

Police Scotland to trial the use of a life-saving nasal spray



Police Scotland. Photo: Martin P. McAdam www.martinmcadam.com
Police Scotland is developing proposals to trial the use of a life-saving nasal spray which allows officers to treat victims of drug overdose.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Ritchie, Partnerships and Prevention, will chair a delivery steering group with a range of partners, including the Scottish Drugs Death Task Force, police staff associations and National Health Service, to develop proposals for a Test of Change for officers to carry Naloxone while on patrol.

Naloxone, administered as a nasal spray, is a medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid-related overdose.

The Test of Change, which requires Force Executive approval before it goes ahead, will involve the carriage and use of Naloxone by a small number of police officers.

Results of the trials will provide evidence to help the service consider whether any change to current operational practice is necessary.

ACC Ritchie said: "Scotland has the worst rate of drug-related deaths per head of population in Europe and the devastating impact that drugs have on individuals, their families and wider communities is fully acknowledged by Police Scotland.

"Proposals for this Test of Change are being undertaken with a view to providing an evidence base that will help the police service and partners determine whether police officers

carrying Naloxone can help us to tackle the harm caused by drugs.

ACC Ritchie added: "The steering group will develop proposals for the Test of Change to be carried out however any decision to continue to a Test of Change remains with the Force Executive.

"A wide range of partners, including many from the health sector and from our own staff associations, will be involved in the delivery steering group from the outset.

"Should this Test of Change be approved by the Force Executive following robust scrutiny, all officers who volunteer to participate will undergo extensive training in Naloxone administration."