

Summary of Aberdeen Adult Protection Committee (APC) meeting

31st August 2023

Below is a summary of the meeting held on 31st August. We hope these updates are helpful.

- A representative from the Office of the Public Guardian attended and provided an overview of the role of the OPG in relation to ASP and more widely. The powers of the OPG derive mainly from the Adults With Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 (AWI), and the role of OPG in relation to adult support and protection is primarily one of co-operation, including:
 - Carrying out public register searches and supplying relevant information for local and national cases
 - Taking part in local case conferences, where required
 - Assisting with significant case / learning reviews
 - Advising the local authority when an investigation is commenced / concluded
 - Making ASP referrals where appropriate
 - Offering training and support to stakeholders on the OPG's adult support and protection and AWI processes.

Further information about the OPG can be found at: [What we do \(publicguardian-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.publicguardian-scotland.gov.uk)

- A researcher from Napier University provided an overview of their current research into 'meaningful participation in case conferences', to which Aberdeen, along with a number of other areas, were contributing in terms of interviews with professionals involved in case conferences and also the APC Lived Experience Forum. The resulting report would be shared with areas which had contributed, and was likely ultimately to be published in a journal. (All contributions would be anonymous.)
- The APC endorsed proposals regarding plans for Self-Evaluation to inform a refresh of the Improvement Plan, Strategy and Biennial Report, in advance of the two year period starting April 2024. A Development Session was to take place on 1st November 2023 – to which members of APC, APC Sub Committees, Lived Experience Forum and COG would be invited. These stakeholders would also be asked to complete a survey to contribute to the self-evaluation.
- APC members noted the annual return which had been submitted to Scottish Government, covering the period from April 2022 to March 2023. It was noted that the number of ASP referrals received during the year had increased by 44% from the previous year. National reporting was now moving to a quarterly basis.
- A number of accessible information leaflets had been published by the APC's Learning and Development Sub Committee. These can be found at the following links:

- Help if you are being harmed and need support, including who to contact [ASP Investigating Process Accessible Version-FINAL-Aug23.pdf \(aberdeencity.gov.uk\)](#)
- What you need to know about Adult Support and Protection [A4 folded Leaflet 6 panels ASP-Info-FINAL-Aug23.pdf \(aberdeencity.gov.uk\)](#)
- What you need to know about ASP Case Conferences [A3 Roll folded Leaflet 8 panels ASP CaseConfs-FINAL-Aug23.pdf \(aberdeencity.gov.uk\)](#)
- APC members noted that a workshop was planned, for 4th September, at which ideas would be sought to inform a review of the APC Communications Strategy and 'Meaningful Engagement with Service Users' Guidance.
- A number of publications were brought to the attention of the Committee:
 - i) **Health & Social Care Partnership [Annual Report 2022-23](#)**
 - ii) **IRISS Report '[ASP is Everyone's Business](#)' (9th May 2023)**
 - iii) **IRISS Report '[Chronologies in ASP: Moving from Current to Best](#)' (5th June 2023)**
 - iv) **Scottish Government '[Criminal Exploitation: Practitioner Guidance](#)' (19th June 2023)**
 - vi) **Care inspectorate [CI Phase 1 Overview Report](#) (August 2023)**

As ever, if you know of anyone who might be interested in being involved in the Adult Protection Committee's 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)