

UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF OFFICERS GROUP (COG)

Update from 4th July 2023 Meeting

Following the launch of the “Aberdeen Protects” [website](#), members of COG agreed that they would provide a summary following each meeting. This will comprise a range of information; decisions taken, sharing of information, and providing updates on longer term pieces of work. We hope you find these updates helpful.

ADULT PROTECTION

Domestic Abuse Dynamic Database

The COG received an update about a Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Pathfinder project which had explored how TEC could play a role in supporting delivery of multi-agency services for people aged 18+ who experience domestic abuse within Aberdeen City.

During the research stage of the project, it was found that people experiencing domestic abuse can have difficulty recognising the signs of abuse. It was also found that there are challenges for those experiencing domestic abuse in accessing support and information safely. Support agencies and providers were identified as having problems knowing where to go for up to date information about different services available and making the right referral at the right time.

This resulted in a recommendation for “one true source” of information on services, in the form of a Dynamic Database which will allow those who receive disclosures of domestic abuse to make the right referral for support at the right time.

The development of the Dynamic Database is now near completion. The Database will be accessed through the [Aberdeen Protects](#) website and is due to be launched in July. Following the launch it will continue to be refined, based on the feedback of users, and engagement with the Database will be tracked.

CHILD PROTECTION

Learning Event on Parental Substance Use and Safe Sleep

COG heard that Aberdeen City’s Child Protection Committee (CPC) were to hold a Grampian wide Learning Event on Parental Substance Use and Safe Sleep, in collaboration with Aberdeenshire and Moray’s CPCs. The event has been arranged in order to raise awareness about this issue, as a result of learning from a case review. It will be an in-person event, to be held on 27th September, and will be aimed at multi-agency professionals from across Grampian.

It was agreed that professionals attending the event would be consulted about the value of a public campaign aimed at broadening awareness of this topic.

Evaluation Tool for implementation of National Child Protection Guidance

A national self-evaluation tool and supporting resources had been developed to help Child Protection Committees (CPCs) to consider and report on their progress in implementing the revised [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#). The National Guidance outlines how statutory and non-government agencies should work together with parents, families and communities to prevent harm and to protect children from abuse and neglect. CPCs have been asked to complete the tool and return to Scottish Government by 24 October 2023 for a national report of implementation progress and learning to be developed.

COG noted that Aberdeen CPC had already undertaken self-evaluation against the Guidance, after its launch, and that further work would be required in order to align this with the requirements of the new tool. The final self-evaluation would be shared with COG prior to submission to Scottish Government.

COMMUNICATIONS

COG Public Protection Event on 31st May 2023

COG members noted that approximately 90 people had attended the in-person event on 31st May, including professionals from across the public protection committees and partnerships as well as members of the Adult Protection Committee Lived Experience Forum. The event had focused on a number of national and local developments, including [Bairns' Hoose](#), [Family Support Model](#), and the National Care Service. Evaluation undertaken after the event had been very positive, with some suggestions for consideration for future sessions.

The event had included presentations from a range of national and local speakers, which were followed by two 'break-out' table discussion sessions. COG agreed that the feedback from these discussions would be shared with the local Bairns' Hoose Delivery Group and the NCS Programme Board for consideration, following which a response to event participants would be developed to update them about how their input at the event was being utilised.

Date of Next Meeting: 29th August 2023