Socio-economic trends and health determinants - Presentation noted.

8 There was heard a presentation by Dr Emma Congreve, University of Strathclyde Fraser of Allander Institute outlining the main findings from a project which had been undertaken to describe the nature of inequalities in the socio-economic determinants of health in Scotland since devolution, advising that

(1) the health of Scotland's population over the past 25 years had been characterised by 2 key issues which had similarities to the socio-economic factors which were likely to affect health, and that is was possible that some of the impacts of the last decade's slowdown in economic improvement would continue to affect mortality trends in future years;

(2) the most significant development in the labour market of the past 22 years had been the unprecedented wage stagnation during and following the financial crisis;

(3) the proportion of working-age people in Scotland who were economically inactive because of health reasons had begun to increase since the mid-2010's and that this had been driven by a rise in the prevalence of depression and mental health problems as causes of inactivity;

(4) that household income and wealth inequalities remained persistently high, that household incomes were lower amongst ethnic minorities, people with a disability, and the lower-qualified than average, and that these differences were reflected in other measures of income disadvantage; and

(5) that the COVID-19 pandemic had seen huge disruption to the labour market as restrictions were imposed, however, the permanent impact of COVID-19 on the labour market had not been as significant as many people had anticipated.

After consideration, the Partnership

(a) thanked Dr Congreve for her presentation; and

(b) agreed that a collaborative approach across all services was required in order to research into possible solutions.