

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE LICENSING BOARD

## Report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board

16 December 2014

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**Subject: CRESH REPORT: ALCOHOL-RELATED ILLNESS AND DEATH IN SCOTTISH NEIGHBOURHOODS: IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NUMBER OF ALCOHOL OUTLETS?**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To advise members of the findings of a recent report by researchers at the Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health (CRESH) on a report entitled: *“Alcohol related illness and deaths in Scottish neighbourhoods: is there a relationship with the number of alcohol outlets?”*

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Board consider and note the report.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1** The report was commissioned by Alcohol Focus Scotland and reported on 2 October 2014. The reports investigated whether alcohol outlet availability was associated with alcohol related health outcomes (hospitalisations or deaths) for Scottish data zones.

### **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** The reports key messages and findings of the report were as follows:

- (i) There are large variations in numbers of alcohol outlets within neighbourhoods across Scotland.
- (ii) Across the whole of Scotland, neighbourhoods with higher numbers of alcohol outlets had significantly higher alcohol-related death rates.
- (iii) Across the whole of Scotland, alcohol related hospitalisation rates were significantly higher in neighbourhoods with the most alcohol outlets

- 4.2** It is important to note that the report in its interpretation section made a number of points to aid interpretation of the report. In particular, it was made clear that the study looked at a single point in time and while the study suggested significant associations between outlet availability and alcohol related harm, it could not be concluded that the links are causal. It is hoped by the report’s authors that as better quality time-series licensing statistics become available that this would allow research into longitudinal relationships

between availability and harm.

- 4.3** From a West Dunbartonshire perspective, the reports shows that West Dunbartonshire is the third most urban area (99.2 % urban) and that although our outlet density is not as high as a number of areas, statistically we have a high alcohol related death and hospitalisation rate through alcohol misuse. This reflects what has been put to the Board previously as to the extent and scale of alcohol related problems within West Dunbartonshire. The basis of the Overprovision Policy is related to the number of licensed premises and authority wide problems in West Dunbartonshire.

**5. People Implications**

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues.

**6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1** There are no financial implications

**7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1** There are no significant risks for the Licensing Board or Council attached to this report/decision. Further related research will be monitored and produced to the Board when available.

**8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1** There are no equalities impacts through consideration and noting of this information.

**9. Consultation**

- 9.1** The study report is being submitted to the Licensing Forum too for information.

**10. Strategic Assessment**

- 10.1** The extent of alcohol harm in West Dunbartonshire has an impact on the health of its population, the safety of its population and the productive capacity of both its economy and the Council. As such this data impacts on all of the Council's strategic priorities.

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Clerk to the Licensing Board

Date: 1/12/2014

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**Appendices:** CRESH (2014): Alcohol Outlets and Health in Scotland –  
Alcohol-related illness and death in Scottish  
neighbourhoods: is there a relationship with the number of  
alcohol outlets?

**Background Papers:** N/A

**Wards Affected:** All