

Reducing Social Isolation - Fostering Social Connections – Presentation noted – Request to Director of Community Empowerment and Equalities etc.

4 With reference to the minutes of 22nd August 2018, when this Partnership agreed that social isolation would be a priority theme, there was heard a presentation by Suzie Heywood, Glasgow City Health and Social Care, advising

- (1) that social isolation and loneliness could affect anyone and was a major public health issue which could have a significant impact on a person's physical and mental health;
- (2) that the GoWell study found that poverty contributed to social isolation and that loneliness was highest amongst those who lived alone, middle aged men with low educational qualifications and those with mental health problems;
- (3) of the link between social isolation and premature death;
- (4) of the findings of the Health and Wellbeing Survey 2017/18;
- (5) of the various barriers to accessing services which included confidence, money, competing priorities, resources and trust; and
- (6) of the various ways to tackle social isolation including, reducing barriers to accessing services, regular and sustained support groups and projects which sought to improve social skills and enhance social support.

After consideration, the Partnership

- (a) noted the presentation; and
- (b) requested the Director of Community Empowerment and Equalities to arrange a meeting for interested members, prior to the next meeting of the Partnership, to discuss potential actions that the Partnership could undertake regarding this priority.