

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE LICENSING BOARD

Report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board

10 March 2015

Subject: Progress Report on meeting the duties under the Scotland Specific Equality Duties 2013 – 2017

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report to the Licensing Board actions being taken to progress towards meeting the duties under the Scotland Specific Equality Duties.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Licensing Board is asked to note the progress made under the current Equality Mainstreaming Report.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Specific Equality Duties relevant to the Licensing Board are:-

- Report progress on mainstreaming the equality duty.
- Publish equality outcomes and report progress.
- Assess and review policies and practices.
- Consider award criteria and conditions in relation to public procurement.
- Publish in a manner that is accessible.

- 3.2 The Licensing Board does not employ its own staff so the following duties are not relevant:-

- Gather and use employee information.
- Publish gender pay gap information.
- Publish statements on equal pay.

- 3.3 Progress on Equality Outcomes cross cut with work carried out on several parts of the duty such as the assessment and review of policies and practices.

- 3.4 The Outcomes were revised in December 2014 by the Licensing Board. The revised Outcomes are:-

- 1) Greater participation and involvement of people from underrepresented groups in influencing decision making in West Dunbartonshire.
- 2) Licensed businesses better meet the needs of West Dunbartonshire's diverse communities.

- 3) Increased level of satisfaction with Licensing services by all relevant protected groups.
- 4) The Licensing Board contributes to higher confidence in the reporting of hate crime and incidents.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1 Outcome 1) *Greater participation and involvement of people from underrepresented groups in influencing decision making in West Dunbartonshire.* Council licensing staff who support the Board have attended enhanced equality training in 2013 supplementing the basic equality training all staff and Councillors receive. This has included training on Equality Impact Assessments of policies and decisions. Council licensing and legal staff have attended and will continue to attend the new West Dunbartonshire Equality Forum to give yearly updates and seek feedback to assist the Board in formulating Equality Outcomes. Licensing staff will continue to encourage representation from the Equality Forum at Licensing Forum and Pubwatch meetings. Where possible, increasing the diversity of the Licensing Forum will be encouraged and it is of note that current female representation on the Licensing Board is well above the Council average.
- 4.2 Outcome 2) *Licensed businesses better meet the needs of West Dunbartonshire's diverse communities.* Licensing staff continue to carry out training and advice to licensed premises which includes an equality element. Council licensing staff will continue to facilitate the distribution of equality materials and attend various groups that deal with the issues that relate to licensed premises, such as domestic abuse. Licensing staff will continue to check on satisfaction with licensed premises by monitoring complaints and making use of the Citizen's Panel survey function.
- 4.3 Outcome 3) *Increased level of satisfaction with Licensing Services by all relevant protected groups.* Increased use of customer satisfaction surveys and equality monitoring forms continues. This includes linking equality monitoring to new on-line methods of applying for licences. To date, data collected in 2013 -15 highlight no complaints or issues relating to equalities. However licensing staff continue to monitor this data as an ongoing task.
- 4.4 Outcome 4) *The Licensing Board contributes to higher confidence in the reporting of hate crime incidents.* Equality training and awareness amongst licensing staff has improved during 2013 and staff facilitate the dissemination of equality materials to the licensed trade. At Pubwatch meetings licensing officers will continue, alongside their Police colleagues, to encourage the importance of reporting hate crime incidents. Licensing officers continue to support the annual multi agency "Nightzone West" project which helps protect vulnerable individuals who are using licensed premises over the festive period.
- 4.5 Other Duties) The combination of steps noted under equality outcomes has mainstreamed equalities particularly enhancing the approach to service monitoring and staff training on assessing impact.

4.6 The mainstreaming report is available via the website and in other accessible formats if requested.

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 The report contributes to the Licensing Board's continuing compliance with its statutory equality duties.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment

8.1 The assessment accompanying the mainstreaming report has been reconsidered and it is noted that potential for positive impacts still apply. The Licensing Board will also monitor any relevant progress to the Council's Equality Duties.

9. Consultation

9.1 Consultation on the proposed revised Equality Outcomes was carried out via a presentation to a West Dunbartonshire Equality Forum meeting in August 2014.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 In terms of the Council's Strategic Priorities, the purpose of licensing is to protect the welfare of the community.

Peter Hessett LLB (Hons) DipLP
Clerk to the Licensing Board

Date : 17/2/2015

Person to Contact: Lawrence Knighton, LSO, Council Offices,
Telephone 01389 738211,
e-mail: lawrence.knighton@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: None

Background Papers: Report to West Dunbartonshire Licensing Board dated 16 December 2014 entitled 'Revisions to the Licensing Board Equality Outcomes'

Wards Affected: All