Use of the drug 'Naloxone' – Position noted etc.

3 The Forum heard a verbal report by Stephen Kerr, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership, in relation to the use of the drug 'Naloxone', advising

(1) of various statistical information in relation to drug related deaths in Scotland in 2022, in particular, highlighting that there had been a 21% reduction in deaths from 2021 but that deaths in Scotland were 2.7 times higher than the rest of the United Kingdom and that the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area had the highest number of deaths in Scotland;

(2) that the solutions to the problem were complex but that 'Naloxone' could play a part in reducing drug related deaths;

(3) of various information in relation to the drug, which was an opioid antagonist that rapidly reversed an opioid overdose;

(4) of how the drug worked, its safety and the legalities of carrying and using it; and

(5) of the content and benefits of proposed training in relation to the use of 'Naloxone'.

After consideration and having heard further from Stephen Kerr in response to a number of members' questions, the Forum noted

(a) the update;

(b) the following comments by members:-

(i) members generally commented in support of the use of the drug but highlighted that it was important that appropriate training was delivered on its use;

(ii) it was suggested that 'Naloxone' kits could be stored within licensed premises with other first aid equipment for use by trained staff;

(iii) although welcoming the update and the information provided, the number of alcohol specific deaths in Glasgow City were highlighted, which were significantly higher than drug related deaths;

(iv) a general discussion was held on how 'Naloxone' could be used to assist persons using drugs on the street; and

(v) it was suggested that appropriate trade organisations should be contacted in relation to the use of the drug and the delivery of the training; and

(c) that it was intended to deliver 'Naloxone' training through the Best Bar None Glasgow membership in the first instance.