

## **Public health update on alcohol harms and review of alcohol licensing outcomes in Glasgow City- Presentation noted etc.**

**3** The Forum and Board heard a joint presentation by Dr Daniel Carter, Dr Claire Kerr and Dr Chloe Taylor, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, providing a public health update on alcohol harms and information on a review of alcohol licensing outcomes in Glasgow City, advising of

- (1) national information in relation to alcohol-specific deaths in Scotland, in particular, highlighting that
  - (a) there had been 1,277 alcohol-specific deaths in Scotland in 2022, which was an increase of less than 1% (1 death) from the previous year;
  - (b) male deaths continued to account for around two thirds of deaths and that over the last year, male deaths had increased by 25, while female deaths had increased by 24; and
  - (c) the age profile of deaths had become older over time, with the average age of death increasing from 56 years to 60 years in the last decade;
- (2) information in relation to alcohol-specific deaths in Glasgow City, in particular, highlighting that
  - (a) there had been 184 deaths in 2023, which represented a decrease of 8.9% (18 deaths) from 2022; and
  - (b) despite the decrease in the number of deaths, the age-standardised mortality rate had continued to increase in recent years;
- (3) the approach by the NHS to reducing alcohol harms, which included:-
  - (a) continuing with an assertive outreach model for alcohol patients within Glasgow Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services who had poor levels of engagement; and
  - (b) reviewing, and where relevant objecting to, licensing applications, in particular, in areas of overprovision and in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 areas;
- (4) the aims of a review of alcohol licensing outcomes in Glasgow City, which had sought to assess
  - (a) the rate of application and outcomes in areas of overprovision and to compare them with areas of non-overprovision;
  - (b) the rate of application and outcomes across SIMD quintiles; and
  - (c) licensing outcomes following public health objections;

- (5) the methodology used, data limitations and findings of the review; and
- (6) the review recommendations in relation to the need to develop a standardised dataset that would improve understanding of licensing outcomes and support this Forum in analysing licensing data.

After consideration and having heard further from Dr Daniel Carter, Dr Claire Kerr and Dr Chloe Taylor in response to a number of members' questions, the Forum and Board noted

- (i) the presentation;
- (ii) its intention to provide an update to the Forum on an annual basis on alcohol licensing outcomes and that a meeting would be held between appropriate officers of the Board and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to discuss the data in more detail;
- (iii) remarks by the Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board clarifying the legal position in relation to the determination of licensing applications, in particular, highlighting that each application was considered on its own merits;
- (iv) concern expressed that the licensing outcomes data also needed to take account of the types of premises that were being granted licences in certain areas, such as pubs and restaurants, as such premises could have a positive impact on the economic regeneration of these areas; and
- (v) that the Clerk to the Forum would arrange for the presentation slides to be emailed to all members after the meeting.