

UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF OFFICERS GROUP (COG): Update from 1st February 2022 Meeting

Following the launch of “Aberdeen Protects”, members of COG agreed that they would provide a summary following each of its meetings. This will comprise a range of things: decisions taken, sharing of information, and providing updates on longer term pieces of work. We hope you find these updates helpful.

Adult Protection Inspection

We have now received formal notification from the Care Inspectorate, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, and Healthcare Improvement Scotland regarding their plans to undertake a joint inspection of adult support and protection arrangements in the Aberdeen City partnership area with remote file reading week commencing 25 April 2022.

The focus of the joint inspection will be to provide:

- Independent scrutiny and assurance of how partnerships ensure that adults at risk of harm are kept safe, protected, and supported.
- Assurance to Scottish Ministers about how effectively partnerships have implemented the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.
- An opportunity to identify good practice and support improvement more broadly across Scotland. We will conduct this scrutiny using two quality indicators:
- Key adult support and protection processes.
- Leadership for adult support and protection.

The inspection will include five activities:

- A staff survey relevant to health, Police Scotland, provider organisations, social work, and social care staff.
- The review of a short position statement and supporting documentation (15–20 documents)
- The reading of records (health, police, and social work records) of a sample of adults considered at risk of harm who did not require any further adult support and protection intervention beyond the initial referral stage.
- The reading of the records (health, police, and social work records) of a sample of adults at risk of harm who have been subject of adult support and protection procedures.
- The engagement of front line and senior managers in focus groups, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on adult support and protection practice.

In terms of timescale’s, we have been advised of the following:

- The Staff survey will take place between 14 March – Friday 1 April 2022
- File reading and focus groups will take place week commencing 25 April 2022
- A Professional Discussion with senior managers/officers in the local partnership area will be held on Monday 21 March 2022.
- HMICS colleagues will also conduct a separate briefing with nominated coordinators, however, this will be confirmed later

COG expressed its thanks to those colleagues who have contributed to the development of our position statement and supporting documents and gave its approval for these to be submitted to the inspection team.

Enhancing our approach to early intervention and prevention

Following agreement at the COG on 14th December 2021 to progress with the development of a Family Support Model, a workshop was held on the 20th of January, to discuss with wider management teams and partners the background, evidence, ethos and aims of the new model. The workshop was successful, with almost 40 attendees from across the Partnership contributing to three breakout discussions. The aim of this workshop was to explore the problem statements identified for each tier of the model, as presented to COG on 14th December.

Further workshops are planned for the 7th and 21st February and later in March. The February workshops will continue to develop the model, building on the problem statements agreed and identifying a prototype operating model. It is the intention at this phase to invite a wider audience including colleagues from national services to scrutinise and comment on proposals. We will seek approval for an outline Programme Plan, Terms of Reference, commissioning principles and agreement on a shared approach to requesting assistance from services supporting children and families. A fourth workshop later in March will apply a 'pre-mortem' lens to the prototype model, with the aim of identifying the barriers to successful implementation. This is a 'fail fast' approach to strengthening plans and differs from imagining what might go wrong with a plan, to critiquing why it did go wrong and allowing participants the space to be open about their concerns.

In addition to these workshops, an engagement session with commissioned 3rd sector providers is planned for the 14th February, to outline the development of the model and ensure these critical partners understand their role in the continuum of care.

As the model develops, it is the intention of the Systems Leadership Group to make agile decisions to ensure focus and momentum is maintained. A prototype model will be in place for 1st April, with an implementation plan. COG will be provided with regular updates from the Systems Leadership group on progress

Scottish Government National Care Service Proposals

COG noted the publication of the responses to the government's proposals for a National Care Service and noted that the Government will publish a formal response to the consultation. A Draft Bill is expected before the summer recess and a year of parliamentary scrutiny of the Bill expected. COG acknowledged that the proposals, as they currently stand, could see all statutory public protection duties being transferred to the reformed IJB's and in recognition of the significance of these proposals, COG agreed to hold a workshop to start exploring the implications of these proposals on our local arrangements. COG will continue to track the development of the BILL and to consider the implications on our local arrangements and will endeavour to keep everyone updated via this update report.

Date of Next Meeting: 22nd March 2022