

Safe drug consumption rooms – Motion approved.

11 Councillor Hunter, seconded by Councillor Graham, moved that

“Council commends the work of the Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), the third sector and others in supporting people impacted by drug use, including their families and communities. Council notes the work of Glasgow HSCP in proposing the case for a safer drug consumption facility, following the 2015 report ‘Taking away the chaos’ and notes the cross-party support for this proposal on the IJB, in the Scottish Parliament and at Westminster.

Council notes this is just one of a range of treatment options but one that must be available due to the clear public health need in Glasgow. Council believes that a safer drug consumption facility also provides an enhanced opportunity to engage with a specific population who may not ordinarily engage with existing services. Council recognises that this proposal has been clinically led and that similar projects have successfully reduced harm, for example by preventing increases in HIV infection rates, and notes the high level of interest in the Glasgow proposal from other authorities across the UK, some of whom are looking to develop similar projects.

Council agrees that such a facility should only be established based on evidence, clinical need and support from experts and local bodies, such as IJB and the NHS. If such a facility is proposed full public consultation will be carried out beforehand, including details of where such a facility would be located, and it is key this decision is made locally. Council also requests that this facility, if established, provides services and support to the users to ensure a pathway out of drug dependency.

Council calls on the Chief Executive, firstly, to write to the Scottish Government setting out our support and encouraging them to continue to pursue this matter and secondly, to Home Secretary Amber Rudd setting out our support and inviting her to visit Glasgow so that she can hear first-hand from those who support the proposal and from community members who are currently affected by chaotic public drug use in and around the city centre.”

Bailie Thornton, seconded by Councillor Blockley, moved as an amendment that the following paragraph be added at the end of the motion:-

“Council is also strongly committed to operating on a legal basis and is conscious of the legal position of proposing such a facility, especially in light of the Lord Advocate's comments in November 2017. Council agrees that this facility can only go ahead once the necessary legal steps have been undertaken to allow this to operate in a legal manner and instructs the Chief Officer of the IJB to update the relevant committee as to any legal changes which would allow this project to go ahead as and when required.”

Councillor Long, seconded by Bailie Dr Bartos, moved as an amendment that the third paragraph be deleted and replaced with:-

“Council recognises the evidence, clinical need and support from experts and local bodies, such as the IJB and the NHS. Progress towards a facility should include public consultation, understanding that location must reflect user need as well as take account of local context, and Council notes efforts which have been undertaken by the IJB to find a solution which works for the city. Council expects that any facility would provide services and support to ensure a pathway out of drug dependency.”

Councillor Hunter, with the agreement of her seconder, accepted the amendments by Bailie Thornton and Councillor Long.

Thereafter the Council approved unanimously.