



Meeting	SPA Policing Performance Committee
Date	12 September 2023
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	National Rollout of Naloxone
Presented By	ACC Gary Ritchie
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the SPA regarding the nationwide implementation of the carriage of Naloxone by officers. This details the positive cultural change in their views and testimonies relating to the use of Naloxone.

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this paper.

1. National Rollout Update

- 1.1 Following approval by the Chief Constable, an agreed staged delivery plan was implemented to train and equip all frontline officers within Police Scotland (PS), up to and including the rank of Inspector, in the carriage and use of intranasal naloxone.
- 1.2 The Scottish Government is fully supportive of the national rollout, having provided funding to Police Scotland (PS) and the National Health Service (NHS). Local policing divisions have worked closely with their respective Health Boards and this initiative has enhanced already positive partnerships.
- 1.3 The 12-month rollout programme began on International Overdose Awareness Day, August 31st 2022 and has seen 12,500 front line officers within local and national divisions trained in and supplied with naloxone pouches.
- 1.4 After completing the initial roll out training all officers will receive a refresher course as part of their annual operational safety and first aid training. This will include a check of their equipment, in line with all other standard issue kit.
- 1.5 To support a trauma informed workforce probationer training now includes naloxone training alongside awareness of stigma and potential barriers during the initial stage at the Scottish Police College.
- 1.6 The final aspect of the roll out was to ensure those who do not routinely undertake frontline duties have equitable access to naloxone when deployed operationally. This will be done in conjunction with Event planning teams nationally.
- 1.7 The Naloxone Co-ordination Unit (the Unit) regularly attend front line engagement events across the country. Allowing officers the opportunity to ask questions, raise any concerns or provide feedback. Funding will conclude for this team on 30 November 2023 and oversight and governance will thereafter be subsumed into the Substance Harm Prevention Unit within PS.
- 1.8 A recent circular from the Scottish Police Federation (SPF) to all officers across Scotland has confirmed that officers who administer naloxone, as per PS guidance and training, will receive the financial and legal protection of the Scottish Police Federation. It clarified that naloxone will be regarded and treated in the same manner as

any other equipment that an officer is trained to use. This update from the SPF is very much welcomed.

2. Administrations

- 2.1 The carriage of naloxone is mandatory for all officers, up to and including the rank of Inspector. The volume of administrations of naloxone has increased over the past few months as more officers are trained and equipped.
- 2.2 There are currently 325 (as per 30 August 2023) recorded incidents at which naloxone has been administered. These encompass a wide variety of circumstances and locations with officers using 1 to 8 naloxone nasal sprays on individuals suffering from a suspected overdose.
- 2.3 On all but 8 occasions, those who have been administered naloxone by officers have survived and either left with ambulance staff for further treatment or recovered sufficiently to leave the scene of their own accord, alone or in the company of others.
- 2.4 On the unfortunate occasions where an individual did not survive, these were in circumstances where the officers suspected the person was already deceased but administered naloxone in order to give them the best possible chance of survival. On one occasion, the individual died a number of weeks later, still within hospital, from unrelated and underlying health issues.
- 2.5 To date, no issues or concerns have been raised by officers, partners or the public regarding the police carriage and use of naloxone, regardless of the outcome. On each occasion of use, naloxone provided outcomes and reactions as anticipated and as established by medical research.
- 2.6 Officers' eagerness to be equipped with naloxone continues to be demonstrated by the number of requests received by the Unit to be equipped. This was further evidenced by the volume of officers completing their online training module well in advance of their requirement and operational necessity.
- 2.7 Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs (SFAD) have reported a notable demand from serving officers looking to access naloxone in order that they can carry it as soon as they are trained. This evidences the high level of commitment of officers to save lives and their belief in Police Scotland's policy to equip all operational officers with naloxone.

OFFICIAL

2.8 Whilst many officers embraced the programme from the outset, there was some reluctance across the organisation. The above attests to a change of culture throughout and an acceptance and adoption of this public health approach to their core duties.

2.9 Below are a small amount of testimonies gathered by the Unit.

Scottish Ambulance Service email:

"I work for the Ambulance service and attended an incident in Glasgow City Centre, where 2 police officers were 1st on scene. I didn't catch their names however I was wondering if it was possible to contact them to pass on my thanks for their effective CPR that they were carrying out prior to our arrival. It is a testament to the individual officers for their good quality skills but also a credit to the training provided by Police Scotland to all officers. They also administered potentially life-saving doses of Naloxone which meant that by the time we arrived, the patient had a pulse.

I am under no illusion that without effective CPR and the administration of Naloxone, the outcome for the patient could have been very different."

From Officers:

"I was delighted to be part of the pilot to carry Naloxone. I found the training very easy to understand, and administering it even easier. Since the training I have used Naloxone on several occasions, one of which will remain in my memory forever as I truly believed the female was deceased and could not be saved. She was ice cold to touch and the colour of death, however knowing Naloxone could do no harm, without any sign of drug misuse around but her friend telling me she was known to take heroin, I administered Naloxone and could not believe the quick recovery of the female. She went from being unconscious and not breathing with a very weak pulse to eventually walking and talking and we were able to safely deliver her into the care of ambulance paramedics, instead of investigating a death which I had wrongly presumed we were going to be dealing with. It's an extremely powerful little nasal spray which I am glad we now carry to help us carry out our job and potentially save a life."

"I joined the Police to help people and carrying this gives me that confidence that we have something that will help keep people safe."

"It is amazing that such a small thing issued to an individual officer, can have such massive impact to the communities across Scotland. Basically my experience of it was that I administered it to a male who appeared to be in the midst of an overdose. I administered the naloxone and was confident in doing so as a result of the naloxone training. The naloxone didn't have any effect on the male's condition, however an ambulance was there within approximately 10 minutes of the first dose administered. The procedure was straightforward and despite the male not being in the midst of an opiate overdose, the naloxone had no adverse effects on the male and he was taken by Ambulance to hospital where he was admitted."

"Great idea to give officers the opportunity to carry this and make a difference to people who have overdosed."

"My experience with using Naloxone was a positive one and I feel it is extremely beneficial for officers to carry it as it could save someone's life."

"I have only administered it on one occasion, and 8 doses were administered prior to arrival of paramedics. The individual ended up in intensive care for treatment and survived, which showed me how effective it can be in saving a life."

"I have used naloxone twice; the first we thought the man had passed away but he came round with one dose. The 2nd time we used 8 nasal sprays which bought the female time until the ambulance arrived and avoided the need for CPR. I would not hesitate to use it again - a very simple and effective tool to help us with saving lives."

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications in this report as the roll outs funding from the Scottish Government has previously been reported.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no personnel implications in this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications in this report.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no reputational implications in this report.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no social implications in this report.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

8.1 There has been significant positive feedback from communities across Scotland, and internationally regarding this health led approach. The Naloxone Co-ordination Unit and Substance Harm Prevention team are now supporting other UK and wider international policing organisations in relation to police carriage and use of naloxone.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equality implications in this report.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental implications in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this paper.