

UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF OFFICERS GROUP (COG): Update from 16th August 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.

GENERAL UPDATES

Multi Agency Event: 21st September 1.30pm

COG noted the revised date for the multi-agency event to the 21st of September. Agreed that where appropriate, recording from individual talking head sessions, could be loaded onto Aberdeen Protects for wider dissemination post the event. Given the intended use of digital “whiteboards” during the breakout sessions, all feedback can be easily gathered and shared back with COG as well as the integrated children services board to shape current and future workplans.

The purpose of the session to celebrate the positive ASP inspection and to disseminate plans for improvement, including those from the inspection. The session will also provide an opportunity to update colleagues

- on the development of our approach to Family Support, in response to The Promise
- the adoption of Dynamics 365
- Our ongoing data maturity journey
- And to discuss our strategic direction, and priorities.

Aberdeen Protects Website

COG received an evaluation report on the site, which contained data on site hits. CPOG noted that the GIFREC site was now closed – with all information from that site now sitting on Aberdeen Protects. COG asked CPC and APC to consider the report to canvas ideas for further improvement on the site. It was agreed to also share the report with all attendees at the September multi agency event.

INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

External Adult Support and Protection Inspection

COG formally approved the additional items, added to the existing APC workplan, arising from the findings from the recent ASP inspection.

Joint review of diversion from prosecution

Confirmed that Aberdeen had not been selected as one of the areas for a full inspection. COG was delighted to note that instead we have been identified as an additional area of interest, by HM Inspectorate of Prosecution. They wish to explore some of our approaches, innovations, and developments in diversion practice which they believe may be of interest nationally

Care Inspectorate Secure Care

Partners have been notified of the Inspectorates intention to undertake a secure care pathway review between August 2022 and August 2023. This review is being conducted under Section 53 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010. Their work will commence in August 2022 and conclude in August 2023. All local authorities were required to complete a return and we have been advised that all thirty-two councils will be interviewed as part of this review.

DRAFT SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

Scottish Government National Care Service Proposals

The NCS Bill was published recently. COG noted:

- The government have appointed Professor Daniels to undertake a review on children services. This will inform the decision on whether children's social work will be transferred into the NCS. COG agreed to add Professor Daniels review to its workplan
- The government intend to consult on whether CAMHS should be transferred to NCS. COG agreed to add the planned consultation on CAMHS to its workplan
- And we understand that public engagement is required on whether community justice is to transfer to NCS. This will also be added to COG's workplan

COG considered a draft response to the parliamentary engagement processes on the draft bill.

A Draft Terms of Reference for an Aberdeen City NCS Programme Board was considered at the meeting and partners committed to providing feedback. Once the board is established, it will consider and agree a formal approach to keeping all staff and trade unions informed about the development of the NCS. A draft workplan and risk register, and opportunity register are currently under development. Agreed these would be considered at the next meeting of COG.

LEARNING, AND DEVELOPMENT

New National ASP Guidance published by Scottish Government

COG noted that a revised national Code of Practice for ASP had been published, alongside guidance for APCs and separate guidance for GPs. A national Implementation Group had been formed to progress implementation of the Code of Practice. Local self-evaluation would be undertaken against all the documents.

National Guidance for CPC's

COG noted that the CPC continues to work through the implications of the 2022 national guidance and will report back to COG in October on progress being made.

Local Guidance Harmful Sexual Behaviour

COG was advised that work continues on the development of new local multi agency guidance on (HSB) and that this will be aligned to the national guidance.

Date of Next Meeting:4TH October 2022