol Focus Scotland reported a net surplus of funds of £39,095 for the year ended 31st March 2018. This comprised an operating surplus of £53,146 on the unrestricted funds and a net outflow of £14,051 on the restricted fund.

Income totalled £822,191 in 2017/18 compared with £729,613 in 2016/17. Income from charitable activities increased by £56,255 from the previous year largely because of training for Licensing Board Members.

Total resources expended in 2017/18 were £783,096 compared with £679,940 in 2016/17. This increase in expenditure from the previous year mainly related to the costs associated with providing training for Licensing Board Members, some additional staff costs and research and development costs.

Thank you to all the individuals, organisations and funders who have supported our work this year. For our full report and financial statements, please contact Bruce Miller, Financial Controller at our registered office or email bruce.miller@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk



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 @AlcoholFocus

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