Alcohol-specific deaths in Glasgow City - Presentation noted etc.

3 The Forum heard a presentation by Dr Daniel Carter, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, providing information on alcohol-specific deaths in Glasgow City, advising of

(1) what was considered to be an alcohol-specific death;

(2) various graphical information on alcohol-specific deaths over the period from 2017-19 to 2019-21;

(3) information on the numbers of deaths in relation to the following categories:-

  (a) Was not above the Scottish average and still isn't (Falling, Variable/Stable and Rising);

  (b) Was above the Scottish average but now isn't (Falling, Variable/Stable and Rising);

  (c) Was not above the Scottish average but now is (Falling, Variable/Stable and Rising); and

  (d) Was above the Scottish Average and still is (Falling, Variable/Stable and Rising); and

(4) the following observations in relation to the information:-

  (a) Alcohol caused death;

  (b) Alcohol specific deaths were falling in Glasgow City and had been at a faster rate than in Scotland, however,

    (i) the rate remained higher than in Scotland;

    (ii) progress was slowing; and

    (iii) there were many areas where the rate was increasing;

  (c) A large proportion of the population of Glasgow lived in areas where the rate was above the Scottish average and was continuing to rise or was failing to fall; and

  (d) Broadly speaking, progress was inversely related to deprivation and that there was an uncertain link between the Licensing Board's overprovision policy and progress.

After consideration and having heard further from Dr Daniel Carter and Elaina Smith in response to a number of members' questions, the Forum noted

(A) the contents of the presentation;

(B) the following comments and responses:-

(I) although the information gave a reason to be optimistic, progress was now slowing;

(II) there had been no impact on the data from increased alcohol consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic but that could be a factor in the future;

(III) there was a need to analyse the data further in relation to changing demographics of particular areas within the city and also to analyse hospital admissions data; and

(IV) that data on alcohol-specific deaths was recorded on the basis of an individual's home postcode; and

(C) that the Clerk to the Forum would arrange for the presentation slides to be circulated to members following this meeting.