

Summary of Aberdeen Adult Protection Committee (APC) meeting held on 1st December 2021

Below is a summary of the meeting held on 1st December. We hope you find these updates helpful.

- The APC's new Independent Convener, Campbell Thomson, took the Chair for his first meeting, and conveyed thanks to the outgoing Convener, Adrian Watson.
- Members noted progress being made in preparation for a forthcoming inspection of Adult Support and Protection (ASP) activities in Aberdeen. Further information is awaited from the Care Inspectorate about when and how this will proceed.
- The Care Inspectorate's representative on the Committee gave a presentation about the role of the Inspectorate in relation to Adult Support and Protection, in terms of their strategic and regulatory functions. This was well-received, and follow-up work will take place locally to ensure appropriate levels of understanding about when notifications should be made to the Care Inspectorate.
- The APC had held a Development Day on 23rd November to help inform the development of an over-arching Strategy for ASP in Aberdeen. At this session, the Committee's Vision had been revised to read; "Partners in Aberdeen are committed to an inclusive approach to preventing and responding to harm and protecting adults at risk." Three Priority areas of focus were confirmed – Stakeholder Engagement, Performance & Quality Assurance, and Learning & Development – and the APC approved the creation of three related Sub Committees to take forward work relating to these priorities, as well as an additional Sub Committee to take forward work relating to any Case Reviews arising. The new Sub Committees will replace an existing Operational Sub Group of the APC.
- The meeting heard that all ASP referrals were now being screened by one team, resulting in a consistent approach to decision-making and application of the 'least restrictive' principle. The Initial Referral Discussion process (involving discussion across partners about specific referrals, where these are complex or there is uncertainty as to the way forwards) was being effectively used where relevant.
- An 'outcomes' report was provided, covering feedback received from individuals who had been supported under ASP legislation. This was very much welcomed, and it was agreed that arrangements would be put in place to make sure that those providing feedback would in turn receive feedback about any impact of the views they had provided.

- The Committee noted that significant pressures were still being experienced across systems and services, as a result of the pandemic. Updates were received from third sector partners, via ACVO (Aberdeen's third sector interface). These were very much welcomed.
- An Annual Report covering the period April 2020 to March 2021 was approved. This will be designed / converted into a version for publication early in the new year.
- Members noted the findings of initial research into the impact of the APC's [Self Neglect and Hoarding Guidance](#) which had been launched in June. Further more in-depth research would take place during 2022.
- Three 'Grampian-wide' documents were endorsed by the Committee:
 - a Grampian Learning and Development Strategic Framework – which local Aberdeen Learning & Development arrangements will link in to;
 - a Grampian Multi Agency Escalation Process – which aims to support positive resolution of professional difference between agencies working with adults at risk in Grampian; and
 - a revised Grampian Decision-Specific Capacity Assessment Tool – aimed at improving communication and delivery of mental capacity assessments.