

Summary of Aberdeen Adult Protection Committee (APC) meeting

23rd August 2022

Below is a summary of the meeting held on 23rd August. We hope you find these updates helpful.

- The meeting started with an input from a representative from the Mental Welfare Commission on their role in relation to Adult Support and Protection. The Commission has specific functions and duties under the Mental Health and Adults With Incapacity legislation in relation to people with a 'mental disorder', as well as a key role in promoting good practice.

The meeting heard that Guidance on making Notifications to the MWC is in the process of being updated – current Guidance can be found here: [Notifying the Commission | Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland \(mwcscot.org.uk\)](https://www.mwcscot.org.uk/Notifying-the-Commission). It was highlighted that it was difficult to be prescriptive about what should be notified to the Commission, and partners were urged to make contact with any specific queries. [Contact: ci.mwc.enquiries@nhs.scot]

More information about the Commission is on the MWC website [Welcome | Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland \(mwcscot.org.uk\)](https://www.mwcscot.org.uk/Welcome).

- Following this, the Chair of the Stakeholder Engagement Sub Committee led a specific discussion on engagement and participation. Members noted a 'Best Practice' document which had been developed by members of the APC's Lived Experience Forum. In the guidance document, learning is shared with staff involved in ASP investigations around what would have made a positive difference to 'adults at risk' during the process. The Guidance can be found on the Aberdeen Protects website. [Best Practice Document Aug 22.pdf \(aberdeencity.gov.uk\)](https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Best-Practice-Document-Aug-22.pdf)

It was also noted that a Strategic Assessment was to be undertaken by the Sub Committee in relation to Use of Advocacy, in light of the related inspection finding.

- Data highlights were presented. It was noted that the number of ASP referrals being received had shown a considerable increase since the start of the year and continued to be at a level above that which is 'typical'.
- Following the publication of new national [Learning Review Guidance](#), a Grampian toolkit was being developed, to aid implementation. It was proposed that this could include 'Guidance on Service User and Family Involvement in Case/Learning Reviews' which had been submitted by the Stakeholder Engagement Sub Committee for endorsement.
- Partners updated that significant pressures remained on Health and Social Care Services in the post-pandemic period. Opportunities for awareness-raising re ASP with staff undertaking the forthcoming round of vaccines were to be progressed. Partners also reported considerable challenges being

faced in terms of responding to the 'cost of living' crisis, which was also impacting on staff. The response to refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the city, in terms of accommodation and support services, was adding additional pressures. The APC agreed to continue to keep abreast of these matters, and have a substantive discussion about them at the next meeting.

- The Convener's Biennial Report for 2020-22 was endorsed – this is required to be submitted to Scottish Government by the end of October 2022. A more user-friendly version is to be developed, which will be published and circulated widely.
- Updated versions of the [National ASP Code of Practice](#), [Guidance for APCs](#), [Guidance for GPs](#), and [Learning Review Guidance](#) had all been published recently. The APC agreed to undertake local self-evaluation work to assess our position in relation to each document, to inform any necessary action.

As ever, if you know of anyone who might be interested in being involved in the Lived Experience Forum, or would like to find out more, please ask them to contact Advocacy Service Aberdeen (Email: ASA@advocacy.org.uk, Tel: 01224 332314)