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To: Councillor Councillor Stewart, the Depute Provost, Convener; Councillor Graham, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Allard, Lesley Dunbar, Greig, Henrickson, Houghton, MacGregor and Wheeler.

Town House,
ABERDEEN 16 February 2022

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The Members of the **PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in **Council Chamber - Town House** on **WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2022 at 10.00 am**. This is a hybrid meeting and Members may also attend remotely.

Members of the press and public are not permitted to enter the Town House at this time. The meeting will be webcast and a live stream can be viewed on the Council's website. <https://aberdeen.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

FRASER BELL
CHIEF OFFICER - GOVERNANCE

BUSINESS

NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

1.1. There is no urgent business at this time

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

2.1. There is no exempt business at this time

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1. Members are requested to intimate any declarations of interest

DEPUTATIONS

- 4.1. Deputations - none expected until after the final agenda is published

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 5.1. Minute of Previous Meeting of 7 December 2021 (Pages 5 - 10)

COMMITTEE PLANNER

- 6.1. Committee Planner (Pages 11 - 12)

NOTICES OF MOTION

- 7.1. No notices of motion have been received

REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES

- 8.1. Referrals from Council, Committees or Sub Committees

POLICE AND FIRE RESCUE SERVICE

- 9.1. Police Scotland Performance Report: April - September 2021 (Pages 13 - 40)
- 9.2. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Six Monthly Performance Report (Pages 41 - 66)
- 9.3. SFRS - Thematic Report : Rescue and Specialist Support (Pages 67 - 76)
- 9.4. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Thematic Report ; Home Safety Checks (Pages 77 - 84)
- 9.5. SFRS - Thematic Report : Managing Automatic Alarms/ False calls (Pages 85 - 92)
- 9.6. HM Fire Service Inspectorate - Review of Inspection Arrangements across Local Authority Areas - for information (Pages 93 - 94)

LOCAL RESILIENCE

- 10.1. Storm Arwen Response (Pages 95 - 106)

CHILD AND ADULT PROTECTION

- 11.1. Brothers and Sisters legislation (Pages 107 - 114)
- 11.2. Corporate Parenting Annual Report (Pages 115 - 168)
- 11.3. Adult Support and Protection – Inspection Update (Pages 169 - 174)
- 11.4. Adult Protection Committee Annual Report (Pages 175 - 194)

DATE OF MEETINGS

- 12.1. Date of Next Meeting - 28 June 2022 at 10:00am

EHRIs related to reports on this agenda can be viewed [here](#)

To access the Service Updates for this Committee please click [here](#)

Website Address: aberdeencity.gov.uk

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Public Protection Committee

ABERDEEN, 7 December 2021. Minute of Meeting of the PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Stewart, the Depute Provost, Convener; Councillor Graham, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Allard, Lesley Dunbar, Greig, Henrickson, MacGregor, Mason (as a substitute for Councillor Houghton) and Wheeler.

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found [here](#).

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Members were requested to intimate any declarations.

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 27 OCTOBER 2021

2. The Committee had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 27 October 2021, for approval.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

COMMITTEE PLANNER

3. The Committee had before it the Committee Business Planner prepared by the Chief Officer – Governance.

Members thanked everyone at Aberdeen City Council, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service involved in the response to Storm Arwen. It was requested that a report be added to the Planner to bring back to Committee on the effects of Storm Arwen within Aberdeen City, the response and any lessons learned.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to agree that Item 4 – Police Scotland – Thematic Report: National Assets would be removed from the Planner and issued via a Service Update;
- (ii) to note that Item 6 – Building Standards Activity Report was delayed and would revert to a six-monthly reporting cycle on 28 June 2022 then 12 December 2022;
- (iii) to instruct officers to bring an update report on the response to Storm Arwen to Committee on 2 March 2022; and
- (iv) to otherwise note the Planner.

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

7 December 2021

REFERRAL FROM OPERATIONAL DELIVERY COMMITTEE ON 18 NOVEMBER 2021 - THE PROMISE

4. The Committee had before it for noting, a referral from the Operational Delivery Committee on 18 November 2021.

Graeme Simpson, Chief Officer – Integrated Children’s and Family Services, provided background to the Scottish Government’s Plan to #KeepThePromise and provided information and proposals on the Council’s implementation of it.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to endorse the Council’s commitment to The Promise; and
- (ii) to note the information provided.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE : THEMATIC REPORT: INSPECTIONS - SFRS 21/313

5. The Committee had before it the report from the Local Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which presented data on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Aberdeen City Inspections to date for 2021/2022, demonstrating the progress being made by the SFRS locally against the priorities and objectives for Aberdeen City.

Chay Ewing, Group Commander – SFRS, spoke to the report and took questions from Members.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to thank Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for its continued support in maintaining public safety;
- (ii) to note the information provided in the report in relation to prevention and protection;
- (iii) to instruct the Group Commander, SFRS, to provide an update on home fire safety checks to committee on 2 March 2022; and
- (iv) to instruct the Group Commander, SFRS, to provide a six-month update on Inspections with comparisons between December 2021 figures, to committee on 28 June 2022.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - THEMATIC REPORT: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - SFRS 21/314

6. The Committee had before it the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report on Community Engagement.

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

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Chay Ewing, Group Commander – SFRS, spoke to the report and took questions from Members.

The Committee resolved:-

to note the information provided in the report.

CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT - OPE/21/309

7. The Committee had before it the Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee (CPC) Annual Report 2020-21, the purpose of which was to provide the Committee with information and assurance on the work of the CPC.

Graeme Simpson, Chief Social Work Officer and Vice Chair of the Child Protection Committee, presented the report.

The report recommended:

That the Committee:-

- (a) note the content of the CPC's Annual Report 2020-21;
- (b) note the positive impact and effectiveness of child protection improvement initiatives detailed in the report;
- (c) note the effective working across the partnership in Aberdeen City in relation to child protection; and
- (d) note the use of statistical information to inform practice and improvement initiatives relating to child protection.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to endorse the CPC's Annual Report 2020-21; and
- (ii) to agree the recommendations.

NATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN SCOTLAND 2021 AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES UNDERTAKING LEARNING REVIEWS 2021 - OPE/21/310

8. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer – Integrated Children's and Family Services which introduced the new National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 and new National Guidance for Child Protection Committees undertaking Learning Reviews 2021, and provided assurance that the Child Protection Committee would identify, implement and monitor any areas requiring local development.

Graeme Simpson, Chief Social Work Officer and Vice Chair of the Child Protection Committee, introduced the report and took questions from Members.

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

7 December 2021

The report recommended:

That the Committee:-

- (a) note the new National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021;
- (b) note the new National Guidance for Child Protection Committees undertaking Learning Reviews 2021;
- (c) note that the Child Protection Committee (CPC) was considering the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 and National Guidance for Child Protection Committees undertaking Learning Reviews 2021 and that any areas requiring local development would be identified and incorporated into local planning overseen by the CPC; and
- (d) instruct the Chief Social Work Officer to provide an update within next year's CPC Annual Report on progress made implementing the updated National Guidance for Child Protection.

The Committee resolved:-

to agree the recommendations.

NATIONAL HUB FOR REVIEWING AND LEARNING FROM THE DEATHS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE - OPE/21/319

9. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer – Integrated Children's and Family Services which advised members of the establishment of the National Hub for Reviewing the Deaths of Children and Young People and its implications for the delivery of social work in Aberdeen City.

The report recommended:

That the Committee:-

note the contents of the report and how Aberdeen City Council social work staff would contribute to the review of deaths of children and young people.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report and how Aberdeen City Council social work staff would contribute to the review of deaths of children and young people; and
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Social Work Officer to provide the committee with the National Hub's annual report when it was published in approximately 12 months' time.

SECURE CARE - CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

10. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer – Integrated Children's and Family Services which advised of the findings of an independent report published by the Children's Commissioner in relation to the use of secure care and its implications for social work practice in Aberdeen City.

Graeme Simpson, Chief Social Work Officer, spoke to the report.

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The report recommended:

That the Committee:-

- (a) note the report; and
- (b) instruct the Chief Social Work Officer to provide the committee with an update report at the end of 2022 on the use of Secure Care and compliance with the Secure Care regulations.

The Committee resolved:-

to agree the recommendations.

ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION – INSPECTION UPDATE - ACHSCP/21/308

11. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer of the Aberdeen City Integration Joint Board which highlighted and provided assurance about preparations being undertaken for the forthcoming Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection (ASP) in Aberdeen.

Val Vertigans, Lead Strategic Officer Adult Public Protection – ACHSCP, spoke to the report and took questions from Members.

The report recommended:

That the Committee:-

note preparations being made for the forthcoming Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection in Aberdeen.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to instruct the ACHSCP Lead for Social Work to provide the Committee with an interim service update; and
- (ii) to otherwise agree the recommendation.

RESILIENCE ANNUAL REPORT - COM/21/267

12. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer – Governance which provided a second annual assurance report on the Council’s resilience arrangements in fulfilment of its duties as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

Vikki Cuthbert, Assurance Manager, introduced the report and Fiona Mann, Emergency Planning, Resilience and Civic Lead, also spoke to the report and took questions from Members.

The report recommended:

That the Committee:-

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

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- (a) note the progress made in embedding the Council's resilience arrangements during 2021; and
- (b) approve the revised Generic Emergency Plan appended with tracked changes.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to instruct officers to bring an update report on the response to Storm Arwen to Committee on 2 March 2022;
- (ii) to commend the Council and its partner services for their work in relation to Storm Arwen and the response, and for keeping the city safe; and
- (iii) to otherwise agree the recommendations.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS REPORT - COM/21/315

13. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer – Governance, which presented the annual report of the Public Protection Committee to enable Members to provide comment on the data contained within.

Fraser Bell, Chief Officer – Governance, spoke to the report and took questions and comments from Members.

The report recommended:

That the Committee:-

- (a) provide comments and observations on the data contained within the annual report; and
- (b) note the annual report of the Public Protection Committee.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note that whilst the data indicated that 50% of reports submitted to the Committee had modifications to the recommendations (table 6.8), these were to additionally record the Committee's appreciation of the successful delivery of the topic, or to reinforce assurance; and
- (ii) to note the annual report of the Public Protection Committee.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 2 MARCH 2022 AT 10:00AM

14. The Convener thanked Members and officers for their help and support throughout the year and wished them a happy Christmas.

The Committee resolved:-

to note the date of the next meeting.

- COUNCILLOR JENNIFER STEWART, Convener.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER								
	The Business Planner details the reports which have been instructed by the Committee as well as reports which the Functions expect to be submitting for the calendar year.								
2	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Directorate	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
16	23 February 2022								
17	Police Scotland - Thematic Report	To present the most recent 6 monthly Performance Report	A report is on the agenda	George Macdonald	Police Scotland	Police Scotland	5.7		
18	SFRS - Thematic Report : Rescue and Specialist Support	As suggested by Members	A report is on the agenda	Chay Ewing	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.7		
19	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Six Monthly Performance Report	To present the most recent 6 monthly Performance Report	A report is on the agenda	Chay Ewing	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.6		
20	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Thematic Report ; Home Safety Checks	As suggested by members 07/12/21	A report is on the agenda	Chay Ewing	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.7		
21	SFRS - Thematic Report : Managing Automatic Alarms/ False calls	As suggested by Members	A report is on the agenda	Chay Ewing	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.7		
22	Police Scotland - Thematic Report : Mental Health & Wellbeing Support	To provide information to the Committee on the approach to mental health matters for all staff, in particular front line Officers in regard to the recognition and treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.		George Macdonald	Police Scotland	Police Scotland	5.7	D	Request was initially to delay until 2023. Following contact with Fraser Bell and new Commander Kate Stephen, agreement to propose deferral to PPC October 2022.
23	Brothers and Sisters legislation	To provide assurance that CSW are taking cognisance of the new duties set out in the legislation and will be building in appropriate reporting.	A report is on the agenda	Graeme Simpson	Integrated Children's and Family Services	Operations	1.1.1		Added 22/11/21 following request from Graeme Simpson
24	<u>Adult Support and Protection – Inspection Update</u>	At its meeting on 7 December 2021, Committee agreed to instruct the ACHSCP Lead for Social Work to provide the Committee with an interim service update	A report is on the agenda	Claire Wilson	ACHSCP	ACHSCP	1.1		Added 07/12/21 after PPC.
25	<u>Adult Protection Committee Annual Report</u>	APC decided early 2021 to do an annual report for the first time, to be taken to the APC in December 2021.	A report is on the agenda	Val Vertigans	ACHSCP	ACHSCP	1.1.3		Added 13/01/22 after discussion with Val Vertigans
26	Corporate Parenting Annual Report	To respond to the Committee's request for an annual report on the progress of our Corporate Parenting responsibilities outlined in part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.	A report is on the agenda	Amy Evans	Graeme Simpson		1.2		Added 17/01/22 after addition requested by Amy Evans.
27	Storm Arwen Response	To provide Committee with an update on the response to Storm Arwen.	A report is on the agenda	Vikki Cuthbert / Fiona Mann	Governance	Governance	4.1		Added 07/12/21 after PPC.
28	28 June 2022								
29	Police Scotland - Thematic Report			George Macdonald	Police Scotland	Police Scotland	5.7		
30	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Annual Scrutiny Report			Chay Ewing	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service			
31	Building Standards Activity Report	At its meeting on 10 October 2019, the Committee agreed to six monthly assurance reporting		Gordon Spence	Place	Governance	4.1		Added 7/12/21 after PPC.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Directorate	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
2									
32	UKAS Annual Audit of Scientific Services	To present Annual Audit of Scientific Services by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service			Operations and Protective Services	Operations	3.1		
33	Police Scotland - Thematic Report	Road Safety		George Macdonald / Graham Alder					Added 20/01/22 after email from Graham Alder
34	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report: Inspections	To provide Committee with an update and comparisons of Inspection stats from report to PPC on 7/12/21		Chay Ewing					Added 7/12/21 after PPC.
35	12 October 2022								
36	Police Scotland - Thematic Report	As suggested by Members		George Macdonald	Police Scotland	Police Scotland	5.7		
37	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Six Monthly Performance Report	To present the most recent 6 monthly Performance Report		Chay Ewing	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.6		
38	SFRS - Thematic Report	As suggested by Members		Chay Ewing	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.7		
39	Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report	To present the Chief Social Work Officer annual report.		Graeme Simpson	Integrated Children's and Family Services	Operations	1.6		
40	12 December 2022								
41	Police Scotland - Thematic Report	As suggested by Members		George Macdonald	Police Scotland	Police Scotland	5.7		
42	SFRS - Thematic Report	As suggested by Members		Chay Ewing	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.7		
43	Resilience Annual Report			Vikki Cuthbert	Governance	Governance	2.1, 2.3, 2.5		
44	Building Standards Activity Report	At its meeting on 10 October 2019, the Committee agreed to six monthly assurance reporting		Gordon Spence	Place	Governance	4.1		Added 7/12/21 after PPC.
45	<u>National Hub for Reviewing and Learning from the Deaths of Children and Young People</u>	At its meeting on 7 December 2021, the Committee instructed the Chief Social Work Officer to provide the Committee with the National Hub's Annual Report when it is published in approximately 12 months from December 2021 - Mr Simpson to liaise with the Clerk re appropriate timing when Annual Report is ready.		Graeme Simpson	Integrated Children's and Family Services	Operations			Added 7/12/21 after PPC.
46	<u>National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 and National Guidance for Child Protection Committees undertaking Learning Reviews 2021</u>	At its meeting on 7 December 2021, the Committee instructed the Chief Social Work Officer to provide an update within next year's CPC Annual Report on progress made implementing the updated National Guidance for Child Protection		Graeme Simpson	Integrated Children's and Family Services	Operations			Added 7/12/21 after PPC.
47	Secure Care - Children's Rights	At its meeting on 7 December 2021, the Committee agreed to an update report at the end of 2022 on the use of Secure Care and compliance with the Secure Care regulations.		Graeme Simpson	Integrated Children's and Family Services	Operations			Added 7/12/21 after PPC.

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection
DATE	23 February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Police Scotland Performance Report April - September 2021
REPORT NUMBER	POL/22/063
DIRECTOR	
CHIEF OFFICER	
REPORT AUTHOR	Chief Superintendent George Macdonald, North East Division, Police Scotland (Appendix A)
TERMS OF REFERENCE	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Police Scotland Performance Report – April – September 2021 for Committee scrutiny.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee discuss, comment on and endorse the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The report, attached as **Appendix A** provides a detailed account of Police Performance in Aberdeen City in support of agreed priorities, both local and national for April – September 2021.
- 3.2 Much of the content of the report reflects on the collaborative methods which Police Scotland now deploy across the City. The report demonstrates how communities can benefit when Community Planning Partners work within both the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans.

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3.3 The report covers a wide range of police activity including corporate governance; detection rates; response times; and audit methodology. The report provides year on year comparisons to allow the Committee to evaluate trends in performance.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	N/A		
Legal	N/A		
Employee	N/A		
Customer	N/A		
Environment	N/A		
Technology	N/A		
Reputational	N/A		

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous People	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ' <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ' and towards the

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	achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to make people more resilient and protect them from harm; where every child, irrespective of their circumstances, is supported to grow, develop and reach their full potential; and where all people in Aberdeen are entitled to live within our community in a manner in which they feel safe and protected from harm, supported when necessary and fully included in the life of the city.
Prosperous Place	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ' <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ' and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to support individuals and communities to live in healthy, sustainable ways; and the development of sustainable communities with strong and resilient communities.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Governance	The Council has an oversight role of the North East Division of Police Scotland in terms of its performance and delivery of the Local Police Plan.
Partnerships and Alliances	The Council and Police Scotland are Community Planning Aberdeen partners with a shared commitment to deliver the LOIP.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	<i>Not required</i>
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<i>Not required</i>
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	<i>Not applicable</i>

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix A – Police Scotland Performance Report (April – September 2021).

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Chief Superintendent George Macdonald
North East Division
Police Scotland



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Public Protection Committee

North East Division
Aberdeen City

April - September 2021

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- Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder
- Acquisitive Crime
- Road Safety and Road Crime
- Protecting People at Risk of Harm
- Serious Organised Crime
- Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism
- Miscellaneous



Introduction

I am pleased to present the latest Public Protection Committee report on behalf of Police Scotland, North East Division providing a detailed account of Police Performance in Aberdeen City in support of agreed local and national priorities, between 1 April and 30 September 2021.

This report is set in the context of COVID-19 still being present in society, albeit with restrictions being relaxed across all sectors during the summer of 2021. The pandemic continues to present significant challenges across our communities in all aspects of personal and professional life. The full implications of COVID-19 on crime rates, offending patterns and general policing are yet to be fully understood but it may be that the crime rates for this period can in part be attributed to the impact of the pandemic on society.

The re-ignition of the night-time economy and retail sectors during the pandemic has contributed to an increase in City Centre crimes of Violence and Disorder in comparison to the corresponding period in 2020. As with most other crime groups, the more accurate reflection may come from the comparison with 5 Year Averages which dilute the impact of the unique set of circumstances posed during 2020 and the early months of 2021.

The context around some of the increases in Crimes of Violence such as Robbery focuses around acts of spontaneous desperation, quite often targeted against known associates. Thankfully our detection rates remain high for this type of crime, with a number of notable offenders being incarcerated or restrictive conditions being imposed and effectively policed. We continue to deliver a high quality of service to all victims of crime and ensure suitable support and safety measures are in place for them.

An increase in youth Anti-Social Behaviour has been experienced over the summer months and contributes to crimes of Common Assault and Fire Raising. It was pleasing to see creative partnership initiatives taking place across the City which assisted in the diversion strand of preventing youth offending. We are grateful to our Community Safety and Third Sector partners in their continued support with such ventures.

A significant reduction in Acquisitive Crime is notable over this reporting period. The exception to this are crimes of Fraud, specifically non-contact and online Frauds. These crime types have continued to increase in Aberdeen City, in keeping with the rising trajectory throughout the country. This trend is inevitable given the increasing reliance of technology and large sections of society living and operating in a 'cyber' dominated world.

It is encouraging that our newly established Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team (DCECT) has made good early ground in setting innovative methods in both investigative and preventative fields. However it is recognised that the global nature and growth of Cyber-crime will be a challenge for the foreseeable future for policing, partners and communities.

The emphasis on awareness raising with respect to Hidden Harms, predominant during the lockdown periods, was continued across Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking, Adult Protection, Serious Sexual Offences and Child Protection. The widely recognised potential for delayed demand resulted in more frequent strategic partnership meetings across the areas of public

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protection which ensured that not only the Police, but all partners involved in supporting victims, were aware of the current trends as restrictions were relaxed, and better placed to respond.

During the reporting period the North East Integration Project delivery phase was accelerated and our Officers and Police Staff variously moved to refurbished premises at Marischal College, Woodhill House, Kittybrewster, Nelson Street and Nigg Police Offices. While there will be lots of memories left at Queen Street, there has been unanimous support for the project and exciting opportunities lie ahead of us to work in an integrated fashion both internally and externally in modern well-equipped environments.

The new public service counter at Marischal College is now well established and members of the public can now access multiple public services under one roof. We will undertake some work to capture the real benefits of the integrated working arrangements, both for staff and the customer.

In light of the operational challenges we face, our overall performance remains strong and compares favourably in most areas against national averages. Our continued visibility, accessibility and community policing approach continues to build public confidence in our service. This is reflected in part through the drop in the number of complaints received.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to all members of our community, businesses and partner organisations who have supported Officers in the collective effort to keep our communities safe during the pandemic and in the execution of our more traditional role. I would also like to pay tribute to our Community Policing Teams including Police Staff, Special Constables and Police Scotland Youth Volunteers for their tireless efforts in a time of such significant adversity.

Regards



George Macdonald
Chief Superintendent



Staffing

	Authorised Establishment	September 2021	Difference
Police Officers ¹	1096.0 FTE	1064.65 FTE	-31.35 FTE
	September 2020	September 2021	Difference
Police Staff ¹	119.18 FTE	119.57 FTE	+0.39 FTE

¹North East Division (Aberdeenshire, Moray and Aberdeen City) Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Enhanced recruitment to the North East has been undertaken over recent months and has gone a long way in addressing the shortfall of Police Officers. This focused recruitment has led to an additional **53** probationary Officers, currently at the Scottish Police College, who will be deployed locally. With a further intake of staff planned before the end of the current financial year the deficit should be further reduced.

In Aberdeen we have **62** Probationary Officers based at various operational stations throughout the City.

We also have **24** Special Constables working alongside full time colleagues in the City. As ever, these Officers continue to demonstrate outstanding loyalty and commitment to their role and their excellent service to our communities cannot be overstated, especially given the additional pressures and risks COVID-19 has posed.



Complaints About the Police

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	%Change 2021 v 2020
Overall Satisfaction of How Police Dealt With Your incident ²	N/A	68.0%	75.0%		-7.0%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	142	175	-33	-18.9%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	43.0	52.3	-9.3	-17.8%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	173	227	-54	-23.8%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	1	1	0	0.0%
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	44	67	-23	-34.3%
Total Allegations	N/A	218	295	-77	-26.1%

²North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray)

Levels of overall satisfaction have decreased on the previous year to **68%** however this figure remains **2% above** the national average.

Police Scotland, alongside other agencies, continue to adapt to the unprecedented and sustained challenges associated with the COVID pandemic. Difficult decisions, in respect of call attendance and ‘face to face’ contact with the public remains a challenge as we balance the need to keep our officers and public safe. We acknowledge this can lead to frustration however through self-assessment and User Experience feedback we continue to explore new opportunities to improve our levels of contact and sharing of good practice to enhance our service delivery.

More specifically in respect of Complaints about the Police, the overall picture is positive. It is encouraging to see a decrease in the number of complaints received during this reporting period (**-18.9%**). A significant reduction in On Duty allegations is also noted (**-23.8%**).

Quality of Service allegations, which primarily focus on Police powers and procedures, have also seen a reduction (**-34.3%**).

Our Front Line Resolution process, which affords the complainer an opportunity to ask questions and receive an explanation regarding actions taken by Police, remains the primary means by which Complaints about the Police are resolved. Where complaints are not resolved in this manner, they are subject of a robust investigation by the Professional Standards Department.

Recent developments in ICT have improved the manner in which our analysts present the data collated from User Experience Surveys. This new format provides up to date information in a manner that can quickly identify improvements and areas of learning. This investment in

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Business Intelligence reaffirms Police Scotland's commitment to service delivery. These surveys, combined with a robust governance process, ensure that learning points are identified, shared and acted upon to improve our overall service to the public.



Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Common Assault - Recorded	1,456.4	1,570	1,277	+113.6	+7.8%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	70.5%	67.8%	81.4%		-2.7%
Robbery - Recorded	54	66	58	+12.0	+22.2%
Robbery - Detection Rate	84.8%	90.9%	91.4%		+6.1%
Vandalism - Recorded	933.2	1,059	840	+125.8	+13.5%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	26.6%	24.5%	33.0%		-2.2%
Fire Raising - Recorded	58.6	73	83	+14.4	+24.6%
Reports of Street Drinking	59.8	20	15	-39.8	-66.6%
Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct	101.0	39	25	-62.0	-61.4%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct	45.4	55	52	+9.6	+21.1%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct - Detection Rate	88.5%	83.6%	90.4%		-4.9%
Serious Assault - Recorded	91.0	83	55	-8.0	-8.8%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	91.0%	92.8%	96.4%		+1.8%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded ³	N/A	316	231	+85	+36.8%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate ⁴	N/A	71.8%	86.1%		-14.3%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	175	170	+5	+2.9%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	60.6%	67.6%		-7.0%

³ Group 1 Crimes of Violence include Murder, Attempted Murder, Culpable Homicide, Cruelty, Neglect and Un-natural Treatment of Children and Adults, Abduction, Robbery, Assault with intent to Rob, Serious Assault, Threats and Extortion and Coercive or Controlling Behaviour.

⁴ Coercive or Controlling Behaviour was added to Group 1 Crime in April 2019 and as such a 5 Year comparison is not possible.

Group 1 Crime is a term used to encapsulate all forms of serious non-sexual violent crime and incorporates a range of diverse crimes and offences.



The overall figures for Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour have unsurprisingly been impacted by the easing of pandemic restrictions where call demand and crime reporting has slowly seen an increase following the initial periods of lockdown.

This reporting period saw a return to more familiar levels of criminality closely resembling 'business as usual' figures. Looking at the figures in more depth there is a slight increase in reported Common Assault, at just over **7%** against the 5 Year Average, with a consistently strong detection rate of **67.8%**.

Respecting the challenges in comparison with last year's figure, Serious Assaults are nevertheless down by over **8%** with detection rates remaining exceptionally high at **92.8%**, an **increase of 1.8%** when compared against the 5 Year Average.

Our victim focused approach recognises the impact that these crimes have on individuals and families and ensures we put robust support measures in place, couple with a consistent commitment that those intent on committing acts of Violence are dealt with through enforcement.

Recorded Robbery has shown an increase against the 5 Year Average where we saw a brief spike in offending in private space settings in the early part of the reporting period. This tends to centre on communities in the north of the City. As alluded to in the introduction, many instances of this crime involve individuals known to one another. Detection rates remain high, approaching **91%** and co-ordinated work between local policing and CID is ongoing to tackle this trend.

The gradual return of the night time economy also influenced crime trends, with the City Centre impacted in particular. Throughout the journey of the Scottish Government restrictions we have remained fully engaged across the City to better understand the implications for the hospitality sector and provide advice, guidance and support.

We remain aware of the wider impacts harmful levels of alcohol consumption can have in terms of Anti-Social Behaviour and Violence with indications that alcohol consumption has increased during the pandemic. We continue to work with various agencies to tackle alcohol fuelled violence, provide support to the most vulnerable and promote a responsible drinking culture.

Over the reporting period it is reassuring to see that cases of street drinking have significantly reduced by **66.6%** against the 5 Year Average and drunken/disorderly conduct has similarly reduced by more than **61%**. This will be partly attributable to the overall lower footfall in the City Centre. We resumed and enhanced our Weekend Policing model to adapt to the changing trends in the night-time economy and continue to be alive to socialising habits in society as we look to emerge from the pandemic. Targeted visibility in and around Licensed Premises at key times remains a key tactic to reducing and deterring violent or disorderly behaviour. Likewise robust enforcement and preventative measures are encouraged with a view to identifying problematic offenders and seeking restrictive conditions on their activities.

The summer months saw large groups of youths congregate in the City Centre which led to increased reports of Anti-Social Behaviour. These young people would migrate from various communities to the City Centre due to the retail trade and hospitality/leisure sectors returning to

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a form of normality. It is acknowledged that there was an inevitability to this to an extent given the impact of restrictions on this age group in particular.

While a significant degree of the calls fell short of criminality, Community Policing Teams have been responsive to understandable concerns from the business community to increase visibility to disrupt, deter, detect and divert youth offenders. Where criminal acts have been reported, positive action has been taken to refer these youths into support services or where appropriate the criminal justice system

Community Safety partners are alive to this challenge and work is ongoing to remedy short term issues and provide more sustainable solutions to this issue.

We are very aware that local communities continue to experience quality of life issues and working together with partners our teams across Aberdeen have designed bespoke initiatives ensuring there is an appropriate balance of enforcement, education and diversion. Community Policing Inspectors are empowered to take ownership of problems within their own areas and have modified the response to the current climate.

This is a central theme of the approach employed in established locality projects in Northfield Mastrick, Tillydrone, Seaton and Torry where we have adapted our partnership working to deliver positive outcomes in communities experiencing the most acute challenges. This approach is currently being rolled out into other priority neighbourhoods such as Kincorth.

While statistically there has been a rise **(+24%)** in Wilful Fire Raising compared to the 5 Year Average, there are actually 10 less incidents of Fire Raising than the same period last year. A number of these crimes are detected and can be attributed to youths engaged in Anti-Social Behaviour and relate to rubbish bins and small fires in public spaces. While not minimising the risks involved this allows for intervention from partners in Scottish Fire and Rescue (SFRS) and Education to work together to address this type of conduct. We have well developed links with our City partners and act cohesively, pursuing every opportunity to prevent this type of conduct.

Aberdeen City saw a slight increase **(+2.9%)** in recorded Hate Crime over the comparative reporting period in 2020, which equates to 5 additional incidents. It is assessed that this small rise indicates enhanced confidence around reporting and ease of reporting. To further contextualise, there are a significant number of Hate Crimes with Police Officers as victims. These invariably relate to incidents where officers are dealing with an incident or custody and racist or homophobic comments are made towards them.

We continue to work closely with groups, partners and communities to increase awareness of Hate Crime, reduce tolerance of it, and encourage the reporting of it whether directly to Police or via third parties, accepting this may mean an increase in the number of reports.

We have supported our work with awareness campaigns such as the Hidden Harms initiative referred to above, and our links with organisations such as Grampian Racial Equality Council (GREC) remain strong, as critical friends. Throughout August, we were key partners in the '#AntiStigmaAberdeen' awareness raising month, which included stigma around Hate as a central theme.

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Our involvement in awareness raising events such as these are key to public confidence in reporting crimes to us.



Acquisitive Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Crimes of Dishonesty - Recorded	2,947.6	2,660	2,308	-287.6	-9.8%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	42.9%	34.7%	46.7%		-8.2%
Housebreakings - Recorded	321.0	196	237	-125.0	-38.9%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded ⁵	335.6	266	195	-69.6	-20.7%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	25.9%	30.1%	37.9%		+4.2%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	123.8	108	71	-15.8	-12.8%
Common Theft - Recorded	702.0	573	501	-129.0	-18.4%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	28.3%	25.3%	33.9%		-3.0%
Theft by Shoplifting - Recorded	993.4	776	774	-217.4	-21.9%
Theft by Shoplifting - Detection Rate	69.3%	59.0%	72.5%		-10.3%

⁵ Theft from secure motor vehicle; Theft from insecure motor vehicle; Theft of a motor vehicle; Attempted Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) - Detection Rates	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av.
Overall	26.7%	37.2%	38.8%	+10.5%
Dwelling House	34.8%	32.8%	50.0%	-2.0%
Non-Dwelling (e.g. Sheds)	18.9%	36.9%	19.5%	+18.0%
Other Premises (e.g. Commercial)	29.2%	44.4%	47.6%	+15.2%

Looking at specific crime types, Housebreaking in Aberdeen City continues to fall significantly with a decrease **(-38.9%)** in recorded crime, whilst the detection rate overall has risen by over **10%** against the 5 Year Average.

This period has also seen a notable reduction in Motor Vehicle Crime **(-20.7%)** against the 5 Year Average. Detection rates are steady and are **4.2%** above the 5 Year Average. We have also seen a continued reduction of **12.8%** in Theft of Motor Vehicles across Aberdeen City compared to the 5 Year Average.

We partly attribute these encouraging returns to effective investigation and enforcement resulting in a number of prolific housebreakers in the City being incarcerated for extended periods. In addition a drive to feed the intelligence picture and close scrutiny of the intelligence

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product ensures we target the right people and patrol the right places to minimise the traumatic effect this most invasive of crimes has on victims.

Crimes of Dishonesty and Common Theft have seen a continued reductions, with overall decreases of **9.8% and 18.4%** respectively, against the 5 Year Averages.

Robust, proactive policing plans are in place to ensure Aberdeen City remains a hostile environment for those intent on committing Crimes of Dishonesty.

We welcome these returns cautiously in view of the context and that communities are staying in their properties more. However, we will continue with the simple philosophy to prevent crime wherever possible and where this cannot be achieved to detect it. Local Policing will continue high-visibility foot patrols during the hours of darkness as part of the 'After Dark' initiative. A crucial element of this approach is the promotion of the message to communities that by taking personal responsibility for the security of their homes and vehicles they can help ensure they do not become victims of crime.

Increasing use and reliance in technology has resulted in expected increases in reported 'Non-Contact' and in particular, Cyber Enabled Frauds. The newly formed Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team (DCECT), within the Criminal Investigation Department, have responsibility for all investigative and preventative strategies in this area of criminality.

The Crime Reduction Unit will continue to work with DCECT to identify vulnerable groups to develop ongoing, targeted campaigns to raise awareness of Cyber-crime, target harden and expand knowledge.



Road Safety and Road Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
People Seriously Injured	N/A	10	18	-8	-44.4%
Children Seriously Injured ⁶	N/A	0	1	-1	-100.0%
People Killed	N/A	1	0	+1	0.0%
Children Killed ⁶	N/A	0	0	0	0.0%
Advice/Education Given to Motorists ⁷	N/A	8,335	6,126	2,209	+36.0%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Mobile Phone Offences	138.2	38	45	-100.2	-72.5%
Speeding Offences	916.8	641	514	-275.8	-30.1%
Drink/ Drug Driving Offences	144.6	247	167	+102.4	+70.8%
Dangerous Driving	48.0	79	63	+31.0	+64.6%
Disqualified Driving	46.0	40	40	-6.0	-13.0%
Detected Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	3,487.2	2,741	2,665	-746.2	-21.4%
Parking Fixed Penalties Issued ⁸	397.6	62	105	-335.6	-84.4%

⁶ Child is under 16 years of age.

⁷ North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray) figures by Road Policing Officers.

⁸ North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray).

Tragically one individual lost their life on an Aberdeen City road during the period under review, while there were no fatalities during the same period last year. 2020 saw significantly reduced levels of vehicular traffic as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions and therefore the reduction in people seriously injured is noteworthy. The loss of any life or serious injury to any person on our roads is catastrophic for those involved and has significant widespread impact and as such this remains the key motivation behind our commitment to improving Road Safety.

The reporting period saw notable increases in Drink/Drug driving (+70.8%) and Dangerous Driving (+64.6%) offences against the 5 Year Averages. The increase in the number of Drink/Drug driving offences can be directly attributed to the increased use of roadside drug screening tests. The availability of such devices meaning that the offences are now easily identifiable. Focused initiatives, such as the 'Summer Drink/Drug Driving' campaign, also ensured targeted activity to identify offenders.


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Whilst there is a significant increase in Dangerous Driving against the 5 Year Average, this is not a sudden jump as it has increased incrementally over that period.

As evidenced in the graph below, the larger increase in reported Dangerous Driving from last year can be seen in Seaton, City Centre and Kittybrewster. These figures can partially be attributed to Police pro-activity in these areas and in particular an operation relating to an unauthorised car meet at Queens Links where five drivers were charged. Furthermore Operation Armour, which focused on the Theft of Motor Vehicles, led to four Dangerous Driving charges in Kittybrewster and the City Centre.

The gradual increase in recorded Dangerous Driving episodes may also align to the wider public use of visually recorded evidence in the form of dash-cam and mobile phone footage.

 This image cannot currently be displayed.

The number of offences pertaining to Mobile Phones has dropped significantly **(-72.5%)** and may well be attributed to the significant successful enforcement and education activity undertaken over recent years. The availability of 'hands-free' technology has also contributed to the steady decline in offending.

The reduction in the number of detected Speeding Offences **(-30.1%)** against the 5 Year Average remains attributable to both the positive enforcement/preventative activity previously undertaken and continued lower levels of traffic due to the pandemic.

Unfortunately the continuation of various restrictions throughout the year resulted in the further cancellation of several well established partnership campaigns such as 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' and 'Rider Refinement North'. Despite this, local Road Safety initiatives remained a constant



focus of the Community Policing Teams (CPTs) across Aberdeen under Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce), the North East's overarching Policing strategy to increase Road Safety and reduce Road Crime. Through the review of statistical data, community consultation and interaction with partners, Officers responded to Road Safety concerns with targeted activity, positively influencing driver behaviour through education and enforcement.

On separate dates throughout the review period officers from the West End and Hazelhead CPT, in partnership with Aberdeen City Council Wardens, carried out a number of local initiatives targeting speeding and inappropriate parking in the area of Airyhall and Broomhill primary schools. A number of motorists were dealt with by means of enforcement and education and the activity was supported by local media messaging.

During August, following concerns expressed by local elected representatives and business leaders, the City Centre CPT ran a pilot initiative in respect of the Anti-Social use of E-scooters. Irresponsible use of E-scooters often presents a risk to pedestrians, other road users and the rider themselves. As a result 13 scooters were seized following illegal use and a number of other riders were educated. In addition 21 other road users were dealt with for a range of offences further improving safety within the City Centre but striking the balance of enforcement and education where it was appropriate to do so.

During the summer months a dedicated resource was assigned to Operation Armour, a bespoke local initiative tackling the Theft of Motor Vehicles and pedal cycles across the City. Stolen vehicles often create increased risk to other road users through a variety of different offences. As a result of the proactive efforts, 13 individuals were variously charged in relation to vehicle Thefts and Road Traffic offences. Further to this, the team successfully recovered a number stolen vehicles, removing a significant risk from our roads.

Building on local efforts, Officers from the North East Road Policing Unit (NERPU) continued to support communities across Aberdeen by conducting targeted activity aligned to national Road Safety campaigns and patrolling key routes identified as 'hot spots' through review of analytical data. Some of the national campaigns supported during the review period included the Motorcycle, Seatbelt, Vulnerable Road Users and Summer Drink/Drug Drive campaigns.

During June, in conjunction with partners, an operation to improve cyclist safety over a period of six weeks commenced. This included the patrolling of key cyclist routes and hot spot locations, along with bespoke CPT initiatives allowing positive engagement with cyclists through the provision of complimentary safety equipment. This was supported by an extensive media campaign lead by NESTRANS and a live Facebook 'chat' involving Police and partners. The chat received high levels of positive public engagement with over 209 comments. Further to this, Operation Close Pass days of action were carried out, along with designated patrols across the city. This operation has and continues to be received positively both in local and national media.

In a bid to reduce Road Crime, a day of action in relation to Operation Contemn were conducted. This is a joint intelligence led operation involving Officers from Roads Policing and Proactive CID, targeting individuals utilising the road network in furtherance of their criminal

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activities. As a result over 100 vehicles and occupants were stopped/checked, with 16 individuals being charged with varying offences.

As a period of 'normality' occurred during the summer months an apparent emerging trend pertaining to 'car cruise meet' events developed. Car Cruise Meets' are unofficial gatherings of local car enthusiasts, often known as 'cruisers' from throughout the area. 'Car cruise meets' can attract significant attendance, often resulting in incidents of Anti-Social driving and behaviour from attendees, disrupting local communities. The journeys to and from venues by attendees can also often result in the commission of Road Traffic Offences and heightened Road Safety concerns. In response and in a bid to maximise safety a targeted operation was put in place, providing strategic direction and outlining best practice in dealing with such events. This has since influenced our response to similar gatherings which have passed without incident.

We remained committed to the North East Scotland Strategic Road Casualty Group, continuing to identify and target routes with significant collision histories, appropriately balancing high visibility and unmarked patrols, utilising enforcement and education in order to improve road safety and driver behaviour.

Our activity has been aligned to the Priority Focus Areas contained in the Scottish Government's new National Road Safety Framework, issued in February 2021 which sets out a vision for Scotland to have the best road safety performance in the world by 2030 and an ambitious long term goal where no one is seriously injured or killed on our roads by 2050. The Framework builds on what has already been achieved here in Scotland over the last decade. It sets out new strategic outcomes for road safety, built around the safe system approach, coupled with a comprehensive performance management system to monitor progress. We will work diligently with partners to ensure a whole system approach is adopted.

As mentioned above, the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' campaign was cancelled as a result of the pandemic restrictions. Following a review of its continued suitability, plans are now in place to replace this event with the Police Scotland 'New Drivers Scheme'. This scheme comprises of a presentation aimed at new and young drivers and raises awareness of road safety issues. It is targeted at people learning to drive, people who have recently acquired a full licence and employers of new drivers. By providing key safety messaging, reinforced through a hard-hitting case study involving real life footage, the scheme also provides a space for discussion to allow a change in perceptions at the most appropriate time – when young drivers are first going on public roads. The scheme has been positively evaluated.



Protecting People at Risk of Harm

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Group 2 Crimes - Recorded ⁹	340.8	360	306	+19.2	+5.6%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	59.0%	46.7%	60.1%		-12.3%
Rape - Recorded	49.6	38	52	-11.6	-23.4%
Rape - Detection Rate	57.7%	52.6%	67.3%		-5.1%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported	N/A	1,228	1,347	-119	-8.8%
Domestic Abuse related Crime Detection Rate	N/A	67.6%	80.7%		-13.1%

⁹ Group 2 Crimes of Indecency include Rape, Assault with intent to Rape, Indecent Assault, Sexual Assault, Prostitution related crime and others with an indecent element.

This reporting period continued to draw significant focus in all the areas of public protection, harm reduction and vulnerabilities.

The Division continued to actively promote local multi-agency messaging and national campaigns. The national '#GetConsent' campaign was heavily promoted across the division as part of internal and external awareness raising regarding sexual offences linked to vulnerabilities associated with alcohol and with a particular focus on how to identify the signs and react accordingly.

The emphasis on awareness raising with respect to Hidden Harms, predominant during the lockdown periods, was also continued. Divisional leads for Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking, Adult Protection, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences and Child Protection further enhanced this through a series of media interviews.

The widely recognised potential for delayed demand resulted in more frequent strategic partnership meetings across the areas of public protection and ensured that not only the Police, but all partners involved in supporting victims, were aware of the current trends as restrictions were relaxed and better placed to respond.

Following a period of reduction during lockdown and then an initial increase as the night-time economy opened up again and restrictions were eased, there has continued to be a rise in reported Group 2 Crimes, seeing an increase against the 5 Year Average (+5.6%).



Communications related offences or those linked to the use of social media are partly attributed to this and are reflective of the increasing use and reliance of mobile phones and social media in today's society and featured heavily in national and local campaigns highlighted in previous reports. Such enquiries are often complex and protracted and can have a delayed impact on detection rates as a result. In addition, the increase in reporting of non-recent offences or offences which occurred out with the forensic window, limit the potential for forensic evidence. To ensure all evidential opportunities have been explored in relation to Group 2 crimes, all enquiries have been reviewed and, through the newly appointed Group 2 'Champions', supported by the Divisional portfolio holder. All Rape enquiries are led by Senior Investigating Officers with local and national scrutiny and monitoring in place to ensure such enquiries are investigated fully and to a high standard. Feedback from victims through our partners continues to be positive in this area.

By the end of the reporting period, there were **119** less Domestic Abuse incidents recorded than in the previous year (the introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 does not allow for 5 Year Average comparison). There is a reduction (**-13.1%**) in the Aberdeen City detection rate for Domestic incidents compared to the previous year. As stated, throughout the periods of lockdown, there was particular emphasis on Hidden Harms and abuse which could take place within homes. The City saw an increase in reports of Domestic Abuse at this time when, along with partners, we communicated strong messaging regarding support for those experiencing abuse.

As highlighted previously, we continue to utilise the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) framework and processes to assist victims and their families, whilst the Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (MATAC) partners focus on higher risk perpetrators to protect those potentially at risk. The MARAC process across Aberdeen City and the wider North East is co-ordinated and managed by the Divisional Partnership Co-ordination Unit with a dedicated Sergeant at the helm. Both MARAC and MATAC processes are well embedded in our partnership work and continue to evolve through refinements to meet emerging risk and or trends.

The number of referrals made to MARAC has more than doubled since 2018, when statistical recording in relation to MARAC started. During this reporting period, 222 MARAC referrals were made in Aberdeen, in comparison with 106 in 2018. Working closely with our partners allows us to ensure those most at risk and vulnerable to any form of Domestic Abuse, are receiving support.

The MATAC process is managed through the national Domestic Abuse Task Force and we have a close and effective working relationship with the team, ensuring the appropriate perpetrators are referred. During this reporting period we have increased the number of perpetrators managed through MATAC.

Positively, the numbers of requests for disclosures of information under the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) continue to rise steadily as people become more familiar with it and understand the information that can be provided. Across the division, 71 applications were made under the scheme during the same time period (April – September) in 2019, and 109 applications in 2021.



Serious Organised Crime

	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Proceeds of Crime Act Seizures ¹⁰	£136,009.71	£43,707.00	£66,929.28	-£92,302.71	-67.9%
Drug Possession Offences	836.2	758	782	-78.2	-9.4%
Drug Supply Offences	116.4	144	123	27.6	+23.7%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Drug Deaths	N/A	32	23	+9	+39.1%

¹⁰ A Division (Aberdeenshire, Moray & City) reported seizures (reported figures only, this may mean that the money might finally be returned to the defender, forfeit at court or seized and remitted to Crown office Procurator Fiscal Service).

Looking forward, North East Division continues to lead strongly in our approach to Serious and Organised Crime. Our focused monitoring of emerging trends allows us to tackle the widespread and ever more sophisticated nature of this area effectively.

‘County Lines’ remains a national issue and North East Division are utilising a wide range of investigative tactics available which has included ‘joined up’ investigations with other forces and partners nationally.

Organised Crime Groups from England continue to pose the greatest threat in terms of ‘County Lines’ activity and remain prevalent across most areas of Aberdeen.

By using the 4D (DETECT-DISRUPT-DETER-DIVERT) methodology, some successes have been seen in terms of enforcement and our work with key partners to support and signpost those linked to Organised Crime assessed as being in need of intervention.

SOC Interventions continue to develop links into rehabilitation and addiction peer groups. Intervention support ensures diversion from Cuckooing can be in place for those at a vulnerable stage in their recovery.

The key message to local communities within Aberdeen City is to remain engaged with their Community Policing Teams by using both new and conventional communication methods. All information provided to us is assessed and allows us to act positively, while respecting confidentiality. This is a crucial tool in tackling Serious and Organised Crime.

Despite the monetary value of assets seized during the reporting period reducing compared to this period last year, it remains noteworthy that more than **£43,000** has been removed from criminals. With live cases continuing, this figure will inevitably increase and will be reported upon in the next reporting period.

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In support of public health our pro-activity was influenced during the review period by the various pandemic restrictions. A significant increase (+**23.7%**) in the number of Drug Supply Offences in comparison with this period last year is worthy of note, albeit the number of Drug Possession offences have dropped slightly (**4%**) over the same period. This demonstrates how Officers have successfully adapted to the challenges encountered, ensuring an agile approach to targeting drug dealers, disrupting their activities and carrying out effective enforcement.

Drug related deaths have risen compared to the same period last year which follows a national trend. We continue to work closely with partners and support services to better understand the causes of drug deaths and to signpost vulnerable individuals to referral pathways to support them through addiction and dependency at the earliest possible point of intervention.

To aid transparency, it was agreed that from 14 September 2021 the Scottish Government, National Records of Scotland (NRS), Public Health Scotland (PHS) and Police Scotland will work together to produce a Drug Related Death dashboard report on a quarterly basis, one quarter in arrears. Police Scotland will provide quarterly information on suspected Drugs Related Deaths by Division, gender and age (within a pre-defined range) of the deceased. These broad parameters will protect against personal identification.

Our data relationship with partner organisations through the Aberdeen Alcohol and Drug Partnership allowed us to recognise and respond to this rise at the time and increase harm reduction measures across the breadth of the Community Planning Partnership.

The Multi-Agency Assertive Outreach team continue to receive high numbers of referrals for service, with more than half engaging in service following this contact. They continue to forge new links around identifying at risk individuals and encouraging the protective factor of support around them.



Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

North East Division continues to work strongly in partnership with members of the North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board which includes members from local authority, education, health and other organisations with responsibility for publically accessible locations (PALs).

The Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer (CTLO) and partnerships department continues to support the Afghan resettlement program provide guidance to those currently resident within Aberdeen. Advice and assistance continues to be provided to local Elected Members, MPs and MSPs around personal security, in line with the threat level in the UK.

Prevent

The 'Prevent' referral process and in particular Prevent Multi-Agency Panels (PMAP) are now well established with all partners working effectively to manage people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. The recently appointed CTLO has a strong input into this process. Further PMAP training is scheduled for partners and the Police Prevent Delivery Unity and CTLO will lead utilising an appropriate delivery method. The Prevent sub-group continues to meet regularly to manage and review all partnership prevent activity.

Pursue

CT Investigative leads feed into the local Contest multi-agency meetings, ensuring that any emerging themes are shared and acted on appropriately in partnership with the group. Emerging themes, resulting from lockdown include an increase in cases with a cyber enabled element and in extreme right wing ideologies. Borders Policing Command continue to identify vessels deemed at increased security risk and conduct appropriate border checks. Operations are planned for coming months which will include our Local Contest Liaison Officers, ensuring local concerns are acted upon.

Protect

Engagement work continues with Scottish Government to seek to implement findings of the recent Protect Duty Consultation, which may have significant implications for any organisation with responsibility for PALs. The CTLO and tactical lead for Contest locally are proactively seeking updates on this in advance of any findings being published to ensure that Aberdeen is suitably prepared.

Local CONTEST Liaison Officers continue to undertake a vitally important role in providing security advice at these locations and the CTLO position ensures co-ordination of this work.

Prepare

The Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) program remains embedded in training packages in partner organisations. Work is in early stages to plan for an exercise to test the Police and partners preparedness to respond to a CT incident. The CTLO and tactical lead are to shadow such an exercise being undertaken in Tayside to ensure any learning will be implemented locally.



Miscellaneous

Stop and Search

Indicator	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021 (positive)
Legislative	689	273
Consensual	0	N/A
Number of Consensual Stop and Searches Refused	N/A	N/A

*Further Stop and Search data can be accessed at the following location: [Data Publication - Police Scotland](#)



ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection
DATE	23 February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service YTD April- Dec 21 Performance Report
REPORT NUMBER	SFR/22/047
DIRECTOR	Chay Ewing , Local Senior Officer, SFRS
CHIEF OFFICER	Group Commander Andrew Dick, SFRS
REPORT AUTHOR	Group Commander Andrew Dick, SFRS
TERMS OF REFERENCE	5.6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the performance of SFRS against the objectives contained within the Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the Committee consider and note the performance data provided in **Appendix A** in relation to the SFRS 2021/22 Performance Report

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report invites you to review the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Aberdeen City Performance year to date, April 21- Dec 21
- 3.2 This update shows the progress being made by the SFRS locally against the priorities and objectives for Aberdeen City.
- 3.3 This report allows scrutiny from Local Authority Partners to ensure that the priorities of the SFRS Strategic Plan, and the Aberdeen city Local Outcome Improvement Plan are being delivered.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no significant financial implications for the Council.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no significant legal implications for the Council.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

6.1 Not applicable

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Economy	Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper seeks contribution to fire safety which will assist achieve a safer place to live, work and visit.
People	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following LOIP Stretch Outcomes</p> <p>10. 25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026.</p> <p>11. Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.</p> <p>The paper seeks contribution to the Strategic Plan to reduce instances of deliberate fire setting and improve fire safety and prevention.</p>
Place	Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper seeks contribution to fire safety which will assist achieve a safer place to live, work and visit.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	
Organisational Design	
Governance	
Workforce	
Process Design	
Technology	
Partnerships and Alliances	

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	N/A
Privacy Impact Assessment	N/A
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not required.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix A – SFRS Aberdeen City April – Dec21 YTD Performance Report

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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YEAR TO DATE MONITORING REPORT

Covering the performance in support of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen City 2020-23



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

APRIL 2021 to DEC 2021

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

ABOUT THE STATISTICS IN THIS REPORT

The activity totals and other statistics quoted in this report are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review.

Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be differences in the period totals quoted in our reports after original publication which result from revisions or additions to the data on our systems.

From 2015-16 onwards responsibility for the publication of end-year statistical data transferred from the Scottish Government to the SFRS. This change of responsibility does not change the status of the figures quoted in this and other SFRS reports reported to the Committee.

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KPI 7- All fires in relevant premises as defined under Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.	
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KPI 12- Number of Multi-Storey Operational Assurance Visits undertaken	
KPI 13- Staff Competence	
KPI 14- Availability of appliances and specialist resources.	

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Aberdeen City performance report for the reporting period 1st April 2021 to the 31st December 2021. The report is aligned to and reports on progress against the priorities set out in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen City 2020 - 2023.

The information presented in this report provides a comparison against key performance indicators, the selected performance indicators are selected to best inform and support the priorities within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen City 2020-23. Each indicator displays the activity reflecting performance for year to date vs a specific target or previous 3 years rolling average. The performance indicators within the report support the local priorities:

- Priority 1 – Improving Fire Safety in the Home
- Priority 2 – Reducing Deliberate Fires
- Priority 3 – Improving Fire Safety in the Business Community
- Priority 4 – Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)
- Priority 5 – Effective Risk Management and Operational Preparedness

As well as supporting the five priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen City, SFRS activities and performance contribute to the wider priorities of Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA) Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and its 15 stretch outcomes. The SFRS is a statutory and active member of CPA's Outcome Improvement Groups and is committed to CPA's vision; "Aberdeen, a place where all people can prosper".




The figures in this report are provisional, to provide the Committee with the SFRS's direction of travel in Aberdeen City, in terms of performance against headline indicators and targets. Most figures will not change; however, members should note that there may be some small variations for some indicators when the final confirmed figures are published by the SFRS.











PERFORMANCE SUMMARY









The table below provides a summary of our year to date performance against headline indicators and annual targets. It aims to provide – at a glance – our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

Performance against Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2020-23

Year-to-Date Legend

	Below 3 Year Average
	Less than 10% above 3 Year Average
	More than 10% above 3 Year Average

Key Performance Indicator	April 2021- Dec 2021				RAG STATUS
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
Accidental Dwelling Fires 	195	191	175	154	
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties 	24	34	25	19	
Deliberate Secondary Fires 	318	192	205	239	
Deliberate Primary Fires 	64	85	70	69	
Fires in Non-Domestic Premises 	93	81	72	49	

<p>Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</p> 	1025	1150	951	995	
<p>Legislative Fire Safety Audits</p> 	212	341	110	175	Annual Target 485
<p>Home Fire Safety Visits</p> 	1914	2069	474	1141	Annual Target 2500
<p>Operational Intelligence</p> 	N/A	180	99	231	Annual Target 525
<p>Multi-Storey Operational Assurance Visits</p> 	N/A	127	98	159	Annual Target 236
<p>Staff Competence</p> 					On Target 174 staff 125 Comp 49 Dev
<p>Appliance/Resource Availability</p> 					Wholtime availability never below 96% RVDS availability 80%

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Of the 5 priority areas the following key performance indicators should be noted and are further explained in each indicators performance management section from page 9 onwards.

Accidental Dwelling Fires

The statistics against the key performance indicators show that we have a decrease compared to the three-year rolling average for Accidental Dwelling Fires.

Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties & Fatalities

Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties have decreased over the three-year average. There were no fatalities during this reporting period.

Deliberate Primary and Secondary Fires

Deliberate secondary Fires have increased by less than 10% compared to the three-year average, with deliberate secondary fires (grassland/scrub) contributing to the bulk of the calls.

Non-Domestic Fires

Non-Domestic Fires have decreased compared to the three-year average with the 34 incidents covering a variety of premise types with the highest numbers in halls of residence and care/nursing homes.

We continue to work with owners and occupiers through our Fire Safety Enforcement Programme and Post Fire Audits to reduce the number of Non-Domestic Fires.

False Alarm – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal

UFAS incidents have increased by less than 10% compared to the three-year average with Hospitals / medical facilities contributing to the bulk of the calls.

Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV)

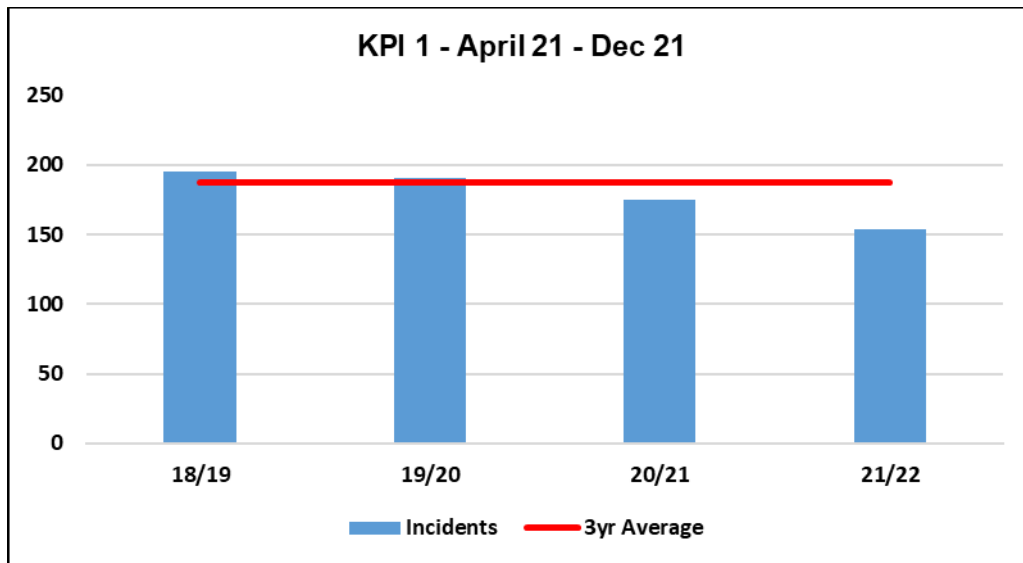
Despite COVID 19 restrictions and social distancing measures we have still carried out 1141 Home fire safety visits aimed at the most vulnerable and highest risk households.

Appliance/Resource Availability

Appliance availability has remained strong throughout the pandemic with only the occasional drop in availability of some specialist resources as we faced difficulty through COVID absence.

PRIORITY 1 – IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

KPI 1 - Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)



Breakdown of Locations

Area	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Airyhall, Broomhill & Garthdee	23	7	9	4
Bridge of Don	4	7	5	7
Dyce, Bucksburn & Danestone	4	5	11	4
George Street & Harbour	34	31	18	23
Hazelhead, Queens Cross & Countesswells	12	14	13	9
Hilton, Woodside & Stockethill	15	16	16	21
Kincorth, Nigg & Cove	11	10	7	7
Kingswells, Shedocksley & Summerhill	12	11	11	9
Lower Deeside	2	4	4	3
Midsocket & Rosemount	20	13	13	16
Northfield & Mastrick North	18	25	18	9
Tillydrone, Seaton & Old Aberdeen	20	24	30	27
Torry & Ferryhill	20	24	20	15

Table 1: Year to Date (April – December 2021) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	YTD
ADF's	195	191	175	154	Green

KPI 2 & 3 - ADF Fatal Casualties & - ADF Non-Fatal Casualties

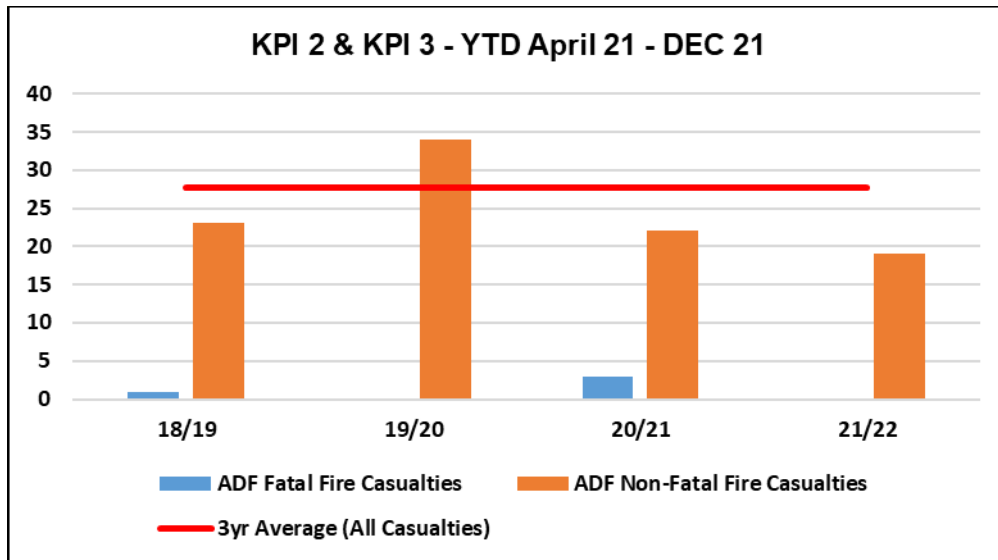
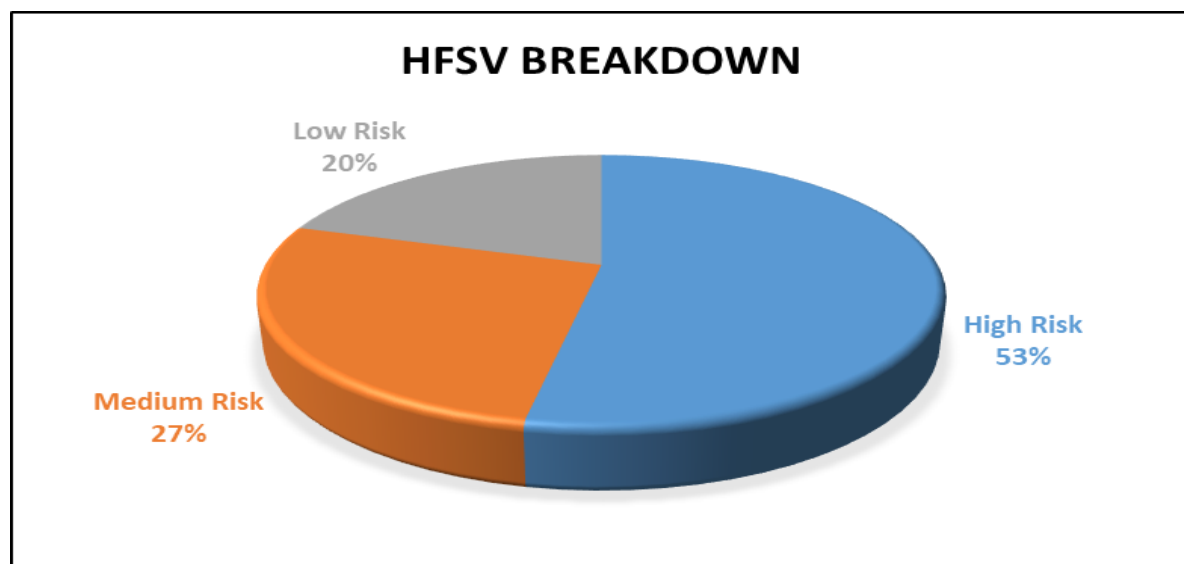


Table 2: Year to Date (April 21 to Dec 21) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	YTD
ADF Fatal Casualties	1	0	3	0	Green
ADF Non-Fatal Casualties	23	34	22	19	Green

KPI 4 – High Risk Home Fire Safety Visits YTD April 21- DEC 21



	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk	YTD Total	YTD
Home Fire Safety Visits	605	306	230	1141	Amber
	53%	27%	20%	N/A	Green

Priority 1 Description – Improving Fire Safety in the home

KPI 1 - Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)

The largest single type of primary fire in Aberdeen City is accidental fires in the home, similarly accidental dwelling fires are also the primary cause of most fire casualties and fatalities. Their prevention, therefore, is a key focus of the Service's community safety activity.

The reduction of fire casualties is clearly linked to this priority. The reduction of fire fatalities and casualties is at the core of our preventative and early intervention activities carried out throughout the Aberdeen City area. Significant contributory factors associated with the number of fire casualties and fatalities include, lifestyle, independent living strategies, smoking, consumption of alcohol and prescribed and non-prescribed drugs, Individual capacity and vulnerability, and ageing demographics.

KPI 2 - ADF Fatal Casualties

This KPI counts those people for whom fire has been clearly identified as the cause of death, including those who succumb due to their injuries sometime later. Those who succumb at, or after, the fire but where fire is **not** identified as the cause of death are not included in these figures.

As a target, the aim is to have **Zero ADF Fatal Casualties** in Aberdeen each year.

KPI 3 - ADF Non-Fatal Casualties

This KPI counts all types of non-fatal fire injury in the home, including precautionary checks.

As a target, the aim is to reduce the risk of injury from fire in the home, in an increasing Aberdeen population, by keeping fire injuries **below 32** each year.

KPI 4 - High Risk Home Fire Safety Visits

This measure counts the percentage of all home fire safety visits that are delivered to addresses that are identified as high risk.

As a target, the aim is that **61%** of all completed home fire safety visits are categorised as high risk.

What we aim to Achieve

- Improved community safety and wellbeing
- Reduction in number of accidental dwelling fires
- Reduction in number of casualties and fatalities resulting from accidental dwelling fires

Performance Management

There have been 154 ADF's reported year to date, which is below the three-year average. We are therefore showing green for achieving the annual target.

Accidental dwelling fires can have a significant negative impact upon both individuals, the wider community and are financially damaging to house holders and housing providers in terms of repair and the reinstatement of homes. Key contributory risk factors include, lifestyle, independent living strategies, smoking, consumption of alcohol and prescribed and non-prescribed drugs. Individual capability and vulnerability, and aging demographics.

There has been 0 ADF Fatal Casualties during this year to date. We are therefore showing green for achieving the annual target.

There have been 19 ADF Non-Fatal Casualties year to date, which is again below the three-year average showing green for achieving the annual target. It is worth noting however that 6 of these casualties were attributed to cooking or cooking left unattended and all 6 were as a precautionary check-up. Operational staff give advice and guidance after every incident as well as distributing fire safety information to any nearby addresses and neighbours.

Home Fire Safety Visits remain a key focus in our community safety activity to reduce accidental dwelling fires and casualties resulting from these. We continue to explore and develop partnerships throughout the area to identify those most vulnerable and/or at risk from fire and/or harm in the home. Through our contribution to Aberdeen City Community Safety Hub and the CPA collectively we have raised awareness of our referral process and promote a better understanding of fire risk in the home. The figures presented in the graph above show the number of HFSV's delivered year-to-date and are lower than we would hope for this time of year but represent the difficulties brought on with COVID 19 restrictions and social distancing limits.

The SFRS focus remains on delivery of high and very high risk HFSV's these are being carried out by both our Community Action Teams as well as operational front-line staff. We continue to monitor emerging risk and will adjust our delivery strategy in line with Scottish Government COVID 19 guidance, to protect both the public and our staff.

PRIORITY 2 – REDUCING DELIBERATE FIRES

KPI 5 – All - Deliberate Secondary Fires / Location

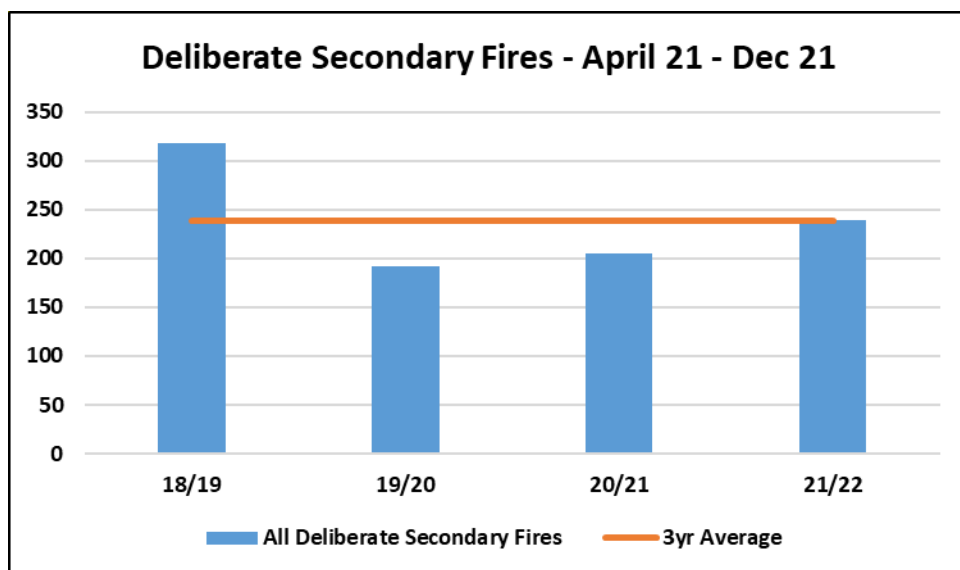


Table 3: Year to Date (April to December) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	YTD
All Deliberate Secondary Fires	318	192	205	239	Amber

Location	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Airyhall, Broomhill & Garthdee	3	6	4	24
Bridge of Don	14	5	5	6
Dyce, Bucksburn & Danestone	36	12	32	31
George St & Harbour	11	14	9	12
Hazlehead, Queens Cross & Countesswells	21	4	13	6
Hilton, Woodside & Stockethill	15	18	13	12
Kincorth, Nigg & Cove	46	20	10	58
Kingswells, Shedocksley & Summerhill	19	19	21	9
Lower Deeside	8	8	6	7
Midsocket & Rosemount	10	16	7	12
Northfield & Mastrick North	33	24	16	24
Tillydrone, Seaton & Old Aberdeen	20	17	12	17
Torry & Ferryhill	82	29	57	21

KPI 6 – All Deliberate Primary Fires / Location

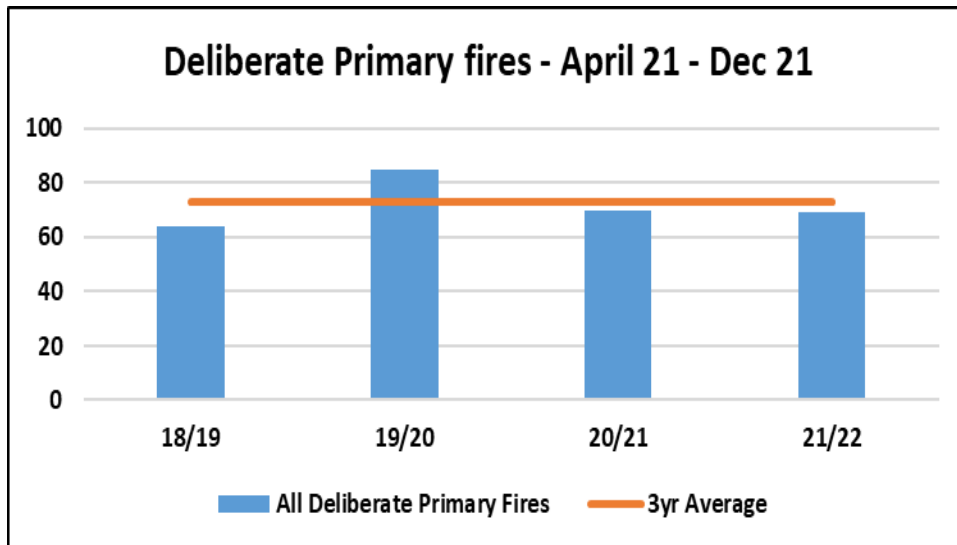


Table 4: Year to Date (April to Dec 21) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	YTD
All Deliberate Primary Fires	64	85	70	69	Green

Location	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Airyhall, Broomhill & Garthdee	1	2	2	3
Bridge of Don	1	1	2	4
Dyce, Bucksburn & Danestone	5	7	12	13
George St & Harbour	9	8	6	8
Hazlehead, Queens Cross & Countesswells	2	0	9	5
Hilton, Woodside & Stockethill	6	9	3	7
Kincorth, Nigg & Cove	6	11	3	8
Kingswells, Sheddocksley & Summerhill	4	2	7	3
Lower Deeside	1	2	2	0
Midstocket & Rosemount	4	7	4	1
Northfield & Mastrick North	4	12	9	6
Tillydrone, Seaton & Old Aberdeen	5	14	9	5
Torry & Ferryhill	16	10	2	6

Priority 2 Description – Reducing Deliberate Fires

These KPI's and targets account for all types of fire that are believed to have been started intentionally and are categorised as deliberate primary fires and deliberate secondary fires.

KPI 5 – Deliberate Secondary Fires

Deliberate secondary fires cover the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires along with fires in derelict property.

As a target the aim is to reduce the rate of deliberate secondary fires in Aberdeen by keeping these **below 266** for the reporting year.

KPI 6 – Deliberate Primary Fires

These deliberate fires cover the following property types;

- Fires in the home
- Fires in non-domestic premises
- Fires in motor vehicles

As a target we aim to reduce the rate of deliberate primary fires in Aberdeen by keeping these **below 102** for the reporting year.

What we aim to Achieve

- Reduce the number of deliberate fires by 10% (LOIP Key Driver 10.2)
- Improved community safety and wellbeing
- Improved data analysis to ensure resources are directed to maximise community outcomes
- Protect Aberdeen's natural and built environment.

Performance Management

Results for this indicator show that we are below the average number of deliberate fires in Aberdeen City compared against the average for comparable areas in Scotland. During this reporting period we have seen an increase in deliberate secondary fires but a welcome reduction in deliberate primary fires.

During this period the vast majority of the 239 deliberate secondary fires were fires involving grassland and refuse. Partnership work is underway to target the affected areas through Gramps walks and talks, school engagement sessions, the safety Hub and through the CPA as a project within the Stretch outcomes. (LOIP Key Driver 10.2).

As part of our Thematic Action Plans we focus on deliberate fires and carry out interventions in identified problem areas. We use both traditional and social media communication channels to highlight the hazards and consequences of deliberate fires and use our Fire-setter's intervention program to carryout engagement activity with youths that have been identified as being involved in Deliberate Fires.

PRIORITY 3 – Improving Fire Safety in the Business Community

KPI 7 - Non-Domestic Building Fires

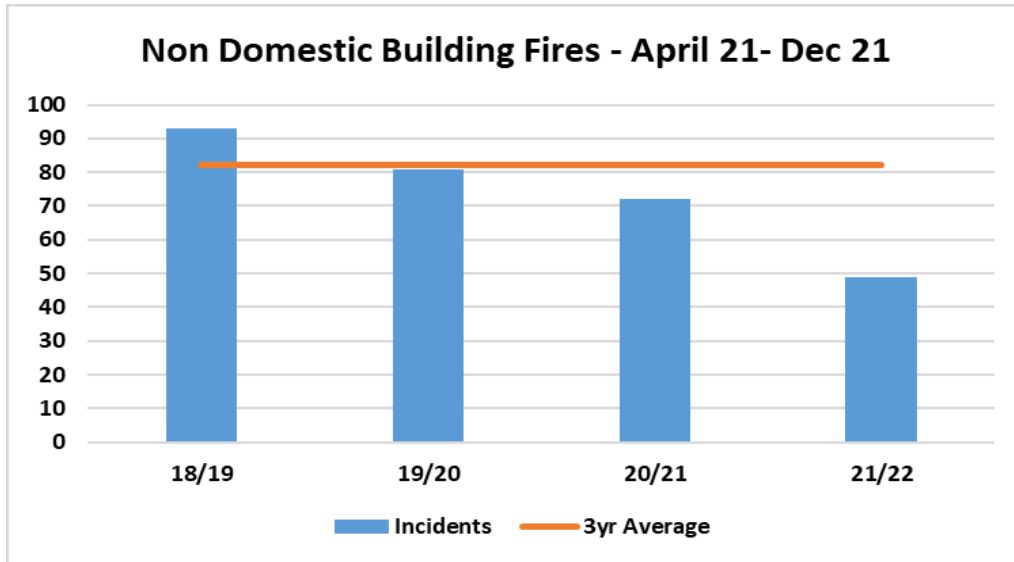


Table 4: Year to Date (April to Dec 21) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	YTD
Non-Domestic Building Fires	93	81	72	49	Green

Location	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Airyhall, Broomhill & Garthdee	5	3	1	2
Bridge of Don	3	0	5	1
Dyce, Bucksburn & Danestone	10	12	8	6
George St & Harbour	14	13	12	8
Hazelhead, Queens Cross & Countesswells	3	8	2	2
Hilton, Woodside & Stockethill	2	0	0	0
Kincorth, Nigg & Cove	10	11	6	5
Kingswells, Shedocksley & Summerhill	6	2	7	2
Lower Deeside	3	2	3	2
Midsocket & Rosemount	15	11	10	11
Northfield & Mastrick North	3	2	5	1
Tillydrone, Seaton & Old Aberdeen	5	7	7	4
Torry & Ferryhill	14	10	6	5

KPI 8 - Legislative Fire Safety Audits

Table 5: Completed Audits

Care / Children's Homes	221
Houses in Multiple Occupation	171
Hotel	42
Hospital	9
Post Fire	23
Other workplace	21
TOTAL	289

Priority 3 Description – Improving Fire Safety in the Business Community

These performance measures and targets cover the type of non-domestic premises applicable to Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 i.e. business premises, and is designed to reflect the effectiveness of fire safety management in respect of these types of buildings.

PM 7 – Non-Domestic Building Fires Applicable to the Act

As a performance measure we aim to reduce the rate of fires in non-domestic premises (where the Act applies) by keeping them **below 100** for the reporting year.

PM 8 & 9 – Legislative Fire Safety Audits

As a performance measure we aim to ensure all premises that meet the SFRS framework requirements are subject to an annual fire safety audit.

What we aim to achieve

- Through a risk-based audit programme, we will protect Aberdeen's built environment and heritage at the same time supporting economic growth.
- Enhanced understanding of fire safety legislation and responsibilities across the business sector.

Performance Management

A dedicated team of legislative fire safety enforcement and auditing officers work across Aberdeen City auditing relevant premises that are considered as presenting the highest risk to life in the event of a fire.

Throughout this uncertain period and with the pressure of COVID 19 restrictions we have concentrated on our Framework premises such as care homes, hospitals and hotels etc. At times throughout the pandemic and following Scottish government guidance, we worked intuitively creating and utilising a remote auditing procedure. This procedure was adopted nationally and is now used throughout Scotland. It protects our staff and the public from possible exposure to COVID 19. Although not ideal it did give us a path forward when many establishments were unavailable for physical visits. With the recent lifting of some restrictions we are back to physical visits and as shown above striving to reach our annual target.

PRIORITY 4 – Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

KPI 10 – Number of UFAS Incidents

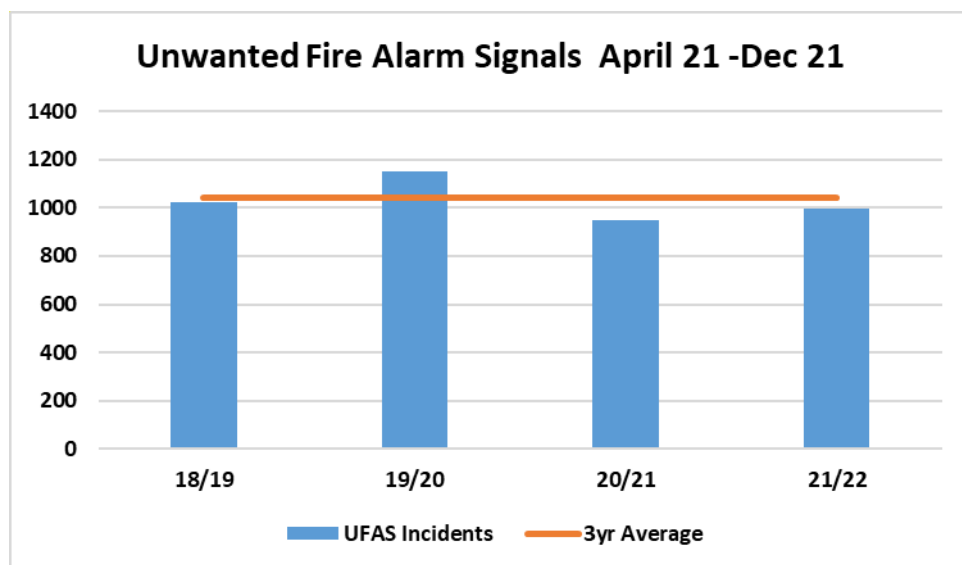


Table 6: Year to Date (April – Dec 21) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	YTD
Unwanted Fire alarm signals	1025	1150	951	995	Amber

Location	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Airyhall, Broomhill & Garthdee	34	54	54	50
Bridge of Don	58	63	55	48
Dyce, Bucksburn & Danestone	126	131	110	110
George St & Harbour	179	215	126	149
Hazlehead, Queens Cross & Countesswells	53	48	36	41
Hilton, Woodside & Stockethill	13	13	4	12
Kincorth, Nigg & Cove	79	107	94	120
Kingswells, Sheddocksley & Summerhill	50	65	62	52
Lower Deeside	42	34	31	40
Midstocket & Rosemount	259	257	223	232
Northfield & Mastrick North	9	15	20	6
Tillydrone, Seaton & Old Aberdeen	44	59	41	55
Torry & Ferryhill	79	89	95	80

Priority 4 Description – reducing unwanted Fire alarm signals

Automatic Fire alarms (AFA) are fundamental to providing early warning from fire, giving people the chance to evacuate safely. However, to be effective, they must be properly installed and maintained, and a good fire safety management regime must be in place by the duty holder, so they do not activate when there is no fire.

Every Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) from an AFA has an impact in terms of unnecessary blue light journeys, redirecting SFRS resources away from other activities such as community safety work and causing considerable disruption to businesses.

KPI 10 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

As a headline target, the aim is to improve fire safety management and awareness, by reducing the number of attendances to unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) from automatic systems in non-domestic buildings to **less than 1375** each year.

What we aim to Achieve

- Reduced impact on businesses, communities and the SFRS, creating capacity to deliver against other local and national priorities.
- Reduce SFRS' carbon footprint through less vehicle movements.
- Reduction in unnecessary demand on retained firefighters and their primary employers.
- Reduced road risk for SFRS operational personnel and the general public.

Performance Management

The table below lists the 5 property types that had persistent call-outs due to UFAS April – Dec 21

Property Types	No. of UFAS
Hospitals	187
Purpose Built Office	98
Student Halls of Residence	50
Education / College University	43
Sheltered Housing	39

SFRS personnel proactively engage with any premises that are identified as “repeat offenders” to assist them in developing strategies and procedures that will reduce false alarms of all types.

SFRS have carried out a consultation nationally and this is covered in our Thematic report to be presented at today's meeting.

PRIORITY 5 – Effective Risk Management and Operational Preparedness

PM 11 – Operational Intelligence

Table 7: Year to Date Performance

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Annual Target
Operational Intelligence Visits	45	79	87		RED	525

PM 12 – Multi-Storey Operational Assurance Visits

Table 8: Year to Date Performance

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Annual Target
Multi-Storey Operational Assurance Visits	31	59	54		AMBER	236

PM 13 – Staff Competence

Table 9

	Total	Competent	Development	Red	Amber	Green	Beyond Target
Firefighter	110	76	34	20	11	3	
Crew Commander	41	30	11				
Watch Commander	16	13	3				
Senior Manager	7	6	1				

PM 14 – Appliance/Resource Availability

Table 10: Year to Date Performance

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	Annual Target
Retained	75.41%	82.35%	83.70%		80.92%	

Wholetime availability has remained strong throughout the year and in line with policy has never dropped below 96 % of resource available on any given day.

Priority 4 Description – Effective Risk Management and Operational Preparedness

Risk Management and operational preparedness are key areas of work for the SFRS. For Aberdeen City this means;

- Knowing what the risks are and making appropriate plans to ensure we are resilient and informed to respond effectively to any event at that risk.
- Being prepared to respond to national threats or major emergencies.
- Firefighters being trained and equipped to deal with emergencies safely and effectively and our stations being ready to respond.

KPI 11 – Operational Intelligence

Each operational watch is tasked with undertaking 7 operational intelligence inspections each 7-week cycle. These will be a combination of new inspections and re-visits to validate the currency of the information held.

As a performance target we aim to complete 525 operational intelligence visits across Aberdeen during the reporting year.

KPI 12 – Multi-Storey Operational Assurance Visits

Each identified multi-storey premises in Aberdeen City should receive a quarterly inspection.

As a performance target we aim to inspect 59 residential multi-storey premises every quarter.

KPI 13 – Staff Competence

On initial appointment, and upon promotion, all personnel enter a period of development where it is expected that they follow an appropriate development plan that will see them achieve competency in role within a defined period.

For new appointments there is a development period of 36 months. For newly promoted personnel achieving competence is expected within 12-24 months.

As a performance target we aim to have all personnel competent in role within these defined timescales.

KPI 14 – Appliance/Resource Availability

Good application and efficient use of attendance management, crewing and resourcing policies assists us to keep, as far as reasonably possible, all appliances available at all times. It should be noted that whole-time availability in Aberdeen City has not dropped below 96% at any time during the pandemic and we expect this figure to improve as we move forward to more settled times.

As a performance target we aim to achieve 100% resource availability for the reporting year.

What we aim to Achieve

- Support the wellbeing and safety of the public, SFRS personnel and other emergency responders
- Improved community resilience.

A Fire and Rescue Service that can respond effectively and efficiently across Aberdeen, and beyond

Performance Management

Due to the restrictions of COVID 19 Risk Management and operational preparedness performance indicators have been problematic to meet especially in relation to Operational Intelligence. Premise being closed and having their own restrictions in place have hampered efforts to reach targets.

An OI improvement plan has been implemented for the area giving stations additional support/direction which will assist in reducing the time each OI takes and assist with the workload. This is being supported by the OI team.

Multi-Storey Operational Assurance Visits are slightly lower than would be expected for the time of year again due to restrictions that were in place.

Staff competence is back on track due to the support of the local training team which has included catch-up assessments due to COVID impact and local mitigation measures.

A Thematic report on our specialist capabilities is to be presented today to further highlight our current operational preparedness.

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection
DATE	23 February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report – Rescue and Specialist Support
REPORT NUMBER	SFR/22/046
DIRECTOR	Chay Ewing, Local Senior Officer, SFRS
CHIEF OFFICER	Andy Dick, Group Commander, SFRS
REPORT AUTHOR	Bryan Nelson, Station Commander, SFRS
TERMS OF REFERENCE	5.6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report – Rescue and Specialist Support

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the Committee consider and note the information provided in this report. **Appendix A** Thematic Report – Rescue and Specialist Support (Aberdeen City)
- 2.2 Note that the Local Senior Officer will make arrangements with the clerk to facilitate a visit(s) to SFRS facilities in Aberdeen.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report invites you to review the rescue and Specialist support available in the Aberdeen City area for use throughout Scotland if required.
- 3.2 This update shows the progress being made by the SFRS to ensure specialist rescue appliances, equipment and skills are available throughout the country and in this case the Aberdeen City area.
- 3.3 It is the intention of the Local Senior Officer to make arrangements for members of the Public Protection Committee to visit SFRS facilities in Aberdeen in 2022. This will allow an opportunity for members of the committee to learn more about

the operations of the SFRS. The Local Senior Officer will take this forward with the clerk to the committee.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no significant financial implications for Aberdeen City Council

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no significant legal implications for Aberdeen City Council

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

6.1 Not applicable

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Economy	Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper contributes to specialist rescue capabilities which will assist with achieving a safer place to live, work and visit.
People	Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper contributes to specialist rescue capabilities which will assist with achieving a safer place to live, work and visit.
Place	Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper contributes to specialist rescue capabilities which will assist with achieving a safer place to live, work and visit.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report

Customer Service Design	
Organisational Design	
Governance	
Workforce	
Process Design	
Technology	
Partnerships and Alliances	

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	N/A
Privacy Impact Assessment	N/A
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not required.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix A – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report- Rescue and Specialist Support

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER AREA

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT

Rescue and Specialist Support – Aberdeen City / ACAM

Report Ref SFR/22/046

1 INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service operationally within Aberdeen City consists of 3 Wholetime Fire Stations (North Anderson Drive / Central / Altens) and a Retained Duty Fire Station (Dyce). These stations and their teams while providing the core operational cover are also trained in a number of specialist skills varying from Urban Search and Rescue(USAR) to Technical Rope Rescue (TRR).

This report will detail the location of these skills within the city, the training in place to maintain competence in these skills, the current competency levels within our specialist teams and a summary of Operational Incidents / Turnouts these specialist resources have attended in the last 3 years.

This report will also give some specific detail on the creation of the Technical Rope Rescue resource at Altens Community Fire Station which is the only TRR resource in the North Service Delivery Area (SDA).

The resources that will be detailed below while located within Aberdeen City are National resources.

2 SFRS Specialist Skills within Aberdeen City

2.1 North Anderson Drive Community Fire Station

- Major Incident Unit – USAR (Urban Search and Rescue / Heavy Rescue)
- DIM Vehicle – HazMat – Detection / Identification / Monitoring – this vehicle while maintained and transported to incidents by the crews at NAD is operated by specialist Senior Commanders on scene.
- MTA / SORU – Marauding Terrorist Attack Teams / Specialist Operations Response Vehicle
- SWAH 2 – Safe Working at Heights Level 2

2.2 Central Community Fire Station

- Water Rescue – Swift Water Rescue Technicians (SRT) and a boat response
- Mass Decontamination(MD) – 2 MD Units transported with a hook lift prime mover
- Aerial Appliance

2.3 Altens Community Fire Station

- Technical Rope Rescue
- Command Support Unit (CSU) – Enhanced Logistic Support (ELS)
- Wildfire Unit including Kubota All-Terrain Vehicle
- Environmental Unit / Damage Control Unit / Foam Unit / Timber Unit (POD systems)

2.4 Dyce Community Fire Station

- Incident Support Vehicle (ISV)
- Fire Investigation

3 Training / Maintenance of skills

- 3.1 SFRS Training Centre - Portlethen is a National Training Centre which has recently received significant investment and is located on the outskirts of the city. This modern training centre has core skills (BA – Breathing Apparatus, RTC – Road Traffic Collision etc) training areas but also has specific areas/buildings dedicated to specialist skills training this includes a specially designed Technical Rope Rescue Training Facility. Extensive MTA training took place on this site (September / October 2021) to ensure a MTA capability was available at North Anderson Drive (supporting MTA teams – COP 26).
- 3.2 SFRS National Training Team fully supported by the LSO / ACAM Training Team schedules all required maintenance of skills training linked to specialist skills. This may involve members of our teams attending courses at National Training Centres out with the area in Perth / Glasgow / Edinburgh.
- 3.3 The ongoing assessment of SFRS specialist training needs within Aberdeen City / ACAM is in the form of an annual Training Needs Analysis (TNA) / Training Skills Analysis (TSA) carried out by the Training Senior Commander within the ACAM LSO Command Team. This TNA / TSA ensures that the requirements of the specialist teams within Aberdeen City / ACAM is known and projected deficiencies can be planned for and negated by a maintenance training program for existing specialist trained team members or by upskilling new team members.
- 3.4 The National Training team locally as well as the LSO training team have some of the most highly skilled instructors in Water Rescue, Technical Rope Rescue and Urban Search and Rescue in the country and this training program is given further support by Senior Commanders within Aberdeen City / ACAM holding the positions of National Capability / Specialism leads / deputy leads in Technical Rope Rescue, MTA, Enhanced Logistical Support (Command Support Units) and Wildfire.

4 Specialist Teme Capability / Competency

Abbreviation	Definition
ALP	Aerial Appliance
DIM	Detection, Identification and Monitoring
HazMAT	Hazardous Materials
MD	Mass Decontamination
MTA	Marauding Terrorist Attack
PM	Prime Mover
SRT	Swift Water Rescue Technician
SWAH	Safe Working at Heights
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue

4.1 North Anderson Drive

Q01	USAR Tech	MTA	SWAH Level 2
Amber (9)	6	8	7
Blue (9)	7	8	9
Green (9)	8	9	9
Red (10)	7	6	8
White (10)	7	7	10

4.2 Central

Q02	ALP OP	ALP Driver	MD OP	PM Driver	SRT	Boat OP	Trailer Driver
Amber	8	2	8	2	11	3	2
Blue	8	3	11	3	11	3	2
Green	8	4	11	5	10	3	4
Red	6	4	10	1	12	4	1
White	5	4	8	3	10	3	4

4.3 Altens

Q03	LGV Driver	PM Driver	ICU Driver	Rope Van Driver	Kubota Driver	RRS	RRT	RRO
Amber	4	2	3	3	3	2	5	1
Blue	4	3	3	3	2	2	6	1
Green	5	3	3	3	4	3	3	2
Red	3	3	3	3	4	2	5	3
White	4	1	1	3	3	3	6	0

5 Specialist Resources – Operational Activity / Turnouts 2018 – present day

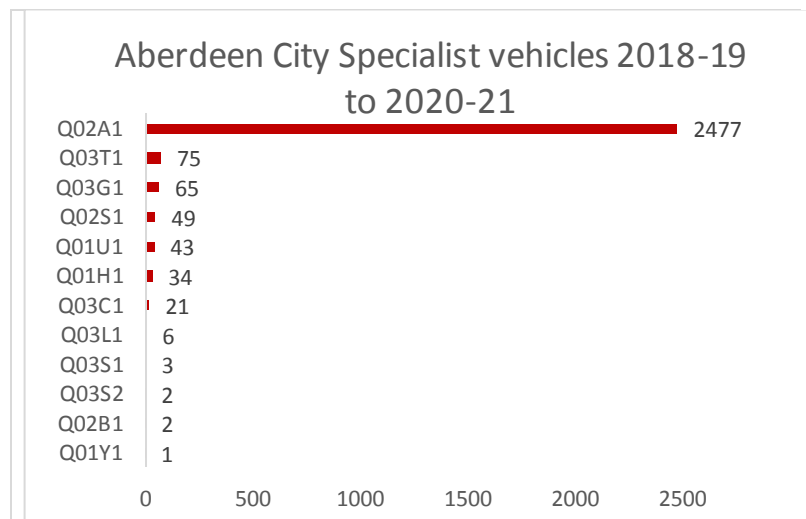
5.1

Aberdeen City Specialist Vehicle Turnouts 3 Years + YTD							
Station	Type	Callsign	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD	Grand Total
NAD	DIM	Q01H1	7	19	8	7	41
	USAR	Q01U1	14	11	18	21	64
	SORU/MTA	Q01Y1		1		1	2
Central	Aerial App	Q02A1	734	1096	647	241	2718
	Boat	Q02B1	2				2
	Water rescue	Q02S1	15	13	21	11	60
Altens	CSU	Q03C1	5	6	10	1	22
	Wildfire / Kubota	Q03G1	48	11	6	7	72
	Rope rescue	Q03L1			6	6	12
	Foam POD	Q03S1	1		2		3
	EPU POD	Q03S2			2		2
	Prime mover	Q03T1	46	13	16	8	83

5.2

Callsign Turnout

Q01Y1	1
Q02B1	2
Q03S2	2
Q03S1	3
Q03L1	6
Q03C1	21
Q01H1	34
Q01U1	43
Q02S1	49
Q03G1	65
Q03T1	75
Q02A1	2477



6 Altens – Technical Rope Rescue (TRR)

6.1 Rope Rescue is a highly specialised and technically challenging additional skill for our teams to achieve and maintain. The creation of these highly skilled and motivated teams was the product of extremely hard work and dedication by the operational personnel and the Watch Command teams based at Altens over the last 4 years.

- 6.2 In late 2018 the structure was put in place at Altens to target a 24-month program that would create the only TRR station in the North (SDA). While previously TRR courses had been attended by personnel at Altens a great deal of logistical planning, resourcing and training activity was required to achieve our goal. With invaluable support from multiple functions / departments within SFRS including Training, Safety and Assurance (TSA) locally and nationally, Asset Management (TRR equipment provider and LOLER testing protocols), Fleet and Equipment (TRR Technical Rescue Vehicle) and the Senior Command team within Aberdeen City a provisional “Go Live” date of August 2020 was put in place by LSO – AC Bruce Farquharson.
- 6.3 Due to the geographical location of Altens station within the N.E. and the required resilience and support required for such a Technical Resource a Local Operating Plan was produced to give our teams additional support and confidence in the build up to the “Go Live” date. With the required team and individual assessments having taken place, carried out by SFRS National TRR instructors, and multiple multi-agency training events carried out Technical Rope Rescue became a SFRS live rescue resource in Aberdeen on Monday 17th August 2020.
- 6.4 In advance of this “Go Live” date and while attending the Stonehaven Rail Crash on the 12th of August and at the request of AC Farquharson and GC Ewing the on-duty WC team from Altens made themselves available to carry out TRR activity to assist with rescue operations at this incident. An example of the team’s dedication, professionalism and community spirit. This confidence and willingness displayed by the teams on the day clearly reflects the training and support given by the wider SFRS team over the previous 24 months to achieve this valuable rescue resource within Aberdeen / ACAM / NSDA.

7 FUTURE WORK

- 7.1 LSO - AC Ewing continues to support the Training, Safety and Assurance (TSA) teams nationally and locally by providing suitably skilled Service Delivery / Operational personnel to strengthen their teams (including specialist training teams). The Resource Based Crewing model within Service Delivery will determine the level of support available through AC Ewing to TSA but this support and the importance of training within the Operational program is a primary driver of AC Ewing.
- 7.2 An on-going program of work is underway to scope the viability of transferring some of the specialist Units / PODs from Altens to stations within the Aberdeenshire and Moray areas to ensure a more even distribution of specialist units within the area. This will assist with maintenance and training schedules.

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection
DATE	23 February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report – New Scottish Government Legislation for Fire Detection in Domestic Properties
REPORT NUMBER	SFR/22/048
DIRECTOR	Chay Ewing, Local Senior Officer, SFRS
CHIEF OFFICER	Andy Dick, Group Commander, SFRS
REPORT AUTHOR	Craig Wallace, Group Commander, SFRS
TERMS OF REFERENCE	5.6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report - New Scottish Government Legislation for Fire Detection in Domestic Properties.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the Committee consider and note the information provided in this report. **Appendix A** Thematic Report – New Scottish Government Legislation for Fire Detection in Domestic Properties (hereon in referred to as the new detection standard).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report invites you to review how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is supporting the implementation of new detection standard in Aberdeen City.
- 3.2 This update shows the progress being made by the SFRS to ensure high risk owner-occupier properties comply with the new standard.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs associated with the installation of detection to meet the new standard is the responsibility of the homeowner and landlord. It is estimated that for an average three-bedroom house, which requires three smoke alarms, one heat alarm and one carbon monoxide detector will be around £220. This is based on using the type of alarms that homeowners can install without the need for an electrician.
- 4.2 There has been significant investment by Aberdeen City Council to ensure their housing stock complies with the new detection standard.
- 4.3 To protect the most vulnerable, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will fit interlinked alarms into owner-occupied homes where the individual/household is assessed as high risk through the Home Fire Safety Visit assessment process.
- 4.4 Care and Repair Scotland can help elderly and disabled people meet the new standard. To be eligible for this support the occupier must own and live in their home, that has a council tax band of A-C. They must also be of state pension age and receiving guaranteed Pension Credit, or have a disability and be in a support group for Employment and Support Allowance.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The new detection standard is the minimum legislative requirement as of 01 February 2022.
- 5.2 Domestic properties are not relevant premises within the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 therefore, the SFRS is not the enforcing authority of the new legislation.
- 5.3 Local Authorities will be able to use their statutory powers to require owners to carry out work on substandard housing as is the case for other elements of the Tolerable Standard. The Tolerable Standard Guidance: Satisfactory Fire Detection and Satisfactory Carbon Monoxide Detection (Chapters 16/17) is relevant to the new detection standard.
- 5.4 The new detection standard extends those which currently apply in the Private Rented Sector to housing of all tenures – landlords should already be complying. The standard is enforced by the right of tenants to apply to the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) should a landlord fail to comply.
- 5.5 Compliance will also form part of any Home Report when a homeowner comes to sell their property.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

6.1 Not applicable

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Economy	Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper contributes to fire safety which will assist with achieving a safer place to live, work and visit.
People	Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper contributes to fire safety which will assist with achieving a safer place to live, work and visit.
Place	Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper contributes to fire safety which will assist with achieving a safer place to live, work and visit.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	
Organisational Design	
Governance	
Workforce	
Process Design	
Technology	
Partnerships and Alliances	

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	N/A
Privacy Impact Assessment	N/A
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not required.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix A – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report New Legislation for Domestic Fire Detection

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER AREA

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT NEW SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION FOR FIRE DETECTION IN DOMESTIC PROPERTIES

Report Ref SFR/22/048

1 RECOMMENDATION

The Aberdeen Public Protection Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider and note the information provided in this report in relation to the new detection standard legislation that comes into effect from 01 February 2022.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 New Scottish Government legislation stipulates that by 01 February 2022 all Scottish homes will need to have interlinked alarms.
- 2.2 Interlinked means if one goes off, they all go off, so an occupier will always hear an alarm wherever they are within the property.
- 2.3 The new law has come about because of the Grenfell fire in London in 2017 and applies to all Scottish homes.
- 2.4 It is the property owner's responsibility for meeting the new standard.

3 NEW DETECTION STANDARD

- 3.1 To meet the new standard every Scottish home must have one smoke alarm in the living room, or the room used most. One smoke alarm in every hallway or landing and one heat alarm in the kitchen.
- 3.2 All smoke and heat alarms should be mounted on the ceiling and be interlinked.
- 3.2 If the occupier has a carbon-fuelled appliance – like a boiler, fire, heater or flue – in any room, they must also have a carbon monoxide detector in that room, but this does not need to be linked to the fire alarms.
- 3.3 The two types of alarms applicable to the new standard are sealed battery alarms or mains-wired alarms. Both alarm types are interlinked by radio frequency and do not need WiFi.

- 3.4 Battery alarms must be sealed tamper-proof units and have long-life lithium batteries, which can be up to 10 years. Occupiers do not need an electrician to fit this type of alarm.
- 3.5 Mains-wired alarms are cheaper, but they must be fitted by a qualified electrician and replaced every 10 year.
- 3.6 If a carbon monoxide alarm is required and is battery operated, it must have a sealed battery for the duration of its lifespan.
- 3.7 If specialist alarms are needed – such as for deaf people or Telecare systems – these must be fitted in addition to any smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms. Interlinked smoke and heat alarms are required to be installed in addition to any Telecare smoke/heat alarms. The Telecare alarms should not be removed.

4 DETECTION COSTS, FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

- 4.1 Any costs for meeting the new standard will be the responsibility of the homeowner and landlord and will depend on what you currently have in place and the alarms you choose to install.
- 4.2 The estimated cost for an average three-bedroom house which requires three smoke alarms, one heat alarm and one carbon monoxide detector will be around £220. This is based on battery alarms fitted by the occupier.
- 4.3 Scottish Government made over £15m of loan funding available for social landlords, who are working to ensure the new alarms are in place, where needed.
- 4.4 The new standards of fire and smoke alarms extend to those which currently apply in the Private Rented Sector to housing of all tenures, whereby the landlord should already be compliant.
- 4.5 The new standard will be the minimum standard; therefore, local authorities will be able to use their statutory powers to require owners to carry out work on substandard housing. However, as is the case for other elements of the Tolerable Standard, any intervention must be proportionate, rational and reasonable and where owners are unable to meet the standard, it is not a criminal offence.
- 4.6 Compliance will also form part of any Home Report when a homeowner comes to sell their property.
- 4.7 Care & Repair have some funding available to help home owners with the costs of the new alarms. To be eligible for support from Care & Repair Scotland, you must live in and own your home that has a Council Tax banding of A-C. You must also either be of state pension age and in receipt of guaranteed Pension Credit or have a disability and be in a support group for Employment and Support Allowance.

5 SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SUPPORT

- 5.1 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) was provided with £1m of funding from Scottish Government for the period 2018-20.
- 5.2 Non-domestic premises such as Houses of Multiple Occupation, Guest Houses, Short-Term Holiday Lets etc. are relevant premises under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and the standard of detection outlined in the British Standards is currently enforced under the aforementioned legislation through the SFRS Fire Safety Audit Framework and Policy.
- 5.3 Domestic dwellings such as those privately owned or leased by social or private landlords/housing associations do not fall within the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, and therefore the detection standard within these properties is not enforceable under our legislation. The compliance of the detection standard in domestic properties has been highlighted in Section 4.5 and 4.6 above.
- 5.4 The SFRS will install detection to the new standard as part of a Home Fire Safety Visit when an owner-occupier is high risk.
- 5.5 If the occupier/household does not meet the criteria to have detection fitted to the new standard, SFRS staff will provide safety advice, information and details of the revised legislation during the visit. Interim detection can also be supplied if the property has no detectors present.
- 5.6 The SFRS has fitted 270 smoke alarms, 104 heat alarms and 43 carbon monoxide alarms to the new standard from 01 April 2021 to 31 December 2021.

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection
DATE	23 February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report - Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals: Approved Response Model for Automatic Fire Alarms
REPORT NUMBER	SFR/22/049
DIRECTOR	Chay Ewing, Local Senior Officer, SFRS
CHIEF OFFICER	Andy Dick, Group Commander, SFRS
REPORT AUTHOR	Craig Wallace, Group Commander, SFRS
TERMS OF REFERENCE	5.6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report - **Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals: Approved Response Model for Automatic Fire Alarms**.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the Committee consider and note the information provided in this report. **Appendix A Thematic Report – Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals: Approved Response Model for Automatic Fire Alarms**.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following a 12-week public consultation, at its meeting on 16 December 2021, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Board approved recommendations for implementing a new model for responding to automatic fire alarms in Scotland
- 3.2 This report invites you to review how the SFRS will respond to automatic fire alarms in Aberdeen City from 01 April 2023.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There may be a financial implication for Aberdeen City Council should further staff training be required, or risk assessments and/or management procedures need to be refreshed.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (Chapter 3, Part 1) outlines the legal duties for Fire Safety in relation to relevant premises.
- 5.2 The ‘Dutyholder’ has a legal responsibility to manage fire protection measures in a building, and failure to do so competently can lead to prosecution.
- 5.3 British Standard 5839-6 Fire detection and Fire Alarm Systems for Buildings notes that *‘Filtering might sometimes be applied solely to the summoning of the fire and rescue service. In this case, the building, or part of it, would be evacuated when the fire detection and fire alarm system operates, but the automatic summoning of the fire and rescue service would be delayed pending an investigation to confirm whether the alarm signal is false or the result of a real fire’.*

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 6.1 Aberdeen City Council should consider the implementation of the new response model on their current management procedures for investigating automatic fire alarm activations across their assets. Risk Assessments should be robust and not be reliant on a SFRS response when no fire has been confirmed.

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Economy	<p>Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper contributes to fire safety which will assist with achieving a safer place to live, work and visit.</p> <p>The paper seeks contribution to the SFRS Strategic Plan; ‘We will respond appropriately to Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals and work with our partners to reduce and manage their impact on businesses, communities and our Service’.</p>
People	<p>Whilst not specific to any Stretch Outcome, the paper contributes to fire safety which will assist with achieving a safer place to live, work and visit.</p>
Place	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following LOIP Stretch Outcomes;</p> <p>SO13: Address climate change by reducing Aberdeen’s carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.</p>

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	
Organisational Design	
Governance	
Workforce	
Process Design	
Technology	
Partnerships and Alliances	

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	N/A
Privacy Impact Assessment	N/A
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not required.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix A – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report - Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals: Approved Response Model for Automatic Fire Alarms

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER AREA

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT REDUCING UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SIGNALS: APPROVED RESPONSE MODEL FOR AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARMS Report Ref SFR/22/049

1 RECOMMENDATION

The Aberdeen Public Protection Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider and note the information provided in this report in relation to how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) will respond to automatic fire alarms (AFA's) from 01 April 2023.
- 1.2 Following a 12-week public consultation, recommendations were made to the Board that the SFRS should adopt Option A, with some amendments which reflected the feedback received during the consultation.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 16 December 2021, the SFRS Board approved recommendations for implementing a new model for responding to automatic fire alarms in Scotland.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the SFRS responded to an annual average of 28,479 unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) that were caused by false alarms from automatic fire alarms (AFAs) in the workplace. This activity made up almost one third of SFRS's total operational demand and led to the Service making around 57,000 unnecessary blue light journeys every year, with levels rising over the past few years despite the concerted efforts of staff and partners to reverse this trend.
- 2.2 It is difficult to determine the underlying causes of rising levels of UFAS, but it is likely to be a range of factors including the number of AFA systems increasing in new builds, advances in system technology and the introduction of the SFRS's national approach to UFAS following reform, which sought to consolidate the policies of eight legacy Fire and Rescue Services.
- 2.3 Tackling this problem is made more complex by factors such as the scale of the number of premises incurring low numbers of UFAS, making individual targeting for improvement very challenging for LSO areas.
- 2.4 The impact of UFAS, particularly the lost productivity is considerable and now more so with firefighters heavily committed to maintaining their skills and developing new ones in highly technical areas, to meet the new demands and risks that Scotland's communities face, and working with key partners to keep homes safe from fire and

deliver other crucial community safety education and advice. In addition, there is the significant impact on the environment through vehicle emissions, fuel costs and the resultant road risk of unnecessary blue light journeys as well as the potential diversion of resources from 'real' incidents. The impact of UFAS on Retained & Volunteer Duty System (RVDS) firefighters by being called away from their families and workplaces regularly, is an indirect effect of this avoidable demand, as is the disruption it causes to businesses, healthcare, educational establishments and other establishments that create the highest numbers of UFAS.

- 2.5 There is so much more the SFRS can do to keep the people of Scotland safe, if UFAS were reduced and resources reinvested into areas that would deliver greater value such as upskilling and training, and more prevention work. Furthermore, by reducing UFAS, SFRS could improve the work/life balance of RVDS firefighters, maximise their role in the community and reduce the impact on their primary employer. There are also benefits for businesses, services and wider commerce through less disruption to their activities.
- 2.6 It is against this backdrop, that the Scottish Government made UFAS reduction a strategic priority and led to the SFRS conducting a detailed review of the effectiveness of its arrangements for reducing UFAS. Known as the UFAS Stocktake Review it identified recommendations for tackling the longer-term challenges of increasing numbers of UFAS and led to the SFRS deciding to prioritise an evaluation of strategies for responding to AFA's that have the potential for realising significant UFAS reductions.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Between October 2020 and April 2021, the SFRS conducted an options appraisal of various strategies for responding to AFAs, which included reviewing AFA response strategies employed by other UK Fire and Rescue Services, identifying and assessing a long list of options, and risk assessing a short list of viable options at a staff and stakeholder workshop. The outcome of the options appraisal was presented to the SFRS Board, at its meeting on 24 June 2021 and provided the evidence base, for approving plans to consult on three options for responding to AFA's.
- 3.2 The public consultation on options for responding to AFA's ran for a period of 12-weeks from 19 July 2021. A detailed Communications Plan, setting out the approach that would be employed for targeting staff and external stakeholders to raise awareness of the options and maximise responses during the consultation period, was developed.
- 3.3 A formal consultation document and supporting evidence was published. These presented the detailed case for change and background to the three options under consideration, including the process that was conducted to rule out various options. A consultation question set was designed, to ensure maximum value could be gained from the responses in helping to make a final decision around a preferred option.
- 3.4 The 12-week public consultation concluded on 11 October 2021, with a total 567 responses received by the Service and around 200 engagement activities conducted during the consultation period to raise awareness and seek feedback. The full consultation report covering the approach and analysis of the results and feedback, is presented with the report that went to the SFRS Board on 16 December 2021, available on the SFRS website.

3.5 Alternative options for responding to AFA's were suggested by respondents and themed for the purposes of being assessed by SFRS subject experts. Key themes that emerged were maintaining a status quo, and a one appliance response to all AFAs. Other options included utilising business vehicles to respond to AFA's and considering options that had been operating within the legacy services (e.g. the former Fife Fire and Rescue Service).

3.6 **Consideration of the Consultation Responses**

SFRS subject matter experts have reviewed the consultation responses and through the agreed governance route, the outcome of their review was carefully considered by SFRS Senior Management.

4 **PREFERRED OPTION**

4.1 In considering the preferred option, it is worth noting that the majority of respondents (60%) agreed, that to reduce the impact of UFAS, SFRS should stop automatically sending fire appliances to AFA's.

4.2 A full report covering the consultation approach and analysis of the results and feedback was presented to the SFRS Board. Giving due consideration of the consultation findings, Option A with amendment to include an automatic exemption for hospitals, was subsequently approved.

4.3 **Option A**

- Call challenge all AFAs from non-domestic premises, unless exempt.
- No response is mobilised, if questioning confirms there is no fire, or signs of fire.
- Automatic exemption applied to hospitals, is increased to a pre-determined attendance (PDA) of two fire appliances regardless of time of day and shall be subject to periodic review.
- Sleeping risk premises are automatically exempt from call challenging and will receive the following immediate response:
 - Residential Care Homes and hospitals receive PDA of two fire appliances regardless of time of day.
 - All other sleeping risk receive a PDA of one fire appliance between 0700 – 1800hrs and two fire appliances out-with these hours
- Implementation of the preferred option is delayed until April 2023, and,
- The COVID-19 interim response to AFAs will remain in place until go live of the preferred option. (The interim response is a single fire appliance to AFAs of certain property types).

4.4 By adopting Option A, it is estimated that the Service will reduce UFAS by 57%. This additional capacity will provide opportunities for reinvesting into areas that would deliver greater value, such as upskilling staff, training and more prevention work.

4.5 Option A presents an opportunity to reduce carbon emissions and therefore support the Services ambitious carbon reduction targets. Based on an estimated 57% reduction in UFAS and subsequent blue light journey's, SFRS has the potential to reduce their carbon emissions by up to an estimated 337 tonnes per year. This also supports the delivery of **Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcome 13:** *'Address climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.'*

5 IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 The consultation results and findings have provided invaluable information going forward into the implementation phase. Implementation will commence through a carefully planned and managed approach from January 2022 onwards, which will include working with the staff and stakeholders directly affected by any changes.
- 5.2 The establishment of six workstreams, will form the basis of a more detailed implementation plan, which will be coordinated by an implementation working group with oversight from the UFAS Review Project Board.
- 5.3 Local Senior Officer led engagements will aim to provide dutyholders with support and guidance on considerations for fire protection, limiting false alarms, training staff and other relevant measures.
- 5.4 Nationally, dutyholders will be fully supported by the SFRS, through a programme of sector specific fire safety seminars.

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Agenda Item 9.6

HM Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland

HM Chief Inspector
Robert Scott QFSM MBA FIFireE

Ms Angela Scott
Chief Executive
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
ABERDEEN
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Our ref: SDAI/01/RDS

2 February 2022

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Dear Chief Executive

Review of Inspection Arrangements across Local Authority Areas

As you may be aware, HM Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI) has a statutory responsibility, detailed within the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, to provide independent scrutiny of the fire and rescue service and to give assurance to Ministers, and the people of Scotland, that the Service is operating in an effective and efficient manner.

The Act places specific responsibility on the fire and rescue service to engage with partners, and to produce local area plans that ensure local needs are considered and incorporated into service delivery arrangements. To ensure the Service is delivering against this obligation the Inspectorate has, since 2013, carried out regular inspections of service delivery at a Local Authority level. To date we have carried out a total of 15 of these inspections, averaging between 2 and 3 inspections per year.

As a recently appointed Chief Inspector I am keen to review existing practices and identify opportunities for improvement. Whilst I fully appreciate the rationale behind the current arrangement for local area inspection, I am concerned that to continue in this way it would take around 16 years to visit all 32 of Scotland's Local Authority areas. As such it is my intention to review this process and to move to a system of inspection that will allow me to provide assurance, and make relevant recommendations for improvement, across the entire country, in a greatly reduced timeframe.

In carrying out this review I want to provide assurance that it will still be my intention to meet with relevant people from each of Scotland's Local Authorities, and to ensure that the fire and rescue service continues to work in partnership and deliver against its statutory obligations defined within the Act.

**Integrity, Objectivity
and Fairness**

I wrote to the Chief Executive and President of COSLA to advise them of this revision and to offer an opportunity to discuss this change should they wish to do so. I would also be delighted to discuss this with you, or any member of your team, should you feel that would be of benefit. If you would like to do so then please do not hesitate to contact me and I will arrange a briefing session via MS Teams.

In closing, I genuinely believe this review will provide a better opportunity to understand performance across Scotland within greatly reduced timescales. In addition, I assure you that HMFSI remain committed to ensuring that arrangements for the delivery of fire and rescue services in Scotland give appropriate consideration to local needs, and that SFRS play an appropriate part in partnership arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R D Scott', written in a cursive style.

Robert D Scott QFSM MBA FIFireE
HM Chief Inspector of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	23 rd February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Storm Arwen Response and Recovery
REPORT NUMBER	COM/22/040
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Fiona Mann, Emergency Planning, Resilience and Civic Lead
TERMS OF REFERENCE	Remit - 2.4

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report details the Council’s response to and recovery from Storm Arwen in order to provide assurance that lessons have been learned and actions identified for similar future incidents. The report also touches upon the very recent Storms Malik and Corrie which were similar in nature to Arwen.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee –

- a) note that the Council’s emergency planning structures responded well to the challenge of Storm Arwen, as well as during subsequent Storms Malik and Corrie;
- b) note that, whilst officers are yet to complete the debrief of Malik and Corrie, it is likely that this will be consistent with the findings of the review of Arwen due to the similar nature of the incident; and
- c) note the priority workstreams identified which will be overseen by the City Resilience Group during 2022.

3. BACKGROUND

The Incident – Storm Arwen

- 3.1 On Friday 26 November 2021, the Met Office issued a series of Yellow, Amber and Red Warnings across the United Kingdom, Scotland, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire respectively for significant high winds. The red warning forecast winds of 90 mph.
- 3.2 Storm Arwen was a powerful extratropical cyclone that was part of the 2021-2022 European windstorm season. It affected the UK, Ireland and France, bringing strong winds and snow.
- 3.3 The Council, under its statutory duty to manage emergencies as set out in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, worked together with other category 1 and 2

responders in the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership (GLRP) to coordinate the response, collaborate and share information with each other and the public.

- 3.4 As a result of Storm Arwen, there was significant, extensive, and widespread power loss across Grampian with approximately 65,000 customers left without power. Many communities were without electrical power until Friday 3rd December 2021, although these were mainly in Aberdeenshire.
- 3.5 The impacts on the City's infrastructure were less severe during Storms Arwen, Malik and Corrie, in comparison to other North local authorities, nevertheless there was still significant damage to the Council's tree population.
- 3.6 All types of trees were affected. A large number were blown down, many uprooted, branches and limbs snapped off, and several trees were left in a precarious and dangerous position. Trees in schools, parks, play areas, open spaces, streets, and woodlands were equally affected.
- 3.7 The arboriculture team worked during the worst of the storm, throughout the weekend, to ensure trees were made safe and that roads were cleared to give safe access. Our roads and arboriculture teams worked closely with the Scottish Rescue and Fire Service and Police Scotland to clear trees presenting danger to lives, homes, and infrastructure.
- 3.8 The wider Environmental Services teams were involved over the weekend and into the following week in the clean-up, removing debris, uplifting branches, and clearing and sweeping open spaces and streets. The Countryside Rangers team inspected sites for safety and access and where necessary and in the areas worst affected, erected signs and displayed messages, advising the public to avoid these areas.
- 3.9 In addition to the out of hours calls received 26 November to 28 November (which trigger most of Priority 1 tree works i.e. roads blocked) the team received over 350 calls (incidents) from the public direct, and through the Council's Firmstep enquiry system. The impact of Storm Malik and Storm Corrie has seen the number of incidents increase to 477 (10 February). Of these incidents 25% have now been completed.

The Regional Communication Centre (RCC)

- 3.10 The RCC is integral to the Council's emergency response – the activation of the GLRP, any blue light major incident or any public emergency call is directed via the RCC to the Duty Emergency Response Coordinator (DERC). Calls to the RCC totalled 13,386 from the Friday evening to Monday morning this covered City Aberdeenshire and Moray.
- 3.11 Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) reported that two years' worth of faults across Grampian had occurred in initial 12 hours of Storm Arwen. There were sporadic pockets of power outages in Bridge of Don, Dyce, Kingswells. In the main the power outages in the City had been resolved within 48 hours. However, Aberdeenshire had prolonged power outage, loss of mobile signal and in some also cases water supply.

Council Emergency Response

- 3.12 Aberdeen City Council Duty Emergency Response Coordinator (DERC) activated the Generic Emergency Plan and stood up a Council Incident Management Team (IMT) to allow for precautionary arrangements to be put in place for the anticipated Amber warning from Thursday 25 November 2021. This also ensured that situational awareness was being shared between Category one agencies.
- 3.13 The DERC was supported by a Tactical lead and the Emergency Planning, Resilience and Civic Lead (EPRCL) and Assurance Manager in the first instance, as per our agreed and practiced emergency planning framework. As the incident unfolded and the timescales and impact became apparent i.e. a multi-day loss of power for parts of the city, additional resource was brought in to ensure our Tactical and Operational levels and EPRCL had sufficient resilience. In addition, the council has a growing staff volunteer pool (initiated during COVID) that we can reach out to in an emergency of this scale. This was drawn upon to respond to a mutual aid request from Aberdeenshire Council to assist in conducting welfare checks on residents.
- 3.14 A number of Council services and operational teams stood up in preparation for the anticipated Red weather warning, instigating additional staffing. Teams in roads, environmental services, RCC, arboriculture team, Countryside rangers, street cleaners, city wardens and communications and media were active in the response.

Working with Partners

- 3.15 During incidents of this nature, the Council relies upon national resilience structures and will participate in GLRP meetings which in the case of Arwen were chaired by Police Scotland who had declared a major incident. Over and above these meetings, there is a strong reliance on partnership working to benefit our response and to support others with their own challenges.
- 3.16 Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership was part of the Council's Incident Management Team from its inception as it was clear that there was significant potential for our vulnerable citizens to be affected by way of power outage or inability to travel for care or receive home care. Bon Accord Care colleagues also assisted with the overall Care for People cell function as and when needed.
- 3.17 Scottish and Sothern Energy (SSEN) provided each local authority with details of customers without power, including SSEN priority customers, and this was used to check up on and support our vulnerable citizens. This is a challenging process during incidents of this scale, as partners are reliant on SSEN data which is changing constantly as engineers resolve faults and as part of that process, reveal new ones.
- 3.18 Currently the City only has two official community resilience groups (Cults and Peterculter). During Storm Arwen they worked with their communities and assisted the overall emergency response directed by partners. The Red Cross

assisted, particularly in the Shire, offering staff if required for door knocking and leaflet drops.

- 3.19 Working with the third sector and communities is key to the response as the blue light services and other category one responders are occupied and drawing on limited resources.

Debrief process

- 3.20 Some of the debriefing processes and indeed some of the elements of recovery from the storm, are still ongoing. Subsequent storms Malik and Corrie have occurred during the recovery phases and this has added extra challenge but provided an opportunity to quickly implement some of the lessons learned, which are covered in more detail below. The debrief process is key to ensuring lessons are learned and shared swiftly and to continued evolution of resilience practice within the council. Below the main features of the debrief process are described:

3.21 Aberdeen City Council

- 8th December initial “hot debrief” – this captures immediate reactions from those involved in the response efforts
- 16th December detailed debrief and presentation – this is a structured process with all parties providing in writing their reflections on what went well, what did not go well, and what improvements are required. This is then discussed with all participants and captured in a single report which sets out agreed improvement actions.
- February – a summary report to go to City Resilience Group to ensure the agreed actions are carried out and shared with the Extended Management Team for full awareness and learning.

- 3.22 A number of themes/observations were picked up during the debrief process to date and these are now set up as internal workstreams and a priority for 2022:

1. Persons at Risk Database (PARD) – this describes accessing databases which include data on pre-determined categories of vulnerable persons, for instance, those with carers, social care needs, those in areas of likely flooding. During an emergency the identified data can be extracted from one or more database from one or more partner organisation, integrated and laid over geographical information systems to allow our most vulnerable citizens to be quickly identified and supported. During all three storms, SSEN were unable to give consistently clear data. This meant that the IMT, reporting into the Care for People cell of the GLRP, was reliant on heavily manualised checks to gather relevant data, which is inefficient and labour intensive. The Emergency Planning and Resilience Lead is chairing a Task and Finish Group to oversee the development of a city PARD to completion, before next winter.

2. Power Resilience (Blackstart) City Plan - A ‘Blackstart’ event is the name for the response and recovery process following a complete (or partial) shutdown of the Great Britain electricity system, where the planning

assumption is full power restoration could take up to seven days. The timeframe to a full power cut is likely to be less than 2-minutes, meaning there will be no preparation time.

As previously reported, officers are continuing to further develop the Council's Power Resilience Plan and to dovetail with plans developed by other partners in the city. Storms Arwen, Malik and Corrie have given invaluable insight to issues and hazards picking up specific vulnerabilities unique to the City.

- 3. Regional Communications Centre** – There is a need to revise the operating model and identify alternative processes to support major incidents to increase capability and capacity for call handling.
- 4. Volunteer pool and Mutual Aid requests** – there is a clear need for improved processes around mutual aid requests (a statutory duty whereby we are required to support other responders if they require it) and the use of the Council's volunteer pool. The mutual aid process is being progressed by the GLRP Working Group as a collaborative piece of work, including the creation of a protocol, memorandum of understanding and request templates.
- 5. Community Resilience** – individual, community and business resilience is a key priority as this has shown it supports the emergency services and local authorities' emergency response when incidents of scale take place. A communication plan is currently being developed comprising social media campaigns, flyers targeting registered city volunteers and vulnerable areas of the city, as well as printed media such as posters for community centers. This is scheduled for April through to October and will cover individual resilience, community groups and business resilience. Prior to Christmas 2021 some business resilience electronic flyers were issued through Aberdeen Inspired as a test of our future strategy and these have been well received. Members will note below that the Scottish Government debrief of Arwen also pick community resilience up as a priority.

3.23 Grampian Local Resilience Partnership

- 26th January 2022 - GLRP debrief meeting was held with all partners.
- 24th February 2022 - debrief finding report is due to be presented back to GLRP. A draft has been reviewed and the findings are very similar to those above, showing that all agencies will be working towards these priority areas.
- 18th February 2022 - Care for People group debrief meeting was held with all partners, debrief findings report is due imminently.

3.24 Scottish Government

The Scottish Government published its [debrief](#) on 27th January 2022, which took account of early submissions from local resilience partnerships affected by the incident.

The table below highlights relevant recommendations from Scottish Government for local authorities, these match a number of the identified actions already being taken forward from our internal debriefs:

Scottish Government Recommendation	ACC Action
Local authorities to consider what more they can do to support and develop community resilience in their areas, and the Scottish Government review and, if necessary, expand the materials and training available to support in the establishment and support of local Community Resilience	Creation of a communication plan for individual community and business resilience during 2022. Resilience specific presentations to community councils, community groups and existing volunteers in City. Encourage, support and train groups to ensure they can be added to the Community Asset Register and have all the tools in place to have an effective resilience group and activation plan.
Local authorities to review their Command, Control and Co-Ordination arrangements for an emergency which involves the loss of both power and telecoms, and actively involve utilities companies in local planning where required to ensure linkage with national developments.	Creation of City 'Blackstart' Power Resilience Plan.
Local authorities to ensure they have adequate plans in place to allow for the strategic coordination of large-scale door-to-door welfare checks, and that these plans are tested and exercised.	Creation of City Persons at Risk Database.

Recovery

- 3.25 Recovery for the Council involves progressing our workstreams whilst arboriculture teams clean up the impacts of the storms across the city, removing fallen trees and stabilising those which are vulnerable.
- 3.26 Teams have been dealing with the huge number of incident reports and enquiries made in relation to fallen trees and the damage they have caused. A service 'priority' is allocated to each incident (each incident can include multiple trees).
- 3.27 This priority is based on site inspection and any other information gathered:

Tree Priorities	
Priority 1	Tree blocking road.
Priority 2	Tree still dangerous – hanging branches, large splits, moving roots.
Priority 3	Tree blocking access i.e. front door, driveway, path.
Priority 4	Tree partially blocking i.e. access in and out but still causing inconvenience.
Priority 5	Trees down in back gardens.
Priority 6	Trees down in grass areas – public parks, schools etc.
Priority 7	Branches down on grass footways, paths etc.
Priority 8	Other works

- 3.28 The focus for the service is the priority 1, 2 and 3 trees. These priorities account for 92 of the current incidents logged. 75% of these incidents are now complete. Most roads in the city are now passable, some are partially blocked but are coned and operating. Reports continue to come in which will increase the incident numbers further in the weeks ahead.
- 3.29 In the short to medium term, and until all damage can be assessed, work on all but the most dangerous trees on the arboricultural team's existing, routine work programmes has been stopped. Although it will continue to be prioritised, high risk areas of work such as emergency tree work and dealing with Dutch Elm will be severely affected. It is estimated that it could take up to 12 months to clean up, and it could take years for Aberdeen's trees stock to recover from the storms. Many areas of Scotland have been impacted by the storms and this has meant a significant demand being placed of the arboriculture industry. The amount of timber now in need of processing across the north east will also impact on the overall clear up process and timeline, as well as the demand on specialist forester machinery required to remove the larger trees and clear woodland.
- 3.30 The Council has recognised the severity of the damage caused by the storms and the demand this has placed on Environmental Services, both short term, in the clearing up work, but also the longer-term management and maintenance of Aberdeen's trees. The City Growth and Resources Committee on 3 February agreed additional funding for teams to deal with the storm damage caused by Storms Arwen, Malik and Corrie. The service is currently working up an action plan for the best use of this funding. This will include additional resources for the tree squad, subcontracted work for clearing tree belts and woodland, and tree planting.

- 3.31 With the likelihood of increasing weather events of this nature, as well as the lessons learned from COVID and the need to continue to prepare the city for events such as Blackstart, there is a recognition of the need for additional resource in emergency planning within the Assurance Team in Governance. Options are being explored to ensure that we increase our resilience in this area as a priority, so as to ensure we are able to bring some of these major workstreams to completion before next winter. This will be managed from within existing budgets.

Conclusion

- 3.32 The priorities being taken forward, following the debriefs internal and external, over the next 12 months and where practicable before the start of the next winter period are as follows:
1. Completion of a Power Resilience Plan for the City which dovetails with partners' plans;
 2. Further development of community and business resilience in the City to ensure that our communities and businesses are as resilient as possible during future weather events of this nature, as well as other emergencies;
 3. Creation of a Persons at Risk Database for the City.
- 3.33 At the time of writing, the Council has concluded its response to Storms Malik and Corrie, with a debrief held on 9th February. Across the Grampian area over 40,000 homes lost power, with associated mobile phone coverage and private water supply issues. The City had approximately 2000 properties off power at the peak of the storms for a number of days. The priority throughout was the vulnerable in our communities and once again we worked closely with SSEN and AHSCP to identify and support these individuals. Whilst each of these storms had a lesser overall impact on infrastructure than Arwen, the impact of a double storm tested our resilience once more. Sadly during the height of Storm Malik, a tree fall did lead to a fatality in the city which is a tragic reminder of the threat to life during events of this nature.
- 3.34 Arwen and most recently Malik and Corrie storms have reinforced the good working practices of our emergency response teams, generic emergency plan and partner relationships. Our emergency response structure of strategic, tactical and operational works extremely well allowing the right people to make the decisions, attend the appropriate meetings and take action, it is efficient and effective.
- 3.35 Many of the initial learnings from Arwen were taken forward into these most recent storm responses, as well as underlining what we had identified as a key gaps, such as need for a City PARD, wider community resilience teams, all of which are in train and have priority working groups in place.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The report provides an outline of the Council's response as a Category 1 responder within the terms of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic	Lack of PARD and Power Resilience Plan going forward into another major incident or winter 22/23.	M	<p>Creation of a persons at risk database (PARD) for Aberdeen City.</p> <p>Creation of a Power Resilience Plan for Aberdeen City.</p> <p>Prioritise creation of Community resilience groups.</p>
Compliance	Risk of non-compliance with civil contingencies legislation and failure to provide an adequate emergency response.	L	<p>Training and exercising of Emergency Response Team.</p> <p>Generic Emergency Plan and supporting plans and activation packs.</p>
Operational	<p>Lack of appropriate emergency equipment.</p> <p>Lack of trained operational and resilience staff.</p>	M	Implementation of wider radio network and portable generators for key operational emergency teams or locations.
Financial	Risk that continuous weather events will continue to place pressure on operational service budgets particularly in recovery stages.	L	Budgetary provision approved by City Growth and Resources Committee on 3 rd Feb.
Reputational	Risk that communities and citizens will not trust	L	Public comms plan, speed of tidy up operation

	the Council to adequately respond.		
Environment / Climate	Risk that continuous weather events will continue to place council services and responding agencies under considerable pressure.	M	<p>Creation of a persons at risk database (PARD) for Aberdeen City.</p> <p>Creation of a Power Resilience Plan for Aberdeen City.</p> <p>Prioritise creation of Community resilience groups.</p> <p>Training and exercising of Emergency Response Team.</p> <p>Generic Emergency Plan and supporting plans and activation packs.</p>

8. OUTCOMES

- 8.1 The recommendations contained within this report have no direct impact on the Council's Delivery Plan however if emergency response is not effectively managed and risks mitigated, there could be an impact on the delivery of organisational objectives.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Organisational Design	The Council's organisational structure needs to be flexible during emergency response to enable continuity of service delivery in key areas.
Governance	The Council's emergency governance structures have once again been tested throughout the emergency response and proved to be effective.
Process Design	The lessons learned section details adjustments to process as a result of this event.
Technology	Development of a Persons at Risk Database will improve the efficiency and reliability of future responses.

Partnerships and Alliances	The Council plays a key role at the GLRP and its sub-groups where appropriate.
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9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Full EHRIA not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not applicable

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Internal debrief documentation and interim storm report from LRP
2. Scottish Government Debrief published 27/1/2022
[Storm Arwen review - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

11. APPENDICES

None.

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	23 rd February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Brothers and Sisters Legislation
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/22/041
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
CHIEF OFFICER	Graeme Simpson
REPORT AUTHOR	Isabel McDonnell
TERM OF REFERENCE	1.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide to the Committee assurances that Children’s Social Work are taking full cognisance of the new duties set out in the legislation relating to the relationship between brothers and sisters.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Committee:

- 2.1 Note and endorse the intentions within this report in relation to realising our legislative duties and how we are going to report on these
- 2.2 That the Council will continue to ensure brothers and sisters children who are safe and are loved will remain within their families.
- 2.3 The presumption that brothers and sisters remain together will be reported annually to the Public Protection Committee within the Corporate Parenting Annual Report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The [Promise - Independent Care Review](#) stressed the importance of the relationship between brother and sisters **“children will stay together with their brother and sisters. That presumption must be fully implemented and closely monitored.”** In response to this recommendation new legislation was introduced and came into effect in August 2021 which placed new duties on the local authority to give distinctive and fuller consideration to the significance of the relationship between brothers and sisters.

- 3.2 Scotland's vision is for a society where children's human rights are embedded, protected, and upheld, wholly and meaningfully, across every aspect of their lives.
- 3.3 Every child has a right to respect for family life, including with siblings (Article 16 of the UNCRC). Children who are unable to live with their family have a right under Article 20 of the UNCRC to special protection and assistance, because of the additional support they require securing all their rights.
- 3.4 The UNCRC has long been recognised as an underpinning framework for considering children's rights. In March 2021, the Scottish Parliament voted to incorporate the UNCRC into Scots law. The Supreme Court has ruled that certain parts of the proposed Bill fell out with the jurisdiction of the Scottish Parliament. While still considering the impact of this ruling the Scottish Government has stated it remains committed to incorporating the UNCRC into Scots law to the maximum extent possible.
- 3.5 The United Nations guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children clarifies that brothers and/or sisters with existing bonds should not be separated by placements in care unless there is a clear risk to a child, or it is otherwise in the child's best interests. In each case, every effort should be made to enable siblings to keep in contact with one another, unless this does not promote their wishes or interests.
- 3.6 Corporate Parenting is set out in the 2014 Children (Scotland) Act. It requires all public sector organisations to collaborate with each other to take actions necessary to uphold rights and safeguard wellbeing of looked after children, young people and care leavers up until they turn 26 years. Corporate parents must understand and embrace this role and work proactively together to pursue positive outcomes both for individual brothers and sisters, and for all care experienced brothers and sisters at a systemic level.
- 3.7 The amended 2021 legislation requires the local authority when it is considering placing a child out with parental care must, where appropriate, place the sisters and/or brothers together. Where this is not possible the brothers/sisters must be placed in homes near to one another and to mitigate as far as possible their separation from each other.
- 3.8 Aberdeen City Council welcomes the strengthened legislative position in relation to brothers and sisters. Local practice in relation to this aspect of practice is strong. Evidence of this was noted within the 2019 multi agency inspection of Aberdeen City. Social work staff are required to evidence both the rationale for separating brothers and sisters and what mitigation is being put in place to promote and strengthen their relationship.
- 3.9 The views of brothers and sisters must be actively sought, listened to, recorded and considered when decisions are being made about their care. This includes taking account of brothers' and sisters' views about a child coming into care, and when any other important decisions are being made. The recent legal change adds siblings to the persons the local authority has a duty to ascertain

the views of before making decisions about a child who is looked after by them, or whom they are proposing to 'look after'.

- 3.10 Legislative changes within Sections 14 and 25 of the 2020 Act relate to Children's Hearings' and creates an explicit duty on Children's Hearings and on a Sheriff, when making, changing, or continuing a Compulsory Supervision Order for a child, to consider contact between the child and any siblings they are not living with.
- 3.11 What we know is that a sibling relationship is likely the longest standing relationship a person may have. Children who grow up together, where it is safe to do so, with their brothers and sisters when they are looked after away from parental care are likely to have better outcomes than children who are separated from their brothers and sisters.
- 3.12 In January 2021 to increase our understanding of how brothers and sisters are cared for by Aberdeen City Council, our Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) sampled a number of children/sibling groups. An IRO reviewed their profile focusing on the decision making around whether they would be cared for together or separately, where they were placed and the arrangements for them to spend time together.
- 3.13 The IRO team were asked to provide examples which highlighted both strengths and vulnerabilities within the multi-agency planning for children in this context. There were many examples identified, in the main these were positive examples of good practice where sibling assessment had been undertaken with decision making processes clearly outlined. There were also some examples of challenges including
- Identifying alternative care arrangements for large sibling groups, which enables brothers and sisters to remain together, is a longstanding challenges for agencies.
 - The diversity of family structures mean that some brothers and sisters grow up with minimal contact with each other. Social work intervention needs to consider not just 'full' sibling relationships but also 'half' siblings even when their brother or sisters don't live within the same household.
 - Brothers and sisters who have a large age differentiation.
- 3.14 Some other areas for improvement were also identified in the recording of children and young people views and the decision-making processes being clearly recorded.
- 3.15 Clear processes ensure that practitioners know what needs to happen, when, and by whom to uphold the rights of brothers and sisters. We have revised our decision-making processes at the point authority is sought to accommodate children to ensure clear parameters of what needs to be done and when, which

helps practice remain focused on the child's needs and for decisions to be made without any unnecessary delay.

- 3.16 Taking account of the aforementioned and the [Staying together and connected](#) guidance. We have established a working group to update our local guidance and this will be shared with the workforce.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Corporate Parenting duties included in Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 are designed to ensure that the attention and resources of various organisations are explicitly focussed on the task of safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of looked after children and young people, and care leavers. This part extends the duties of corporate parents and the reporting responsibilities of local authorities.

- 5.2 Aberdeen City Council has a duty to report to Scottish Government Ministers every three years on how it is meeting its corporate parenting responsibilities as detailed in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The second submission to the Scottish Government was provided in March 2021. The Council has a responsibility to continue to comply with its statutory obligations.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	That the multi-agency workforce training delivery plan is insufficiently supported	M	There is a robust delivery plan and support at a senior level
Compliance	The Council has responsibility to comply with its legal requirements and statutory corporate parenting responsibilities	L	The Corporate Parenting Plan has partnership support.
Operational	Care experienced children and young people are a	L	These are duties which have been incorporated across existing structures

	vulnerable cohort whose needs require to be recognised and met. Competing resource demands may have an impact		and will be consolidated in practice
Financial	Not required for this report		
Reputational	A failure of Aberdeen City Council to comply and meet its Corporate Parenting and legislative responsibilities would reflect negatively on the Council	L	There is a strong legacy of positive practice in this area
Environment / Climate	Not applicable for this report		

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 6 – 95% of care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, health and emotional wellbeing, and positive destinations as their peers by 2026.</p> <p>The report seeks to provide an annual update on Corporate Parenting progress and activities, including the following improvement projects within the LOIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of care experienced young people accessing a positive and sustained destination by 25% by 2022 • Increase to 43% by 2023 the proportion of children and young people who are supported to live in kinship care or are looked after at home by 2023 • Increase by 20% the number of children and young people remaining in a placement

	<p>looked after at home/kinship between 16-18 years old by 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of care experienced young people by 10% receiving multi-agency throughcare/aftercare support by 2023
<p>UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes</p>	<p>This report considers the local authority's legal obligations in respect of the legislation and policy outlined below:</p> <p>The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014</p> <p>UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill 2021</p> <p>The Promise</p> <p>Plan 21-24</p> <p>GIRFEC</p>

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/staying-together-connected-getting-right-sisters-brothers-national-practice-guidance/>

https://www.carereview.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Promise_v7.pdf

<https://thepromise.scot/plan-21-24-pdf-standard.pdf>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/statutory-guidance-part-9-corporate-parenting-children-young-people-scotland/documents/>

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	23 February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Corporate Parenting Annual Report
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/22/042
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
CHIEF OFFICER	Graeme Simpson
REPORT AUTHOR	Amy Evans
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to respond to the Committee’s request for an annual report on the progress of our Corporate Parenting responsibilities outlined in part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Committee:

- 2.1. Note and endorse progress and activities against key Corporate Parenting duties.
- 2.2. Note the Corporate Parenting Policy and Plan 2021-2023 (Appendix 1).
- 2.3. Note the Champions Board Plan 2021-2023 (Appendix 2).
- 2.4. Note the Aberdeen Care Experienced Participation Report June–December 2021 (Appendix 3).
- 2.5. Note the progress update from Care Experienced Young People on delivery of the Corporate Parenting and Champions Board Action Plans at paragraph 3.16. Further opportunities for care experienced young people to share their experiences of Corporate Parenting activity will be explored, in collaboration with our young people, for future Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. This is the sixth annual report to Committee providing a progress update and overview of key Corporate Parenting duties. At the Committee’s request, the updated Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-2023 (Appendix 1) was presented to them for consultation and approved in April 2021.
- 3.2. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 defines Corporate Parenting and places a number of duties on public sector organisations to uphold

the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of looked after children, young people and care leavers.

3.3. Corporate Parenting responsibilities are set out in section 58, Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 as the following six duties:

- To be alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of looked after children and young people and care leavers,
- To assess the needs of care experienced children and young people for services and support provided,
- To promote the interests of care experienced children and young people,
- To provide opportunities for care experienced children and young people to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,
- To make sure care experienced children and young people can access opportunities and make use of services and support,
- To strive to improve the way our organisation functions in relation to care experienced children and young people.

3.4. Our Corporate Parenting responsibilities are reflected in our Local Outcome Improvement Plan (2019-2026) where the following objectives are set for Corporate Parenting under stretch outcome 6:

“As corporate parents we will ensure 95% of care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, health and emotional wellbeing, and positive destinations as their peers by 2026”.

3.5. The conclusions of the Independent Care Review articulated in [The Promise](#), set out the transformational change required by 2030. The Promise makes clear what those working with children and families in Scotland must do to make sure our children feel loved, safe and have the childhood they deserve. Children and families and most importantly, those with lived experience, must be at the heart of all our work to ensure that the work we do is meaningful, accessible and impactful. The Promise Scotland published [Plan 21-24](#) in March 2021, outlining the priorities for the next 3 years, and [Change Programme One](#) in June 2021, which outlines and assesses the work in progress to deliver these priorities.

3.6. The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) sets out specific rights that all children have to help fulfil their potential. In March 2021, the Scottish Parliament passed the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill, to incorporate the UNCRC into Scots law. The Supreme Court determined that certain parts of the Bill fall outwith the competence of the Scottish Parliament. It is anticipated that the Scottish Parliament will reconsider the Bill. Respecting, protecting and fulfilling children’s rights is central to [#KeepThePromise](#) and the [Getting It Right For Every Child](#) (GIRFEC) which continue to underpin how we love, care for and support all children and young people in Scotland.

3.7. Our duties as Corporate Parents, local priorities and the principles of The Promise are reflected within our local Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-2023 (Appendix 1) and Champions Board Plan 2021-2023 (Appendix 2).

3.8. **Corporate Parenting Plan**

The overarching aims of our Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-2023 are:

- Improve education outcomes for care experienced children and young people.
- Improve the knowledge and skills of the workforce in relation to their Corporate Parenting duties and responsibilities and by doing so highlight the pervasive impact of care experience on opportunities and life chances.
- Feature and promote the recommendations of The Independent Care Review across key systems, processes, and partnership practice.
- To work in ways which recognise the life-long impact of trauma, placing recovery principles at the forefront of Corporate Parenting planning.
- Continue to develop participation and engagement opportunities with and for our children and young people.
- Seek creative ways to listen to and capture children and young people's voices and views, building on the strong foundations we have developed to expand the impact of the Champions Board and the role of Corporate Parents in Aberdeen.

3.9. **Champions Board Plan**

The vision of our Champions Board Plan 2021-2023 is that:

'Our care experienced children, young people and care leavers have a right to participate in decision-making about their own lives and have their voices heard'.

To achieve this, we have identified the following priorities:

- Champions will listen to and learn from the voice and experience of our children and young people,
- Champions will seek and promote opportunities to enable our children and young people to have the same life opportunities as their peers,
- Embedding a children's and young person's rights approach into services, focusing on embedding *participation, protection* and *provision* of children and young people's rights,

3.10. **Update from Care Experienced Young People on delivery of the Corporate Parenting and Champions Board Action Plans**

3.11. Fundamental to Plan 21-24 is ensuring the **voice** of those with lived experience is listened to and learned from:

“At all stages in the process of change, what matters to children and families must be the focus. Organisations will be able to demonstrate that they are operating from their perspective rather than the perspective internal to the ‘system’” Plan 21-24, page 14.

3.12. The Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-2023 was presented to Committee in April 2021 as a draft document to allow time before finalising to seek the views of care experienced young people.

3.13. The refreshed Corporate Parenting Plan and Champions Board Plan were shared with 19 care experienced young people aged between 16-26 years old. The young people were asked to consider six key themes that overarch the two plans. Feedback and recommendations from the consultation with care experienced young people was supported by the Youth Team, Children’s Residential and Young Person’s Rights Service.

3.14. Key feedback for each of the themes were shared as direct quotes from the young people consulted and demonstrate why our Corporate Parenting and Champions Board plans remain crucial. We recognise that the experiences shared are from a small sample of individual young people with their own unique experiences, however, their comments are considered illustrative of wider care experienced voices:

3.15. Stigma

Our young people were able to share their experiences of what it is like to be labelled as looked-after and the enduring stigma around care experience. Some identified the positive difference recognising care experience can make and others were explicit in defining the negative consequence of care-experience stigma:

- *“I do get a LAC bursary at college so that’s positive.”*
- *“I’m a parent and it was just expected I’d fail. I felt like I was being judged throughout my pregnancy and it was a case of when my baby would be taken not if. Lots of questions asked about my current relationship by strangers (maternity sw) and I felt judged.”*
- *“Yes, in high-school. The teachers treated me differently because I was looked after. I felt they were more aggressive in the way they spoke to me and they were stricter with me.”*

3.16. Digital Connection

Young people were asked how Corporate Parents can improve how young people who leave care can have digital devices and connections:

- *“Feel that there has been significant support with these aspects”*
- *[Without devices it is...] “Difficult to keep in touch with people or to feel safe”*
- *“Difficult to apply for jobs, do college work, keep in touch with people.”*

3.17. Listened and Heard

Young people were asked what could help them share their experiences with Corporate Parents and how they thought they could be listened to and heard:

- *“My worker listens to me, but she often has to support me to get other people to listen to me such as court, college, police, prison.”*
- *“I feel I have always been listened to but not always actions done from what I have said. Some SW push what they want but not what I have said or want.”*
- *“I feel it may be appropriate to mention the LAC review form foster children fill out before the meeting. In my experience and of the other foster child living with me at the time, this form was not confidential (in our case, maybe not others) and never really felt it could be by my carers. Particularly for the other child living with me at the placement, if she put a ‘sad/unsure face’ down as a response to ‘do you feel happy in this home?’ It would have been questioned in a negative way. I personally think these forms should be done completely out with the placement and of the carers to get a valid response.”*

3.18. Listen and Learn

How do we ensure when children and young people make their contribution to champions they will be listened to, understood and be able to hold champions to account to follow up their actions?

- *“My social worker and I have worked together very well. When something is bothering me, I seek advice from my social worker who is supportive and works things out alongside me.”*
- *“Views need to be listened to about where people live.”*
- *“Sometimes things change for a while if my worker contacts someone for me but not for long. College understood I needed extra support with stuff but then they stopped helping and I have to ask again.”*

3.19. Same Opportunities

Care experienced young people have been impacted upon by COVID-19 in particular ways which reflect their, at times, social and emotional connections and networks How can our children and young people have the same life opportunities as their peers?

- *“I feel I have more opportunities because I have been so well supported.”*
- *“In some cases, I believe I’ve had even more opportunities! For example, bursaries, accommodation provided by the council, technology, consistent meetings with guidance teachers to check on my progress, Foyer counselling, check up from social worker, etc.”*

- *“I was in prison/homeless from a young age. Some my fault but most to do with lack of stability growing up in SW care so now I have no job prospects and use substances to cope.”*

3.20. Rights Approach

Policy and procedure updates will be compliant with and informed by children’s rights in realising our Corporate Parenting responsibilities. How do we embed children’s and young people’s rights approach into services?

- *“No, because of the way the Police have never treated me well, even when I was younger. It’s not uncommon for me to leave the cells with bruising even if I don’t get charged with anything.”*
- *“Generally, I think my rights have been respected, but if I’m honest I probably don’t know all my rights.”*
- *“Did not always feel connected to Aberdeen and definitely not at first...[I]...had to ask for home leave at a Hearing and it took six months...earlier would have helped.”*

3.21. **Corporate Parenting Performance and Improvement Group**

The Corporate Parenting Performance and Improvement Group has responsibility for the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Improvement Plan, collation and monitoring of data and quality assurance in relation to care experienced children and young people, delivering on identified aims set out in the LOIP and driving the implementation of The Promise across the Partnership. The Group engages with care experienced children and young people and seeks to ensure all improvement activity takes full account of their views and lived experiences.

3.22. In June 2021, the Corporate Parenting Performance and Improvement Group recruited a group member with care experience in our efforts to improve representation from the care experienced community.

3.23. Specifically, the group has oversight of the refreshed LOIP Improvement Project Stretch Aim 6; *“95% of care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, health and emotional wellbeing, and positive destinations as their peers by 2026”* and the following improvement projects:

- Increase the number of care experienced young people accessing a positive and sustained destination by 25% by 2022
- Increase to 43% by 2023 the proportion of children and young people who are supported to live in kinship care or are looked after at home by 2023

- Increase by 20% the number of children and young people remaining in a placement looked after at home/kinship between 16-18 years old by 2023
- Increase the number of care experienced young people by 10% receiving multi-agency throughcare/aftercare support by 2023

3.24. The number of children and young people who are looked after by Aberdeen City Council has decreased slightly from 566 in 2019/20 to 516 in 2020/21. There is a nominal positive trend in the numbers of children and young people being looked after at home versus away from home in comparison to 2019/20 data, however, multi-agency efforts on shifting the balance of care toward recognising how we can safely care for children and young people at home or in kinship arrangements is still crucial if we are to #keepthepromise and meet our own local targets of increasing the percentage of children and young people looked after at home or in kinship arrangements.

3.25. **Key challenges in 2021:**

3.26. Impact of COVID-19

The virus and public health measures to suppress it had, and continue to have, a significant impact on organisations and individuals, impacting upon the availability of corporate parents and on how participation and improvement activities can be run.

3.27. Funding Promise improvement activity

Financial support to local delivery of the Promise from the Scottish Government's Promise Partnership is currently being administered by CORRA. To access funding, specifically themed bids are required, however, there has been little advanced oversight given of the funding criteria and what future tranches of funding may cover, making it challenging to plan for and respond timeously to funding opportunities. This funding is non-recurring and is aimed at promoting and enable the development of change ideas.

3.28. Data collection and monitoring

Corporate parenting responsibilities span a large number of agencies with varied approaches to what and how data is collected. This can make it challenging to establish baseline data and monitor improvement. The development of an integrated data repository for children and family services is a key priority over the coming year. Colleagues from Data & Insights are leading on this work across the partnership.

3.29. **Key highlights and learning from 2021**

3.30. Opportunities, Participation and Engagement

In June 2021, a new Development Officer, Tracy Maxwell, from Who Cares? Scotland was appointed to support the engagement and participation of our care experienced children and young people. As a result, the number of care

experienced children and young people getting involved and attending Aberdeen Care Experienced (ACE) activities has increased. The ACE Participation Report (Appendix 3) provides further details of their activities between June-December 2021.

- 3.31. Aberdeen's first Lead Officer for Corporate Parenting was created, and Amy Evans was appointed to post, in September 2021. This post sits within the wider Improvement and Development Team in Children's Social Work and has responsibility for the strategic direction of Corporate Parenting improvement work across the partnership. The post is also closely aligned with the Champions Board in relation to the delivery of strategic aspects of their agenda.
- 3.32. Despite the continued challenges of the pandemic, the Champions Board continued to meet regularly in 2021 with 3 Champions Boards taking place across the year utilising an online platform.
- 3.33. Where possible, in-person activities bringing together our care experienced children, young people and Champions have taken place, including an Innoflate session, Halloween Disco and regular Supper Clubs, to name but a few. Since taking up the post, our Development Officer has also facilitated a Mini-Champs network which caters to our younger care experienced children.
- 3.34. Opportunity Grants were developed to replace the grant funding previously provided by Life Changes Trust. Individual grants of up to £500 for young people ages 12-25 who are either currently Looked After at Home or in Kinship Care or are a Care Leaver. The grants support the development of skills, hobbies and ambitions and for some enhance skills which could afford them wider access to job opportunities.
- 3.35. Improving Education Outcomes

The Youth Team has continued to see an increase in the number of care experienced young people they support accessing further and higher education options. This is considered to be indicative of the positive impact partnership activity to promote access to the Care Experienced Grant, student support with rent and accommodation costs and continued digital connectivity support, has had.

- 3.36. The [Virtual School](#) continues to support improvements in the educational progress and attainment/achievement of all children Looked After by the local authority, including those that are educated in schools in other authorities.
- 3.37. Additional resource through Scottish Attainment Challenge funding and the national increase in teacher numbers will support expansion of the Virtual School in the coming year to have more of a focus on those Looked After at home and support transitions for those care experienced children and young people who may require a bridge back into full time education in Aberdeen City.
- 3.38. An overview of the attainment of care experienced children and young people in Aberdeen City schools was shared with the Education Operational Delivery Committee in November 2021. The following key points from this report are

relevant to report on in respect of our wider corporate parenting progress and activities:

- The percentage of Looked After Young people achieving National 3 (SCQF 3) literacy and Numeracy combined has remained in line with the Virtual comparator for the 2nd year with those achieving National 4 only marginally below (4%). 100% of those Looked After Away from Home achieved a National 3 in Literacy / Numeracy combined.
- The percentage of Looked After young people leaving school with 4 or more qualifications at level 3 and 4 reflects the trend seen in the National Comparator, however, the percentages in Aberdeen City are lower. It is important to note that the small numbers of young people can lead to a large shift in percentages but this is an area for improvement and will be addressed in part by extending the reach of the Virtual School in the delivery of courses for young people.
- In the National Benchmarking data for 2019/20 33% of Looked After Young People moved on to further education with an increase in those going on to training. For the first time in 5 years the Percentage of looked after away from home entering a positive destination was at the same level as those looked after at home.
- Overall, the attendance for Looked After children in secondary has increased over the last 3 years with the trend continuing this academic session. There is also an increase in attendance for those in our Primary schools.
- There has been a significant reduction in exclusions over the last 3 years.
- The MCR Pathways programme was rolled out to 6 of the 11 academies in the city, supporting 217 young people in S1-6 to develop relationships, increase confidence and self-esteem. Current data shows that there is an increase in overall attendance and decrease in exclusions for secondary age pupils over a 3-year period and this is thought to be partially attributable to the programme. MCR-mentored young people in Aberdeen had a higher staying-on rate (100%) in 2020/21 compared to their peers (87.6%).

3.39. Improving the knowledge and skills of the workforce

The Corporate Parenting mandatory workforce training was finalised and as of September 2021, 10% of all council employees had completed the training. Data will continue to be monitored carefully and a communication and engagement plan is in place, to further raise awareness of our collective corporate parenting responsibilities in 2022.

3.40. Corporate Parenting representation on the new [Aberdeen Protects](#) website is planned for February 2022. The Corporate Parenting content on the site will seek to increase understanding and awareness of Corporate Parenting with our

workforce and the wider public, as well as provide a platform for routine and accessible reporting on improvement activity.

3.41. Keeping the Promise

As outlined in the *#KeepingThePromise – Plan 21-24* report to Committee in December 2021, a self-evaluation of our current improvement activity against the recommendations set out in Plan 21-24 has set the scene for establishing a baseline and focus on local delivery of The Promise across the partnership. This work will continue to be implemented and monitored by the Corporate Parenting Performance and Improvement Group and it is anticipated that in 2022 a Single Point of Contact from the Scottish Government's Promise Team will be appointed to support our reporting of Promise improvement activity and learning from other areas in Scotland.

3.42. The Write Right About Me (WRAM) Records Improvement Project is an integral piece of improvement work which aims to ensure that all records are written in a way that respects and upholds the rights of those we support, reducing stigma and the likelihood of harm that may come from the way a record is written. Care experienced young people involved in WRAM tell us that their records should reflect their voice and to achieve this they need to be more involved in the creation of their records. Similar messages have also come out of our local findings from the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry Team, where it is evident that the way records have been written historically has contributed to distress. This improvement project is reflective of national and international work on social care records and aligns with the recommendations from the Independent Care Review.

3.43. Trauma and Recovery

All of our local residential staff continue to be trained in trauma-recovery principles and ensuring our workforce is trauma-informed and where necessary, trauma-skilled, is a priority of our Corporate Parenting Plan in 2022.

3.44. Young people living in alternatives to family care have continued to be encouraged to stay put in care placements on a Continuing Care basis.

3.45. Police Scotland are currently undertaking 'Trauma Informed' sessions with key Officers alongside staff from Gilbert Road Children's Home. Once trained these Officers will become Link Officers with our local children's homes to build positive relationships between Police and children and young people. The partnership approach between Police Scotland and local residential Children's Homes continues to contribute to a reduction in the criminalisation of our care experienced children and young people as supported by the data gathered by Police Scotland Youth Justice Management Unit, Comparative Report on Juvenile Offenders 2020/21, which continues to show a reduction in crime files recorded against local children's homes reducing from 122 in 2014/15 to 2 in 2020/21.

3.46. The Throughcare Housing Protocol recognises the statutory duties toward care experienced young people and the requirement to support access to housing

resource, reducing the risk of homelessness and associated vulnerabilities which can be of lifelong duration.

3.47. In April 2021, a Housing Support Officer became co-located with the Youth Team. This post supports our care experienced young people to navigate Housing systems from a relational approach and aims to make sure that transitions from care into their first tenancy are as coordinated and transparent as possible. For 2022, the focus will be on developing more resources to support young people and staff manage these transitions and systems.

3.48. Throughout 2021, we continued to see a positive trend in care experienced young people accessing and sustaining tenancies and of those that did terminate their tenancy within 365 days of securing a property, all went on to secure other forms of accommodation.

3.49. In 2021, Aberdeen City Council's Repairs and Maintenance Team responded to a request of our care experienced young people and produced video tutorials focusing on basic property-maintenance tasks for first-time tenancy holders.

3.50. Voice and Rights

The MOMO app supports our children and young people to have a voice and for their views to be recorded accurately. It is the only digital tool that comprehensively supports Article 12 of the UNCRC. In 2021 we saw an increase to 221 Young Person Accounts and 417 Worker Accounts. The main themes young people used the app for in 2021 were when they wished to discuss their worker's visits, when they wanted to prepare for meetings/conferences and when they had good news and wished to share it.

3.51. The Aberdeen Young Person's Rights Service remains a key supporter of those with care experience in the promoting and upholding of their rights, participation and in their relationships with corporate parents and the Champions Board. The Rights Service, through its expanded remit, provides advocacy, guidance and support to Aberdeen's children, young people and young adults aged 0-26, who are care experienced or have been involved in child protection processes.

3.52. The Service continues to be well utilised, with an increase of around 40% in referrals/re-referrals in 2020/21 from the previous year. This growth includes its intended percentage increase, in line with Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 'Balance of Care' priorities, to offer support more proactively to children and young people who are looked after at home or in kinship care and to those young adults living in their own/supported tenancy.

3.53. Environments for linking in and meeting with children, young people and young adults continue to be affected by Covid19, but the Service has developed creative ways to build relationships. In 2020/21, the Service became more adept at using social media and digital technology but has not lost sight of the importance of face-to-face contact.

3.54. The Service is involved in a range of single and multi-agency improvement charters and associated activity, with focus on rights and participation.

3.55. Safeguarding rights and wellbeing are not an exclusive obligation of the Service; rather this requires a whole workforce approach. Many children, young people and young adults will not need or wish to access the Service and those professionals with whom they have relationships are best placed to advocate for and support them. This is something that the Service actively promotes through its digital information, its quarterly participation and rights-related bulletin, and through activity such as its established monthly virtual rights and participation awareness raising drop-in sessions. These ‘drop ins’ meet, in part, the objective, noted in the Corporate Parenting Plan, about the Service providing workforce skill development sessions each year of the plan. Specific sessions have not progressed in 2021 but it is intended to look at how these can be offered in 2022.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. The Corporate Parenting duties included in Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 are designed to ensure that the attention and resources of various organisations are explicitly focussed on the task of safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of looked after children and young people, and care leavers. This part extends the duties of corporate parents and the reporting responsibilities of local authorities.

5.2. Aberdeen City Council has a duty to report to Scottish Government Ministers every three years on how it is meeting its corporate parenting responsibilities as detailed in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The second submission to the Scottish Government was provided in March 2021.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	That the multi-agency workforce training delivery plan is insufficiently supported	M	There is a robust delivery plan and support at a senior level
Compliance	The Council has responsibility to comply with its statutory corporate parenting responsibilities	L	The Corporate Parenting Performance and Improvement Group has responsibility for the delivery of the Corporate Parenting Improvement Plan and will continue to provide an annual report on Corporate Parenting to ensure the

			Council complies with the law
Operational	Care experienced children and young people are a vulnerable cohort whose needs require to be recognised and met. Competing resource demands may have an impact	L	These are duties which have been incorporated across existing structures and will be consolidated in practice
Financial	N/A		
Reputational	A failure of Aberdeen City Council to comply and meet its Corporate Parenting responsibilities would reflect negatively on the Council	L	There is a strong legacy of positive practice and sharing of success in this area
Environment / Climate	N/A		

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 6 – 95% of care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, health and emotional wellbeing, and positive destinations as their peers by 2026.</p> <p>The report seeks to provide an annual update on Corporate Parenting progress and activities, including the following improvement projects within the LOIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of care experienced young people accessing a positive and sustained destination by 25% by 2022 • Increase to 43% by 2023 the proportion of children and young people who are supported to live in kinship care or are looked after at home by 2023 • Increase by 20% the number of children and young people remaining in a placement looked after at home/kinship between 16-18 years old by 2023 • Increase the number of care experienced young people by 10% receiving multi-agency throughcare/aftercare support by 2023
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	<p>This report takes into account the local authority's legal obligations in respect of the legislation and policy outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 • UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill 2021 • The Promise • Plan 21-24 • GIRFEC <p>Delivery of recommendations of The Promise/Plan 21-24 will require new legislation to be brought forward by the Scottish Government. Our local partnership is well placed to respond to these changes.</p>

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

https://www.carereview.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Promise_v7.pdf

<https://thepromise.scot/plan-21-24-pdf-standard.pdf>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/statutory-guidance-part-9-corporate-parenting-children-young-people-scotland/documents/>

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-2023

Appendix 2 Champions Board Plan 2021-2023

Appendix 3 Aberdeen Care Experienced Participation Report June-December 2021

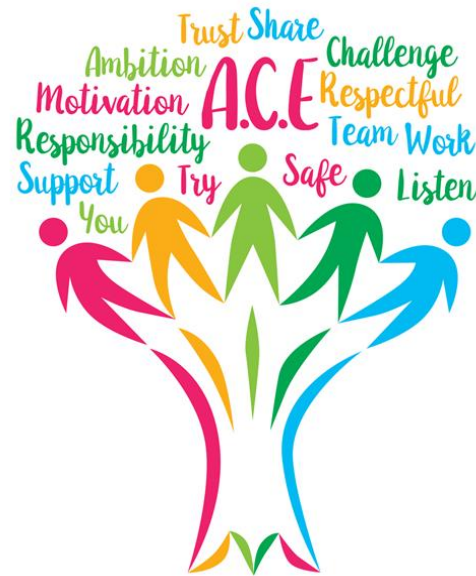
11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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APPENDIX 1

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR ABERDEEN'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Aberdeen City #KeepThePromise Corporate Parenting Plan
2021-2023



The best Corporate Parents we can be

The impact of Covid-19 on the wellbeing and welfare of our care experienced children and young people has served to emphasise the vital role that we have as corporate parents, which extends beyond our quarterly participation at Champions Boards. We have an active group of care experienced young people (ACE) in Aberdeen and they have ensured regular meetings of Champions have taken place despite challenges. They have supported us as champions to fully embrace digital technology as the main means of sharing connection and taking the time to keep in touch. The list below represents the least we can and will do, to support our care experienced children and young people, and over the life of this plan we will have their voice at the centre of our actions.

- *Considering their wellbeing, and being alert to anything which might affect this;*
- *Assessing their need for services and support;*
- *Promoting their interests;*
- *Making sure their voices and opinions are heard;*
- *Providing opportunities for them to promote their wellbeing, and taking action to help them access those opportunities;*
- *Providing advice and assistance when they're needed;*
- *Making sure services are easy to access for them.*

Angela Scott
Chief Executive Officer



Corporate Parenting: Our Vision

Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP) has a clear vision, role and partner remit for the development and improvement of planning for children's services. Within our Local Outcome Improvement Plan (2019-2026) we have set the following objectives for Corporate Parenting:

"All care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, emotional wellbeing and positive destinations as their peers by 2026."

To achieve this, Corporate Parents will evidence improvement by progressing the following areas in our refreshed plan for 2021-2023:

How will we monitor our progress?

The Corporate Parenting Plan activities for 2021-2023 will be reviewed quarterly by the multi-agency Corporate Parenting Performance and Improvement group which has a specific governance, oversight, and monitoring role in relation to this plan. It is planned to seek representation from the care experienced community in terms of group membership. This will be in place by May 2021.

<i>What are our aims?</i>	<i>What will we do?</i>
Improve education outcomes for care experienced children and young people.	Increase number of corporate parent mentors to support engagement with MCR Pathways. This has been commissioned across six secondary schools. This approach will support us in the implementation of the Promise with one of the 5 key foundations stating: <i>'The children that Scotland cares for must be actively supported to develop relationships with people in the workforce and wider community, who in turn must be supported to listen and be compassionate in their decision-making and care'</i> .
Improve the knowledge and skills of the workforce in relation to their Corporate Parenting duties and responsibilities and by doing so highlight the pervasive impact of care experience on opportunities and life chances.	Promote the uptake of mandatory online Corporate Parent training. Develop with partners, targeted approaches to this training, dependent on status and role, which is supported by a series of webinars.
Feature and promote the recommendations of The Independent Care Review across key systems, processes, and partnership practice.	Promote and support attainment of #KeepThePromise

<p>To work in ways which recognise the life- long impact of trauma, placing recovery principles at the forefront of Corporate Parenting planning.</p>	<p>Support care experienced young people in accessing supports which enable and offer them physical and emotional wellbeing benefits. Support work force awareness and partner recognition that those with care experience can be overrepresented in criminal justice systems and seek to reverse this trend. 'Write Right About Me' will be supported as a multi themed approach to improving how we narrate the experiences of those who are care experienced in the reduction of stigma.</p>
<p>Continue to develop participation and engagement opportunities with and for our children and young people.</p>	<p>Expand digital connection opportunities for care experienced young people in line with peers, by developing a local approach and access scheme as well as e.g. building on Phase Two of Connecting Scotland which has provided 110 devices, (Chromebooks; iPads and MiFi connectivity) to care leavers. Enabling them to stay connected to key relationships and wider social and employment inclusion. Continue our partnership with Who Cares? Scotland in the delivery of participatory opportunities which seek to build the capacity of care experienced young people to share their views.</p>
<p>Seek creative ways to listen to and capture children and young people's voices and views. Build on the strong foundations we have developed to expand the impact of the Champions Board and the role of Corporate Parents in Aberdeen.</p>	<p>Seek to use earlier and broaden the application of the Mind of My Own App to extend the reach to those with care experience who are part of protection processes. Seek to celebrate Care Day and Care experienced week with twice per year workshop and themed events.</p>

Who is the Plan for?

This Plan is both our commitment to children and young people who are care experienced and for our partners in Aberdeen City who, along with ourselves, have corporate parenting responsibilities. Collaboration and participation both with care experienced young people and partners are at the core of our actions if our vision for Corporate Parenting is to be realised.

There are 24 organisations who can be identified in the [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014 Section 56](#) as having "Corporate Parent" status. In Aberdeen City, our representative members include:

Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, North East Scotland College (NESCOL), Robert Gordon University and University of Aberdeen, Sport Aberdeen, Children’s Hearings Scotland, the Scottish Children’s Reporters Administration (SCRA) and third sector partners, represented by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO).



Why do we have a Plan?

The [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) came into force on 1 April 2015. The duties in [Part 9](#) of the Act legally embed the concept of corporate parenting and collectively are '*designed to ensure that the attention and resources of various publicly funded organisations are explicitly focused on the task of safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of looked after children and care leavers*' ([CELCIS, Corporate Parenting Implementation Notes, 2016](#)).

The concept of Corporate Parenting is not new. These duties build upon previous commitments such '[These Are Our Bairns: A Guide for Community Planning Partnerships on Being a Good Corporate Parent](#)' (Scottish Government, 2008).

In looking at what a Corporate Parent is, the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland states that '*in simple terms, a corporate parent is intended to carry out many of the roles a loving parent should. While they may not be able to provide everything a parent can, but they should still be able to provide the children and young people they're responsible for with the best possible support and care*'.



Corporate Parenting Duties

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland sets out that *'corporate parent responsibilities are intended to encourage people and organizations to do as much as they can towards improving the lives of care experienced and looked after children, so that they feel in control of their lives, and are able to overcome the barriers they face'*.

Our Refreshed Plan, in summary

This is the refreshed Corporate Parenting Plan for 2021-2023, with our Champions Board Action Plan running alongside. The period since March 2020 has been challenging for care experienced young people and their families and as Corporate Parents, we have been very mindful of the impact of isolation and disconnection experienced by many of them. Positively, the support networks offering support to care experienced young people unified quickly in introducing digital ways of keeping in touch. With care leavers **Youth Team** increasing the use of the team Facebook page by over 400% and in the distribution of over 250



resource provisions to care experienced young people through welfare packages and direct contact. We can also report on our success in accessing digital devices in phase two of Connecting Scotland and in our commitment to ongoing improvement of digital access for care experienced young people in Aberdeen City, recently supported as part of our future budget commitments in 2021. **We will develop an access scheme for the promotion of digital inclusion for care leavers in 2021.**

The Virtual School ensured **all** Looked After Children in Aberdeen City had access to digital technology which supported them to continue with their learning throughout lockdown restrictions, including video links with key members of staff to support connection. **MCR Pathways** had commenced in 2 city academies prior to lockdown, digital devices and connectivity in place ensured that mentor support could be continued virtually. This support is now in **6 academies across Aberdeen City**. All Looked After Children who are educated outside of Aberdeen City were also able to access digital technology through the Virtual School.

From June 2020, our **Champions Board** has moved to a digital forum. Feedback from Aberdeen Care Experience (ACE) advisors has been positive. Digital connection can be focused on maintaining contact with young people, many of whom are placed at some distance from their local areas. Our refreshed plan **shares positive** examples of our **progress** as Corporate Parents, we will expand and replicate these in 2021-2023. This includes focusing on how Corporate Parents will support the local **#KeepThePromise** commitment.



How good are we as Corporate Parents?

What have Care experienced young people told us about Corporate Parenting?

Participation and Champions Board

"I really feel like we are making progress now, big decisions and working with Corporate Parents better says one of the young people about our Champion care experienced young people and continues to reflect the themes we intend to advance in this planning period". (ACE advisor)



Mind Of My Own

Since March 2019 we have received 885 statements from young people either independently or supported by their worker.

199 young people have their own accounts which they can use in their own time. The three most popular scenarios are:

- My Worker is Visiting
- Share My Good News
- Prepare for a meeting

The box below captures activities the participation officer has co-produced with care experienced young people and continues to reflect the themes we intend to develop.

Participation Activities 2021-2023

Our core activities and outcomes		
	Activity	Outcome
1	Youth engagement and participation	Care experienced young people will have opportunities to share their views across a range of media.
2	Young people development	There will be examples of young people making contributions to Aberdeen City Champions Board.
3	Partnership working	Core partners will engage in Champions Board and each will demonstrate and impact.
4	Information, awareness-raising, and promotion	Co-produce events which highlight corporate parenting role.
5	Monitoring and evaluation	Gather, hold evaluate information concerning core activities impact on young people and investment in exit planning strategies.

Supporting Care Experience Participation

The Aberdeen Care Experienced Group (ACE) have been supported to grow and build their capacity and voice, there have been great examples of collaboration,

“It’s going well but we will always need support from (the Development Officer) to make sure we get our voice heard and don’t become a ‘decoration”.

This was what one young person said in reference to her voice and the use of the Participation ladder at a Champions board meeting. The reference to ‘*decoration*’ refers to the stage on the ladder (see previous page) and the risk she feels will always exist of young people “*being seen and not heard*”.

How Corporate Parents have actively engaged and listened to young people’s voice

Monthly Cooking together with Champs as part of the activity calendar
Phone bank which has redistributed redundant devices from ACC to care experienced young people
Celebrating Success awards held annually to celebrate achievements with and for young people
ACE and Saltire Awards presented to group members annually in light of their volunteering hours in support of ACE
Champs Camp as part of Life Changes Trust
Promoting uptake of the Council Tax exemption for care leavers
Introducing a rent support scheme for students who are ACC tenants
Being successful in our Connecting Scotland bid for digital devices and connection for over 100 young care leavers
Renewing our partnership with Who Cares? Scotland to work together to support opportunities for lived experience to be better represented across systems and services which impact on them
Multi-agency Corporate Parent Training
Write Right about Me and the prominence of voice

Key Successes and Going Forward

Education

The Virtual School has supported our looked after young people, targets for 2021-2023

- The program with partners **Sport Aberdeen** is being further developed to support key transitions and build relationships. This forms part of the wider achievement program which is being expanded as a means by which the local authority can seek to fulfil Corporate Parent duties.
- In order to support learning and continued engagement throughout lockdown, a number of Looked After children identified by social work and education accessed the Hub provision.

- Young people **looked after at home** had priority placements in hub provision, **70%** of those who attended were Looked After at home and overall, there was a **>90% attendance rate**.
- MCR Pathways has been commissioned to support Looked After Children in secondary with a key measure being attendance. There will be a focus on those who are Looked After at home who have the lowest attendance rates and also the key transition stages where attendance falls.
- Overall numbers of **exclusion incidents have continued to fall since 2019**, the projections for 2021-23 suggest that this trend will continue.
- The local authority **Exclusion Policy** and guidance has been refreshed reflecting recommendations within **The Promise**.
- The Virtual School Education Support Officer will continue to co-work alongside schools and partner agencies including No one left behind and SDS to **ensure planning for all senior pupils** who are Looked After Children is robust.
- The new program to support planning for positive destinations was developed in partnership with the Virtual School to ensure cognisance was taken of the specific needs of Care Experienced Young People and Corporate Parent duties were delivered on, this will be further developed and linked to locally targeted employability options for care leavers

Balance of Care

- Data from 2016-2020, at chart 1 below suggests that numbers of Looked After Children in Aberdeen City remains relatively stable ranging from 590 to 543. As Corporate Parents are responsible for alternative family care planning, we will take effect to the **foundations** identified by the Independent Care review which will influence how we offer support:
- **Voice:** Children must be listened to and meaningfully and appropriately involved in decision-making about their care, with all those involved properly listening and responding to what children want and need. There must be a compassionate, caring, decision-making culture focussed on children and those they trust.
- **Family:** Where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay – and families must be given support together to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties which get in the way.
- **Care:** Where living with their family is not possible, children must stay with their brothers and sisters where safe to do so and belong to a loving home, staying there for as long as needed
- The goal for 2021-23 is to **increase by 3%** the number of children and young people who can be looked after at home and looked after within Kinship networks, shifting our use of resource where from where we are (majority of Aberdeen looked after young people are placed in foster care (Q3 of 2020)) 46.7% of our total number of looked after children are accommodated in foster care.

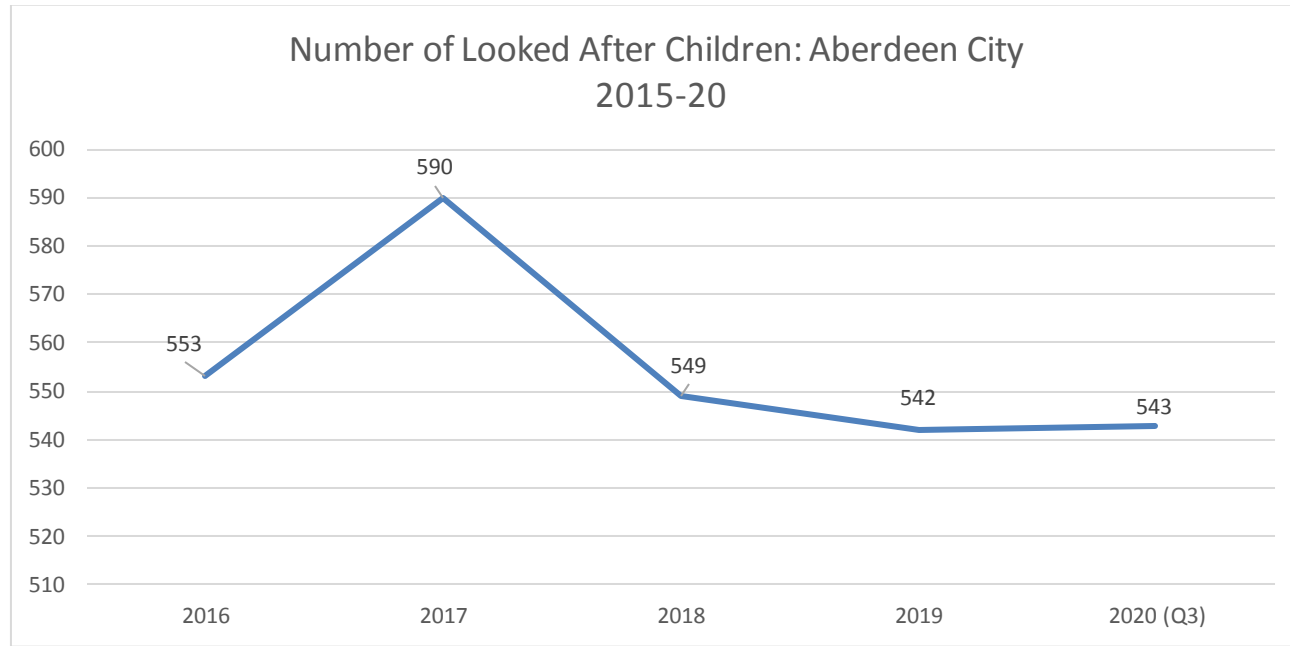


Chart 1.

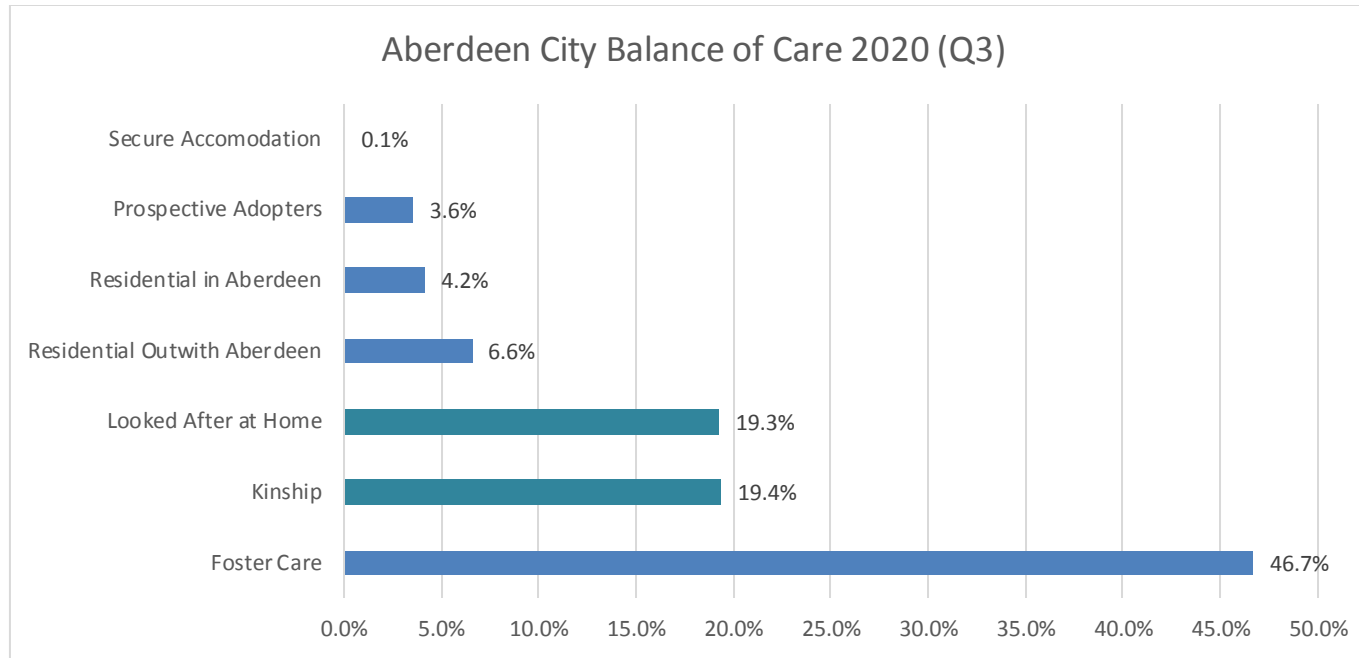


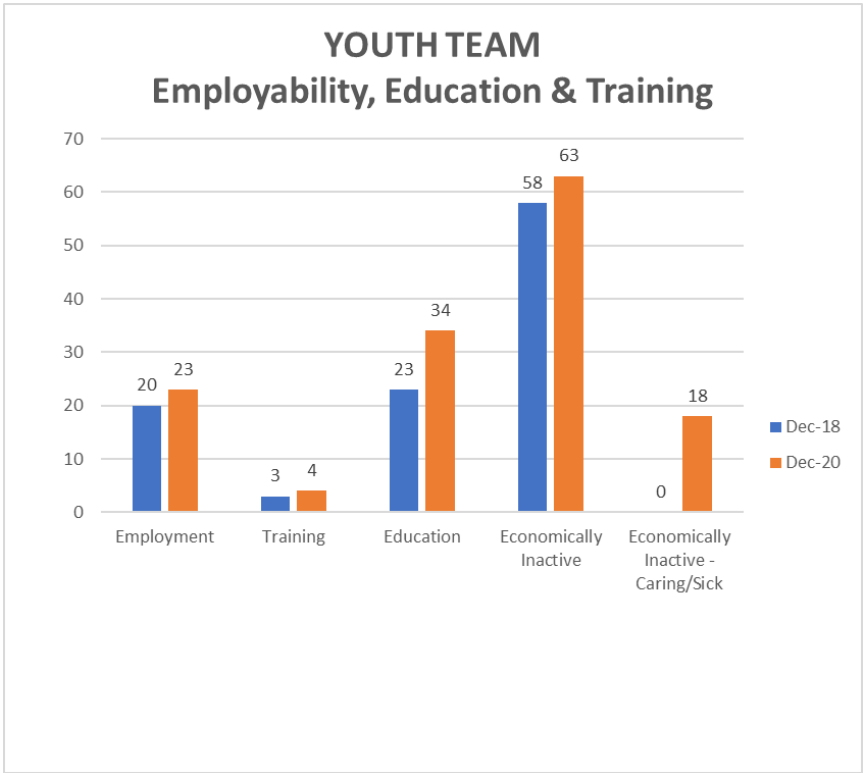
Chart 2

The chart above provides the % of looked after young people based on placement type, shift in the balance of care is a local priority within our Local Outcome Improvement Plan (2019-2026)

Our care leavers

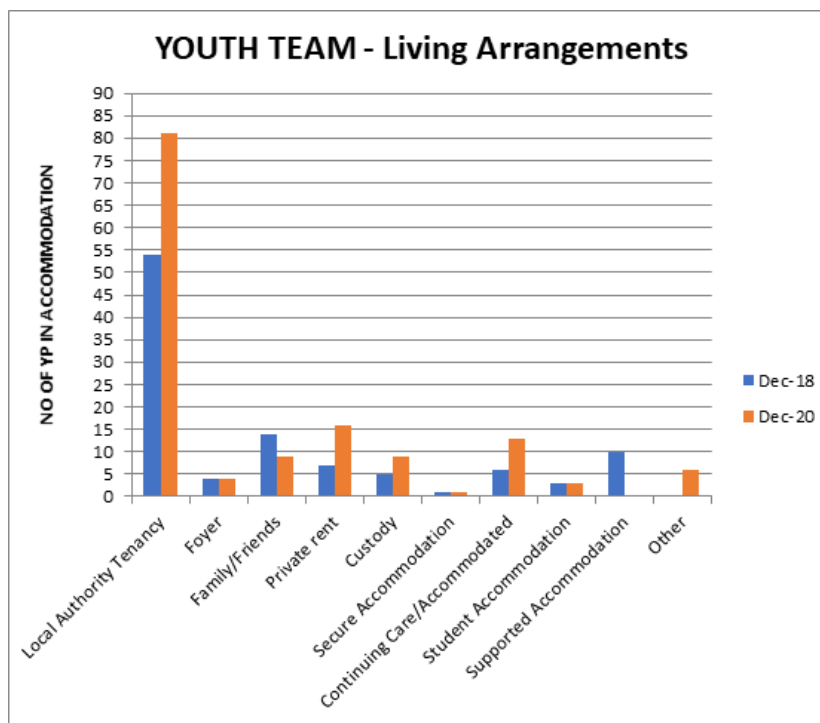
Employability and Education:

- Improved partnership working is supporting improvements in care leavers accessing **No One Left Behind** and Skills Development Scotland, **16 care experienced young people were** referred in 20/21.
- Six care experienced young people are engaging with providers Working Rite in 20/21, there will be 12 spaces available for care experienced young people with this provider.
- The process of guaranteed interviews for ACC roles, for care experienced young people has been introduced and a system where **apprenticeship opportunities** are shared and highlighted with Youth Team continues to be developed.
- Numbers of care leavers engaging with the Youth Team who are considered economically inactive has **reduced** from 56% in 2018 to 44% in 2021.
- There has been a **47% increase** in those supported in further education and taken up college or university places from 2018-2020.
- The introduction in 2020 of the supported rent scheme for care experienced young people who are students and ACC tenants is being accessed by approx. 14 young people across further and higher education options, with anticipated increases of around 20% in each year until 2023.



Care Leavers Living Arrangements

- The **Throughcare Housing Protocol** recognises the statutory duties toward care experienced young people and the requirement to support access to housing resource, reducing the risk of homelessness and associated vulnerabilities which can be of lifelong duration.
- The post of **Housing Support Officer** will be co-located in the Youth Team from **April 2021** and seek to offer earlier and preventative supports, the success of the role will be evaluated in **2023**.
- Since 2018/19, increasing numbers of young people have been able to move on to positive sustainable living destinations when they have left care, with increasing numbers **sustaining a permanent tenancy** and decreased use of temporary accommodation arrangements.
- The comparative information below also indicates the growing numbers of looked after young people remaining in placement on a Continuing Care basis, thus promoting their opportunities for successful transition.



Digital Connection

- From March 2020 to date there has been an over 400% increase in followers on the **Youth Team Facebook** page, this will be further developed in light of new and emerging technology during the period of this plan.
- Online activities which young people have attended including **cooking, movie nights and crafts** will continue, supporting the young people to continue to feel connected to others and reduce periods of isolation.
- In February 2021 **Connecting Scotland provided 100 of our care leavers with either an iPad, Chromebook or 2-year MiFi device.**
- **Digital connection** for care leavers scheme will be developed in 2021.

Aftercare support and keeping connected

- There has been an increase of 52% of numbers of young people receiving Aftercare Support from the Youth Team, increasing from approx. 70 in 2018 to **152** young people receiving **Aftercare Support**.
- Duration of contact and **maintenance of relationships** between care experienced young people and the workforce has also positively increased.
- This is now a planned and structured local residential **aftercare** programme delivered as part of core local residential children's home support.
- The local residential aftercare provision supports **20 young people** in the community with the same relationships utilised in their aftercare supports based in the children's home they lived in.
- 180 support hours per month has been allocated across local children's homes to support their sustainment of moving on options delivered to young people by those with whom they have **existing trusting relationships**.



The **Aberdeen Young Person's Rights Service**, previously known as the Children's Rights Service, actively promotes a rights-respecting and trauma-informed stance in the delivery of children's social work with colleagues and partners. Voice and participation are core to the ethos of the Service. A **functional review** of the Rights Service was undertaken during 2019. The review was underpinned by a clear set of objectives, including ensuring 'best fit' with wider strategic priorities and alignment with the UNCRC and its incorporation into domestic law. The service is underpinned by '**three P's of Children's Rights**':

- **P**articipation – to have your say and be listened to.
- **P**rotection – to be safe.
- **P**rovision – to be well looked after.

Another '**P**' - in the context of (Corporate) Parenting- represents the cultural backbone of the Service.

Young People's Rights Service - Participation in practice:

- **Expanded** its care experienced remit to include children and young people who are or have been involved in child protection processes which may lead or have led to Child Protection Registration. This was in response to review feedback and to findings within the Aberdeen City joint inspection on services for children and young people in need of care and protection (2019) to **seek to increase** these referred by 10% from 2021-2023.
- Consulted with young people to 'vote' on the **new Service name** to better reflect the 0-26 age range and the characteristics, circumstances and needs of those it should be accessible to.
- Co-produced a new [Service Leaflet](#) showing that the Service is available to a large number of children, young people and young adults in need of care and protection.
- Seek to support greater numbers of **care experienced young people in conflict with the law** during the period of this plan.
- The Service has contributed to a range of single and multi-agency training/development activity related to rights and participation e.g. multi-agency **corporate parenting training**, training for newly qualified social workers, the provision of regular 'bulletins' focusing on rights and participation related issues and 'drop-in' information sessions for workers and carers. **Offer 4 work force skills development** sessions each year of this plan.
- This runs alongside commitment to **supporting participation** through, e.g., the Champions Board and Mind of My Own. The Service is also working on developing a more human approach to data in keeping with key messages reflected within **#KeepThePromise**.
- The impact and challenges presented by Covid-19 has essentially affirmed the functional review findings and sharpened focus moving forward. This is well represented by this [Visual](#), pulled together during the summer of 2020, highlighted what our young people told the Service, what the Service did and how this is informing planning for the future.

Summary

Our Corporate Parenting Plan for 2021-2023 will be developed from a position of strength, building on our capacities for engagement and participation, we will do so by continuing the investment in our partnership with Who Cares? Scotland in seeking to expand opportunities for collaboration and co-production in our role as Corporate Parents. We will do this while being mindful that in their evidence to the Independent Care Review, many of those with lived experience shared their experiences of being parented in the care system which was without the investment and love they required. The recommendations of **The Promise** seek to activate cultural, systems and service shifts to create care experiences which provide more opportunities for compassion and recovery to be voiced. This is at the heart of our role as Corporate Parents. To be effective Corporate Parents we must seek opportunities to make these changes and to shift away from a term which fails to properly describe relational commitment. ('corporate parent' reported in ICR as a term that feels demeaning and an example of cold, process driven relationships)

We must ensure in its delivery our Corporate Parenting practices reflect compassion and love in how children and young people experience the care which we provide for them.


APPENDIX 2



Champions Board

#KeepThePromise Plan 2021-23

No.	Corporate Parenting Objectives
1.	Providing safe, secure, stable, and nurturing homes for looked after children and care leavers.
2.	Enabling looked after children and care leavers to develop or maintain positive relationships with their family, friends, professionals, and other trusted adults.
3.	Upholding and promoting children's rights.
4.	Securing positive educational outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.
5.	Ensuring 'care' is an experience in which children are valued as individuals, and where support addresses their strengths as well as their needs.
6.	Ensuring physical or mental health concerns are identified early and addressed quickly.
7.	Increasing the number of care leavers in education, training, and employment.
8.	Reducing the number of looked after children and care leavers who enter the youth and criminal justice systems.

No.	 The Promise Foundations
1.	Voice - Children must be listened to and meaningfully and appropriately involved in decision-making about their care, with all those involved properly listening and responding to what children want and need. There must be a compassionate, caring, decision-making culture focussed on children and those they trust.
2.	Family - Where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay – and families must be given support together to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties which get in the way.
3.	Care - Where living with their family is not possible, children must stay with their brothers and sisters where safe to do so and belong to a loving home, staying there for as long as needed.
4.	People - The children that Scotland cares for must be actively supported to develop relationships with people in the workforce and wider community, who in turn must be supported to listen and be compassionate in their decision-making and care.
5.	Scaffolding - Children, families and the workforce must be supported by a system that is there when it is needed. The scaffolding of help, support and accountability must be ready and responsive when it is required.

OUR CHAMPIONS BOARD:

VISION:

Our care experienced children and young people have a right to participate in decision-making about their own lives and have their voices heard.

Participation = consulting together, acting together, deciding together, learning better together.
Trust and positive relationships between children/young people and adults are key to effective participation.

APPROACH:

- Build a culture which demands and values participation, using **co-production**.
- Strengthen practice by improving ways of engaging children and young people to support their participation individually and as a group.
 - Develop structures to make sure that planning and service delivery takes account of children and young people's views
- Review these structures to evaluate the impact of children and young people's participation on decision-making and outcomes.

STANDARDS:

- Our children and young people are listened to and free to express their views on all matters that affect them.
 - These views directly influence decision-making at all levels.
- **Our children and young people are diverse and are given equal opportunities to be involved in participation activities.**
- We make sure adults are trained to effectively listen to and support them using a range of different participation methods.
- Our children and young people are safeguarded within all participation activities and experience participation as positive and empowering.

Participation approaches will reflect a range of capacity building opportunities alongside opportunities to play, have fun and feel connected.

OUTCOMES

Participation = improved individual outcomes for children and young people alongside improved services, now and into the future.

Champions Board - Delivery Plan 2021-2023

Champions Board Plan and Commitment

Outcome	Actions	Timescale
<p><u>As Champions we will act:</u></p> <p><u>LISTEN TO AND LEARN FROM THE VOICE AND EXPERIENCE OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</u></p> <p>When children and young people make their contribution to champions they will be listened to, understood and be able to hold champions to account for their follow up actions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The MOMO App (https://mindofmyown.org.uk/) has been effective in gaining the views of our children and young people. This is one example of how we are developing our creative connections. <p><i>Champions will have a quarterly report on the themes raised by young people who are using Mind of My Own App. The use of this App will be targeted to those young people looked after at home, kinship, and those for who we have child protection concerns.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. We provide a model of engagement which young people agree meets their needs for a forum. Learning from COVID 19 has demonstrated the positive options afforded by digital technology. We will be mindful that not all care experienced young people can access devices or connections. <p><i>The Champions Board will be operating as a digital platform and will seek to secure reliable connectivity and devices for care experienced young people.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Digital platforms will be fully used to keep in touch and better progress actions. It is hoped that there will be capacity for one physical Champion Board session in support of a larger co-production session. 	<p><i>April 2021-April 2022</i></p> <p><i>April 2021-April 2022</i></p> <p><i>By June 2021</i></p>

	<p><i>Direct connection sought for care experienced young people with Champions Board supporters and allies.</i></p> <p>4. In partnership with Who Cares? Scotland we will seek to recruit a Participation Officer who will take forward and co-produce Champions Board engagement and activities which can be accessed by Aberdeen care experienced young people.</p> <p><i>Activities and planning engagement actions will take account of the range of placement options from Aberdeen live in. Reaching out to such a dispersed group and capturing their voice will be a priority. Audit activity will be undertaken by WCS post holder to establish the baseline for approaches.</i></p> <p>5. Promotion and awareness raising around Corporate Parenting duties is fundamental to the role of Champions Board members. Each member should represent their own organisation's training plan around Corporate Parenting and able to report back on levels of uptake and impact.</p> <p><i>The Champions Board planning group which is supported by care experienced young people will request twice yearly information from Champions on their plans for the above, and in the adoption of the multi-agency Corporate Parenting training launched in Oct 2020. The rate of change toward an equitable position between those who are care experienced and peers remains high. Rates of prosecution and involvement in criminal justice systems are high.</i></p>	<p><i>April 2021-Dec 2021</i></p> <p><i>April 2021</i></p> <p><i>April 2021-Sept 2021</i></p>
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<p><u>As Champions it is our aim to seek and promote opportunities which bridge the gap:</u></p> <p><u>OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME LIFE OPPORTUNITIES AS THEIR PEERS</u></p> <p>Care Exp young people have been impacted on by COVID 19 in particular ways which reflect their, at times, social and emotional connections, and networks (any ask of CB around this?)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Champions will contribute their information to a baseline dataset which allows comparisons to be made regarding the outcomes for care experienced children and young people with their peers. <p><i>Each champion will be accountable for how their service, area or ward promotes our children and young peoples' access to and understanding of 'what's out there'.</i></p> <p><i>The Corporate Parenting performance and Improvement Group will share information provided by Champions to create a data set which monitors this performance.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. We will establish a range of participatory and engagement opportunities for our children and young people of all ages and stages. <p><i>Regardless of age or stage there will be opportunities for all care experienced young people to have their views shared and expressed. MOMO and digital connection is available to all care experienced young people and care leavers.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Accommodation and housing resources which support young people to access good quality accommodation and sustain relationships will be promoted. <p><i>The Care Leavers Housing Procedure will be adopted and supported in its delivery by co located Housing role within Care Leavers service.</i></p>	<p><i>April 2021-April 2023</i></p> <p><i>May 2021-April 2023</i></p>

<p><u>As Champions our behaviours and decision seek to:</u></p> <p><u>EMBED A CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PERSON RIGHTS APPROACH INTO SERVICES</u></p> <p>Policy and procedures update will be compliant with and informed by children's rights in realising our Corporate Parenting responsibilities.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy and Procedures being updated will reflect and be influenced by both international and national convention. <p><i>Champions Board members will be Promise Keepers acting with the intention of supporting the Transformational Change activities being developed by the local Promise Implementation Plan.</i></p> <p><i>The principles and support intentions of the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 will be carried out with children's views foremost in mind.</i></p> <p><i>Each Champion will support the adoption of the Incorporation of the UNCRC into practice within their own areas of responsibility.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Support the three P's, <i>Participation, Protection and Provision</i> of Children's Rights in our engagement opportunities with children and young people. <p><i>Aberdeen Young Person's Rights Service will facilitate awareness raising session around key themes of children's rights.</i></p> <p><i>We will join with colleagues to create a unified approach to children and young peoples' participation in Aberdeen which is mindful of their needs in their communities of origin.</i></p>	<p><i>June 2021-April 2023</i></p> <p><i>April 2021-April 2022</i></p>
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APPENDIX 3



Aberdeen Care Experienced (ACE)

Annual Report: June 2021 to December 2021

In Brief

The latter part of 2021 continued to present some challenges and difficulties for Aberdeen's Care Experienced Young People (CEYP). Initially, as Covid 19 restrictions began to lift and various services and organisations across the city begin to offer face-to-face sessions and activities. While this was welcomed by many of the young people, it also brought with it, a strong sense of uncertainty and heightened feelings of anxiety for many others. Managing the 'footfall' in Westburn Resource Centre also presented some challenges in that, we had to remain mindful of the amount of young people we could safely have in the building at any given time. Therefore, we endeavoured to continue offering as many participation opportunities as we could, using both digital and in person approaches.

However, and despite meeting these challenges we continued to achieve some amazing things. We've held a focus on the needs of the young people and utilised the creative and highly responsive approaches already in place to respond to the emerging crises which have continually impacted on them since March 2020. As a result, we have been able to maintain and steady level participation and influencing opportunities among the ACE Advisors and other Care Experienced young people in Aberdeen.

ACE Update

Our Core Activities and Outcomes		
	Activity	Outcome
1	Youth engagement and participation	Care experienced young people will have opportunities to share their views across a range of media.
2	Young people development	There will be examples of young people making contributions to Aberdeen City Champions Board.
3	Partnership working	Core partners will engage in Champions Board and each will demonstrate and impact.
4	Information, awareness-raising, and promotion	Co-produce events which highlight corporate parenting role.
5	Monitoring and evaluation	Gather, hold evaluate information concerning core activities impact on young people and investment in exit planning strategies.

Our Life Changes Trust (LCT) funding came to an end in March, but Aberdeen City Council have shown their commitment to ongoing 'participation' and 'voice' and secured funding for the Development Officer (DO) post until 2024. Additionally, there is potential for this to be extended by a further 2 years beyond then.

We were without our DO between March and June as Peter Melrose made the difficult decision to leave his post and returned home to Australia after a considerable period of Covid related illness. Many of our ACE Advisors and other young people hold some fond memories of his time in post and are keen to hold on to their connections with him.

Our new DO, Tracy Maxwell, came into post on May 31st, 2021, and a large part of her role includes extending the reach of the ACE Advisors Network to include children and young people with a more

varied range of care experience and, those who are still in care. This would include those who are in Kinship Care, accommodated away from the city, looked after at home and young people who are currently looked after in Children's Residential Homes. She has been working hard to reconnect us with ACE Advisors who had perhaps become less involved with our participatory sessions and events, many of which were offered digitally due to Covid restrictions. In addition to this, she has been reaching out to the various social work teams across the city which has resulted in the number of ACE Advisors extending by 15 (aged 16+) and the formation of the 'Mini Champs' Network. (30 new young people in total)

Champions Boards Themes

At the beginning of 2021, the young people identified 5 key themes, they would like our Corporate Parents to focus on and address. These are listed as follows:

- Education
- Relationships with the Police
- Mental Health
- Making a House a Home and,
- Employability

However, due to Covid restrictions and meetings moving to online, these themes weren't progressed as quickly as they may have been had there been no pandemic.

Since coming into post our DO, ACE Advisors and Champions have returned our focus to the asks of the young people and have started moving two of these forwards. The following is a brief update on the details of each project and how it is progressing.

Education

The young people highlighted that they wanted to raise awareness among fellow pupils and teachers, of what it feels like to be a CEYP in education by exploring some of their experiences and challenging stereotypes. They are hoping to do this by producing some short educational workshops/talks which can then be presented in schools. To date, 4 young people (all ACE Advisors) and our DO have joined a colleague from Education for two sessions, where they discussed relevant points and shared some experiences before making some suggestions as to how we can move this forward. We are hoping that some of our Mini Champs will be keen to get involved with this.

Relationships with the Police

The young people wanted to raise awareness of CEYP and their experiences among local Police officers. Again, they wanted to challenge stereotypes and, by exploring some of our young people's experiences of interactions with them, they are hoping that together we can influence changes in how CEYP are viewed by officers. Further to this, they are keen to explore ways in which we can build better relationships as well as create new/different strategies relating to how local officers manage their interactions with young people. To date, our DO has held one participation session with local Police officers in preparation for meeting the young people. We plan to offer another session with the

police and a preparation session with the young participants before bringing the two groups together for the first time.

Data for June 2021 to December 2021

The following data has been collected from a combination of the Who Cares? Scotland database where our ACE and helpline activities are recorded and local data collection by the DO.

ACE Meetings, Events, Sessions and One-to-One chats

Number of activities – 42 (the table below indicates the number and ages of young people involved)

Age	Total
0-5	0
5-12	3
12-16	13
16 - 19	9
19 +	16
TOTAL	41

This consists of:

2 Champion’s Board Meetings (online)

28 ACE meetings, participation sessions (Including national) , online workshops and social events attended by more than 2 young people, and

12 one to one sessions with individual young people including introductory meetings, supporting young person engagement with other services and welfare and advice catch ups

Who Cares? Scotland Helpline (Aberdeen only)

Number of activities – 1

Age	Total
0-5	0
5-12	0
12-16	0
16 - 19	4
19 +	2
TOTAL	6

These figures represent the numbers of care experienced young people from Aberdeen who contacted the National Helpline out of hours. This includes 1 young person living outside of the city due to the location of their college/university. The issues raised were related to finance and legal matters.

One individual was offered emotional and practical support from the DO

Wi-Fi Fund: Spent £530

Number of young people receiving funds – 5

Age	Total
0-5	0
5-12	0
12-16	0
16 - 19	0
19 +	5
TOTAL	5

These figures represent the amount of young people who contacted the Youth Team seeking some support with connection bills. Initially paid by them and reimbursed with monies from the fund.

Who Cares? Scotland Winter Wishes (Aberdeen only)

Number of activities – 8

Age	Total
0-5	0
5-12	0
12-16	0
16 - 19	0
19 +	9
TOTAL	9

These figures represent the number of young people from Aberdeen who applied for our Winter Wishes and, includes ACE Advisors along with young people who are known to us but not currently engaging in participatory events.

Data Summary

A total of 167 young people aged between 10 and 26+ years have engaged in some of the 53 various events /activities during the past 6 months. This includes sessions and events not arranged by our DO but where young people were encouraged or supported to participate. Who Cares? Scotland data notes that the core group of 18 young people remains steady and is largely comprised of ACE Advisors and a few who engage in some activities. However, we have also welcomed a total of 30 new young people to the ACE Network, and it may take a few months to gain an accurate figure in terms of our core group activity, and the impact it has on voice, participation and engagement moving forward.

The Challenges

2021 has brought many variations in guidelines and restrictions which at times, has caused a sense of uncertainty for both professionals and CEYP. One example being, attempting to return our Champions Boards back to physical gatherings at the request of the young people, but ‘spikes’ in Covid cases influenced changes in guidance which in turn, meant that they were promptly return to an online platform at short notice. Although the young people understood the necessity for the last-minute change and continued to engage, some were showing signs of feeling frustrated with the constant changes in advice.

The Achievements

The latter half of 2021 has brought some notable achievements to follow those of 2020. That’s not to say that last year’s achievements are insignificant but suggests that they are fundamental to influencing what we have achieved throughout 2021. The previously noted advance in practice in general, use of technology and, newly developed rapid responses to emerging needs by rallying partner agencies combined with the skills and approaches we used pre-pandemic, has enabled us to continue meeting needs and increasing participation in a range of areas using a blended approach.

Additional Support

Due to the increase in numbers within the ACE Advisors Network in general, the need for additional support has remained at a similar level as previous months. As a result, we continue to remain mindful of the support issues that impact on our CEYP daily and, have continued to be available during the evenings and at weekends. This has resulted in an increase in the use of our social media and chat platforms, as well as continuing to offer one-to-one chats.



Sessions & Events

As Covid restrictions began to lift, our CEYP indicated that they would like our sessions and participation opportunities to return to physical gatherings. This would enable them to re-establish the connections impacted by 'Lockdowns' with the friends, peers and professionals and, to develop new relationships with the increasing number of young people joining the ACE Network. As a result, we held several fun social events and a few focussed sessions, some of which will occur regularly and some according to the asks of the young people as they will be focussed pieces of participation work.

ACE Supper Club

By sitting down to a meal prepared by the professionals rarely seen by young people in care but, who often have a role in influencing decisions which may in turn impact on the outcomes for them and their families, we hope to break down barriers often inadvertently created on both sides for various reasons. We also hope this enables our CEYP to see the people behind the job titles and offers opportunities to explore things such as likes/dislikes, interests, hopes, fears, and aspirations in a relaxed and safe environment. In turn, the Corporate Parents are afforded the opportunity to build trust and improve relationships with the young people and can gather the views of the young people in 'real time', enabling them to make plans relating to moving current issues forward. This group is regularly attended by around 12 young people but numbers are on the increase.

Additionally, a number of young people been coming along early, rolling up their sleeves and helping our Corporate Parents with the preparation and cooking, which offers them opportunities to increase their nutritional awareness and expand their creative cookery skills. As a result they are also becoming more adventurous in their exploration of different foods from all over the world, for example, we are hoping to hold Eastern European and Korean themed Supper Clubs.

Summer Activities

Who Cares? Scotland had access to funding aimed at encouraging our young people back out into the community as the Covid restrictions eased. However, the North-East Team discussed and agreed that due to the limits placed on gatherings of larger numbers, we would not plan a large event but instead, offer the money to our young people for activities of their choice. Examples of chosen activities, included family visits to Innoflate, small group visits to Codonas, Cinema and food dates with friends, appointments with hairdressers, family trips to Edinburgh Zoo and one small group day out at Dynamic Earth. In total, 39 young people accessed this money to participate in 14 different activities.

Care Week

The theme for Care Week 2021 was Celebrating Success and Connection. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we were unable to organise a large gathering. However, we wanted to ensure young people were able to celebrate their individual achievements and success in some way. The Youth Team and the Young Person's Rights Service made that happen and put together some '**wee sit back and relax**' packs which were filled with sweet treats, relaxing bath/shower products and skin pampering products. 120 young people received one of these packs.

Mini Champs

Since facilitating an Introductory Participation session in August, our focus has been to continue reaching out to and connecting with more children & young people from a more varied range of care settings whilst establishing trusting relationships with the founding Network members. We have done this by hosting some fun get-togethers with a little piece of Aberdeen's Core Activities and Outcomes 'thrown in'.

However, this part of the ACE Network is still in the early stages of development as Tracy and the children and young people are getting to know each other better. That said, there are plans to introduce them to some focussed pieces of work early in 2022.



Mini Champs Movie Night



Mini Champs Halloween Party

We had lots of fun getting dressed up, 'dooking' for apples, showing of our best dance moves, playing spooky party games, and eating the party food the adults and carers made for us.



Champions Board Celebratory Event @ Innoflate

The ACE Advisors felt that having the Mini Champs on board was our biggest achievement in 2021, and therefore, wanted to include them in the event and make it a celebration of the start new era or 'old and new' coming together. It was fun to see the older Advisors and professionals releasing their 'inner Tigger' along with the energetic Mini Champs on the inflatable play area. Many of our younger members were 'super impressed' that the Chief Social Worker and other Corporate Parents took time to come along and have fun with them. And of course everyone went home with an Advent Calendar.



December

Christmas 2021 remained much the same as 2020 due to the constantly changing restrictions around Covid. As the footfall in many ACC buildings remained limited, we made the decision not to go ahead with our Christmas Party for the second year.

However, we did manage to organise some smaller face-to-face and some online activities for our young people. These were arranged in collaboration with other individuals and organisations who provided things such materials and ingredients and, included an online including craft making session, a supper and movie night, our visit to the Lynx Ice Arena and our Christmas Tree Lights event.

Aberdeen University donated our outdoor Christmas Tree and lights this year. Cllr Lesley Dunbar donated a 'Mini Tree' to the 'Mini Champs' which we hope to plant in the grounds of Westburn in January. A small number of smaller artificial trees were purchased for and kept in the building for young people and families who requested one.

We wanted to ensure our young people and their families had festive food and gifts on Christmas Day thus, we worked alongside ACC staff and volunteers to deliver Christmas Dinner to around 80 families.

Some of our Favourite Photos

Just us being young people



The impact of global warming ☹️



Us older kids like choccy too ☺️



And Finally

Mini Champs @ Halloween



December Supper Club



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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	23 rd February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Adult Support and Protection Inspection Update
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/22/053
DIRECTOR	Sandra Macleod, IJB Chief Officer
CHIEF OFFICER	Claire Wilson, ACHSCP Lead for Social Work
REPORT AUTHOR	Val Vertigans, Lead Strategic Officer Adult Public Protection, ACHSCP
TERMS OF REFERENCE	Section 1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight and provide assurance about preparations being undertaken for the forthcoming Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection (ASP) in Aberdeen.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes preparations being made for the forthcoming Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection in Aberdeen.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The programme of Joint Inspections was paused at the start of the pandemic, but, in a letter to COSLA and SOLACE dated 3 March 2021, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport requested that the inspection programme resumes in a proportionate and sensitive manner.
- 3.2 The inspection programme is being led by the Care Inspectorate in collaboration with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Scotland (HMICS) and Healthcare improvement Scotland (HIS). This scrutiny and assurance will be undertaken in the context of health and social care integration. A phased approach is being adopted, using adapted methodology developed during 2020 which ensures the lightest possible approach.
- 3.3 The inspection focuses on key processes and leadership (see national [quality indicator framework](#)). The key activities are to include submission of a short position statement, submission of supporting evidence under specific themes, a case file audit and a staff survey across social work, health and police.

Guidance and information about the methodology to be used have been published on the [Care Inspectorate website](#).

- 3.4 On 10th November 2021, informal advice was received from the Care Inspectorate that the formal Notification of Inspection would be made on 22nd November 2021. Indicative timelines provided by the Care Inspectorate at that time covered steps to be taken, culminating in the publication of the inspection report in April 2022.
- 3.5 Given the continued significant and extreme pressures on systems, services and staff across the partnership, responding to Covid 19 and winter pressures and the additional work which an inspection would add, discussions have subsequently taken place with the Care Inspectorate regarding mitigation of these impacts via reconsideration of proposed timings and methodology.
- 3.6 At a meeting with Care Inspectorate colleagues on 12th January, a ‘slow down’ of the inspection was agreed, in relation to the provision of case file documentation for scrutiny, and the situation was reviewed at a further meeting on 7th February. At this meeting, it was intimated to Care Inspectorate colleagues that the three key agencies are now in a position to proceed with the inspection. This is on the basis of Healthcare Improvement Scotland colleagues reading health records on location in Aberdeen, and Social Work records being read remotely, by the Care Inspectorate, via a Sharepoint site.
- 3.7 Formal Notification of inspection, including timelines, was received on 14th February. Key dates / timelines are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
14 th March	Staff Survey circulated (closes 1 st April)
30 th March	Deadline for submission of Position Statement, Supporting Evidence etc
20 th April	Case File Records to be uploaded to Care Inspectorate Sharepoint site
w/c 25 th April	Case File Reading
w/c 25 th April	Focus Groups (one for practitioners and one for senior leaders)
30 th May	Draft Report issued – for factual accuracy check
14 th June	Embargoed Report
21 st June	Published Report

- 3.8 The required Position Statement, Supporting Evidence, and Processes and Timescales documents have now been finalised, and will be submitted at the earliest opportunity.

3.9 The Lead for Social Work hosted a specific session for Council Officers on 18th January to update them about the inspection and provide an opportunity to discuss related issues or concerns.

3.10 The published inspection report will be provided to the CCGC on 2nd August 2022 (being the first meeting following publication). Assurance in respect of inspection preparations and state of readiness is also being provided to the Adult Protection Committee (APC) and the Aberdeen Executive Group for Public Protection.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk			
Compliance	Care Inspectorate inspections offer assurance on how well relevant policies, procedures and risk management arrangements are working.	L	Work is being undertaken to address areas identified for improvement through quality assurance.
Operational	Inspections cause significant impact on resources in terms of preparing and undertaking the inspection, the formal element of which is over a 13-week timeline. It is acknowledged that staff are stretched due to the pandemic, increase in demand and winter planning		The impact of this inspection has been acknowledged in terms of resource required to undertake this. The uploading of 105 files into the Care Inspectorate System will be resource intensive so the group is working on how we do this with the least amount of impact on operational staff. Discussions continue with the Inspectorate with regards to the timescales

			and methodology for this, given current pressures.
Financial			
Reputational	The publication of regulatory inspection reports can have a reputational management impact,	L	Detailed planning and preparation is taking place in advance of the inspection, as set out in this report.
Environment / Climate			

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	N/A
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The report aligns closely with Stretch Outcome 11 of the LOIP
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	N/A
Regional and City Strategies	
N/A	
<i>UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes</i>	The report sets out how preparations are being made to the forthcoming joint inspection of adult support and protection in Aberdeen, which will provide assurance as to our effectiveness in fulfilling statutory obligations under the Adult Support & Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	N/A
Data Protection Impact Assessment	N/A

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES

N/A

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	23 rd February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	APC Annual Report 2020-21
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/22/052
DIRECTOR	Sandra Macleod, IJB Chief Officer
CHIEF OFFICER	Claire Wilson, ACHSCP Lead for Social Work
REPORT AUTHOR	Val Vertigans, Lead Strategic Officer Adult Public Protection, ACHSCP
TERMS OF REFERENCE	Section 1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Adult Protection Committee Annual Report 2020-21, in order to provide assurance about the impact and effectiveness of partnership working to support and protect vulnerable adults at risk of harm in Aberdeen during the period.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 notes the Adult Protection Committee Annual Report 2020-21; and
 2.2 notes that the Biennial Report for the period April 2020 to March 2022 will be shared with the Committee following submission to Scottish Government in October 2022.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The independent Convener of Aberdeen Adult Protection Committee (APC), has a statutory duty to prepare a Biennial Report, the last of which was for 2018-20. At the meeting of the APC on 9th June 2021 it was decided that it would also be beneficial to produce an additional Annual Report, to enable oversight of activity on an annual basis, and particularly in the light of the amount of work done over the year and in response to the pandemic, and also to provide an opportunity for highlighting achievements and good practice. The first such report, covering the year April 2020 to March 2021, is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 3.2 The APC is committed to facilitating and overseeing an inclusive, responsive and effective approach to the support and protection of adults at risk of harm. It includes representation from a range of professional backgrounds and organisations including Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance

Service, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and ACVO, the local third sector interface.

3.3 The reporting period almost entirely coincides with the first year of the pandemic, and the Report recognises this and draws out how partners in Aberdeen continued to prioritise the support and protection of vulnerable adults at risk of harm during this time, in very challenging circumstances for the staff involved. The Report includes several case studies to highlight some of the challenges.

3.4 Key data continued to follow previous years' trends:

- Care Homes / Care at Home services were the highest referrers of Adult Support and Protection referrals (446 referrals (32%);
- Financial and Physical Harm continued to be the most common harm types which resulted in an Investigation (29% and 20% respectively);
- In most Investigations (65%), the principal harm had taken place in the individual's own home

3.5 The report provides updates on work to progress the APC's Priorities, and sets out future priorities, which relate to:

- Stakeholder Engagement;
- Performance & Quality Assurance; and
- Learning and Development.

3.6. The Annual Report has been endorsed by Adult Protection Committee (APC) and the Aberdeen Executive Group for Public Protection. It is also being submitted for noting to the IJB Risk Audit and Performance Committee and the Council's Public Protection Committee, and will be shared by members of the APC with their respective organisations.

3.7 The Report has also been added to the [Aberdeen Protects website](#) and will be shared as part of social media communications aimed at raising awareness about the risk of harm to vulnerable adults, for National ASP Day on 20th February 2022.

3.8 The 'statutory' Biennial Report for 2020 – 2022 will be shared with the Committee at its meeting on 12th December 2022, following submission to Scottish Government at end October.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	None for this report		
Compliance	None for this report		
Operational	None for this report		
Financial	None for this report		
Reputational	None for this report		
Environment / Climate	None for this report		

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Policy Statement
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	No impact
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Investing in early intervention and prevention activities is a core principle of the recently refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2016-2026 which envisages Aberdeen as “a place where all people can prosper”. Adult support and protection is a significant part of that ambition to ensure that everyone feels safe, supported and included.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	No impact
Regional and City Strategies	
	No impact
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	
	No impact – there is no statutory requirement for the APC to produce an Annual Report.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

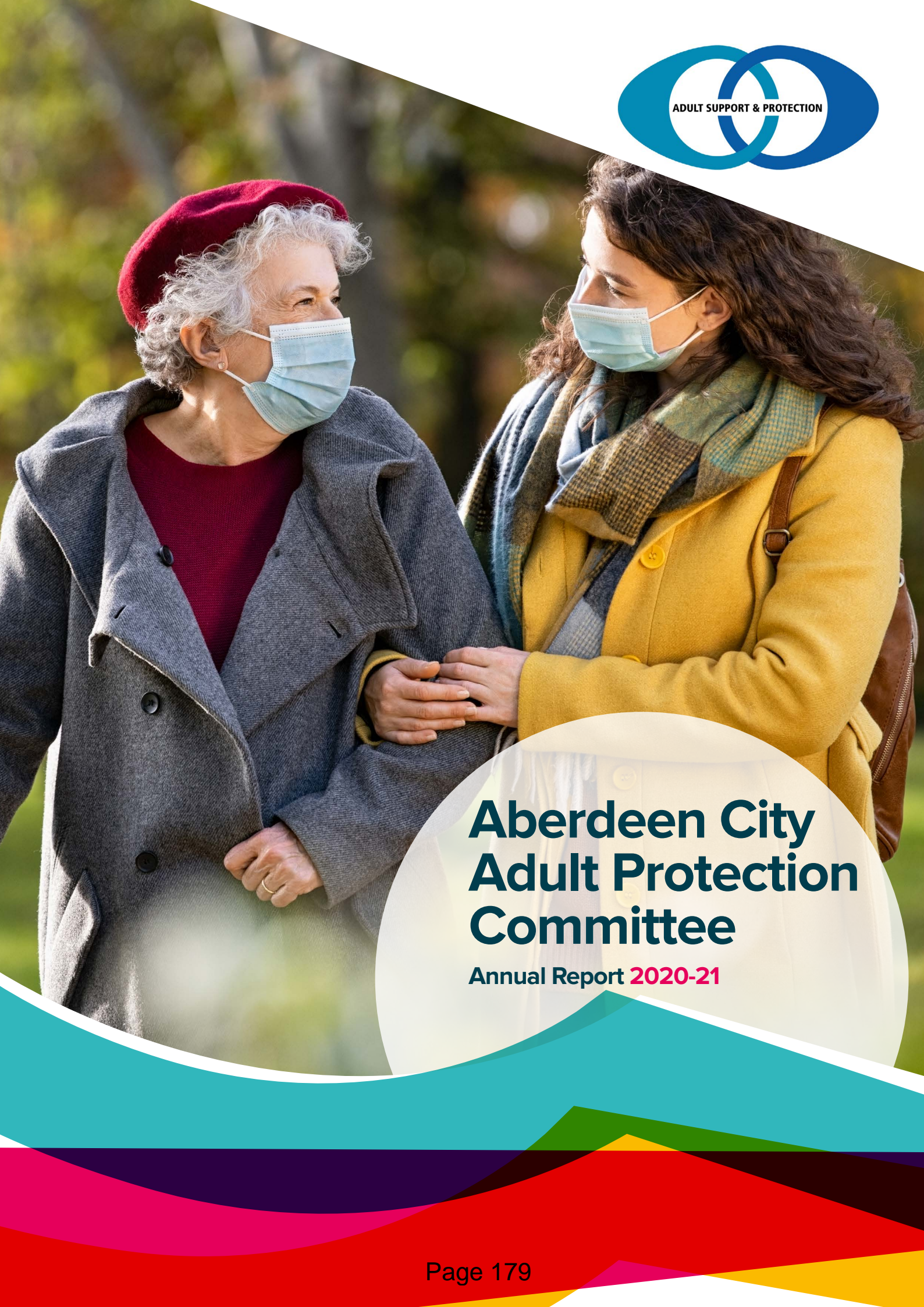
None

10. APPENDICES

i) APC Annual Report 2020-21

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Aberdeen City Adult Protection Committee

Annual Report 2020-21



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Section 1

Convener's Foreword

As independent Convener of Aberdeen Adult Protection Committee (APC), I have a statutory duty to develop a Biennial Report, the last of which was for 2018-20. The Committee has decided that it would also be beneficial to produce an additional Annual Report, to enable oversight of activity on an annual basis, and provide an opportunity for highlighting achievements and good practice. This is the first such report.

I am delighted to introduce this Annual Report on adult support and protection activity undertaken in Aberdeen during the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, recognising that this was a very different and difficult year for everyone.

There have been and continue to be wide-ranging implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted on every aspect of life during the reporting period. This includes the likelihood that the vulnerability of some adults will have increased because of the additional pressures placed on families and communities, potentially placing some adults at risk of harm and neglect, where that would not otherwise have been the case.

The pandemic also impacted significantly on staff, of course, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff across all agencies and services in Aberdeen for the essential role they have played and continue to play in identifying, reporting, supporting and protecting vulnerable adults in Aberdeen who are at risk of or who are experiencing harm.

And finally, I took on the role of independent Convener from Sheena Gault in April 2021, and must convey the thanks of all those involved with the APC and adult support and protection in Aberdeen for the commitment of the outgoing Convener and resulting progress made under her auspices during her time in the post.

Adrian Watson
Independent Convener,
Adult Protection Committee



Section 2

Introduction

The vision for Adult Support and Protection in Aberdeen is:

“Partners in Aberdeen are committed to an inclusive approach to preventing and responding to harm and protecting adults at risk”.

The Adult Protection Committee (APC) is an inter-agency forum which takes the lead to co-ordinate and develop local responses to adult support and protection, including prevention of further harm. All agencies that work with vulnerable adults have a shared responsibility for providing support and safeguarding their welfare. Inter-agency working is essential to the protection of those adults and no one agency should be seen as solely responsible for the protection of adults who may be at risk of harm. Arrangements are designed to support the valuable partnership work which exists to allow continuous improvement in adult support and protection services across Aberdeen City.

The APC has continued to meet on a regular basis throughout the pandemic, (moving to ‘virtual’ on-line meetings), to ensure a continued focus on adults at risk of harm, and offers, via this report, an overview of how this focus was maintained during this time, and the resulting outcomes.

Section 3

Impact of the Pandemic

The Scottish Government published its [COVID-19 Adult Support and Protection Guidance](#) on 30th April 2021. This was taken on board and incorporated into local guidance and procedures, to support staff to continue to undertake their roles in relation to vulnerable adults at risk of harm, in the context of the pandemic.

Partners were only too aware of the risks associated with the pandemic and its lockdown restrictions... hidden harms, increased risks to the most vulnerable, etc... which led to multi-agency awareness raising and sharing key messages across the partnership, both locally and via social media.

The Adult Protection Committee met more regularly, on a 'virtual' basis, to ensure that all partners were supported, that risks were identified early and addressed, trends monitored through relevant data, implications for staff welfare considered, etc.

The restrictions and implications linked to COVID-19 meant we had to develop new ways of working. Although case conferences were delayed temporarily, initially, solutions were found virtually. To ensure that statutory partners and third sector organisations remained alert to the potential concerns about harm while recognising that ASP concerns may increase during the pandemic, Adult

Protection Plans were drawn up to assess any new or additional risks and measures until relevant professionals from different agencies could attend virtual meetings.

Special sessions were held for Council Officers to provide them with the support needed to ensure the implications of the pandemic were taken into account when supporting clients under ASP legislation.

NHS Grampian staff received briefing and awareness raising materials throughout both lockdowns to support continued vigilance and reporting of Adult Protection concerns. In addition, despite the initial speed of recruitment given the pressures of the pandemic, all new vaccinators and contact tracers recruited during the pandemic period, received training in Adult Support and Protection via induction.

Council Officers continued to maintain regular contact with existing ASP clients and partner agencies and the Adult Protection Unit developed guidance about COVID-19 triage and assessment which was shared with key agencies and organisations.

The introduction during the pandemic of Care Home Oversight Groups and joint assurance visits has had a positive impact in respect of



ASP awareness and response from health partners working with the care home sector. It is recognised that before the pandemic, there was work required regarding health professionals' recognition of 'global' ASP issues in care settings. There is now far greater assurance that healthcare staff will not only recognise concerns within the care home sector but that these will be reported, and any subsequent ASP activities supported.


A Council Officer Support group facilitated by the APU co-ordinator offers local peer support and guidance around issues raised. This is based

on the principle that all Council Officers should have access to a positive environment where they can discuss in more detail their anxieties or where they are struggling with various issues in their practice. Over the last two years, sessions for Council Officers have been held on a range of topics including cuckooing, chronologies, capacity, COVID, domestic abuse and older adults, investigative interviewing, decision-making tool, and ASP governance.

Section 4 Key Data

REFERRALS

1) Number of Referrals

	2020-21 1,377	2019-20 1,461	2018-19 1,367
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2) Top three Sources of Referrals:


i) in 2020-21

	Care Homes/ Care at home/ Third Sector 446		Police 263		NHS Grampian 167
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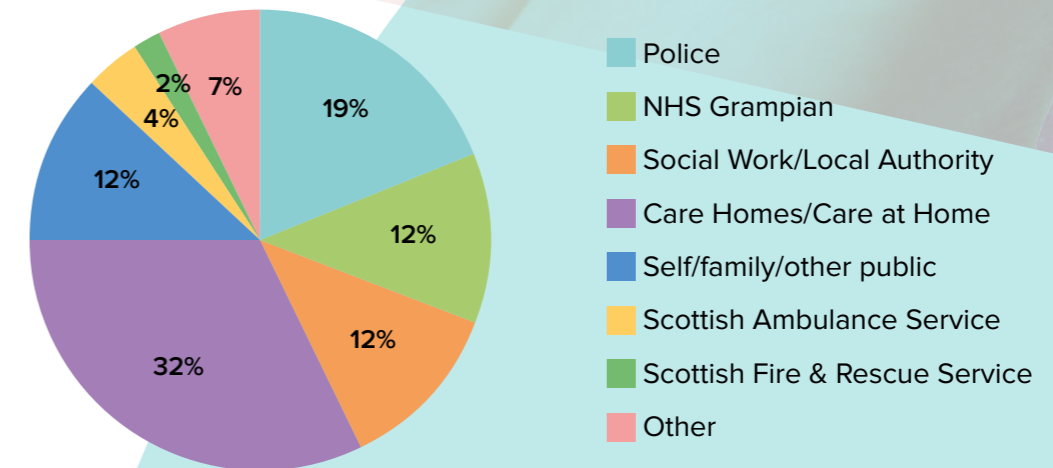
ii) in 2019-20

	Care Homes/ Care at home/ Third Sector 519		Social Work / Council 244		NHS Grampian 185
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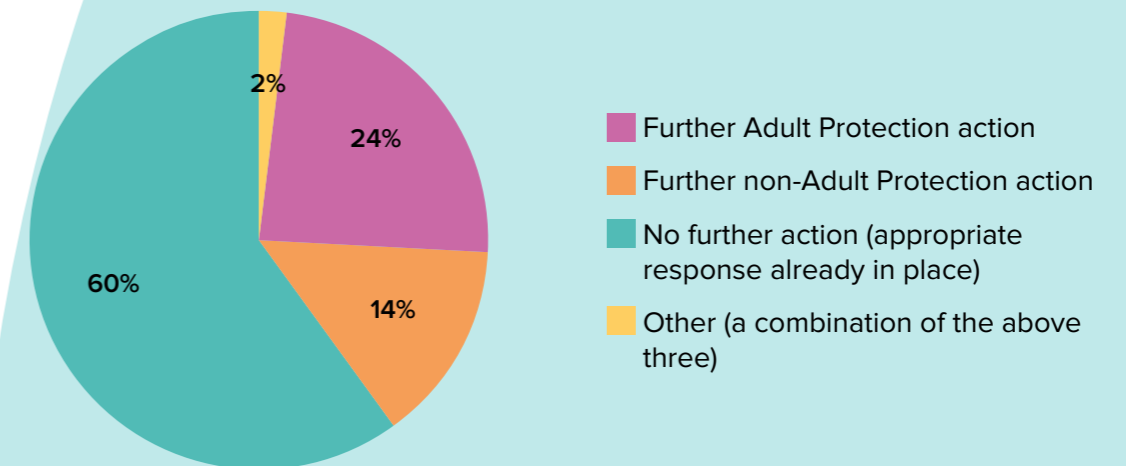
iii) in 2018-19

	Care Homes/ Care at home/ Third Sector 442		NHS Grampian 213		Social Work / Council 211
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3) All Referral Sources in 2020-21:




4) Outcome of Referrals in 2020-21:




INVESTIGATIONS

1) Number of Investigations:




	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
	226	305	379

2) Top three Types of Harm which resulted in an Investigation:



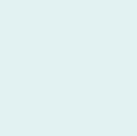
i) in 2020-21

	Financial Harm 29% (65 cases)		Self Harm (including Self-Neglect) 20% (46 cases)		Physical Harm 20% (45 cases)
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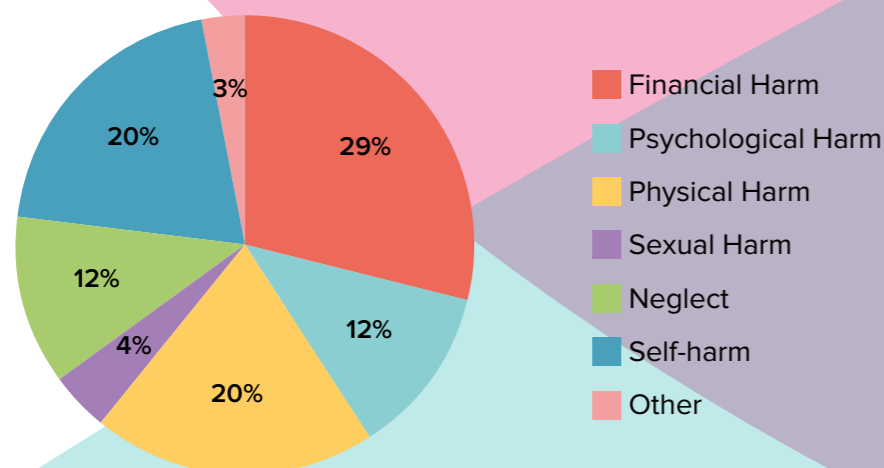
ii) in 2019-20

	Physical Harm 27% (82 cases)		Financial Harm 25% (76 cases)		Self Harm (including Self-Neglect) 19% (57 cases)
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iii) in 2018-19




	Financial Harm 26% (100 cases)		Physical Harm 22% (85 cases)		Other 16% (59 cases)
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3) All Types of Harm resulting in Investigations in 2020-21:



4) Top Three Locations of principal Harm which resulted in an Investigation




i) in 2020-21

	Own Home 65% (148 cases)		Care Home 11% (24 cases)		Sheltered housing/ Supported Accommodation 7% (16 cases)
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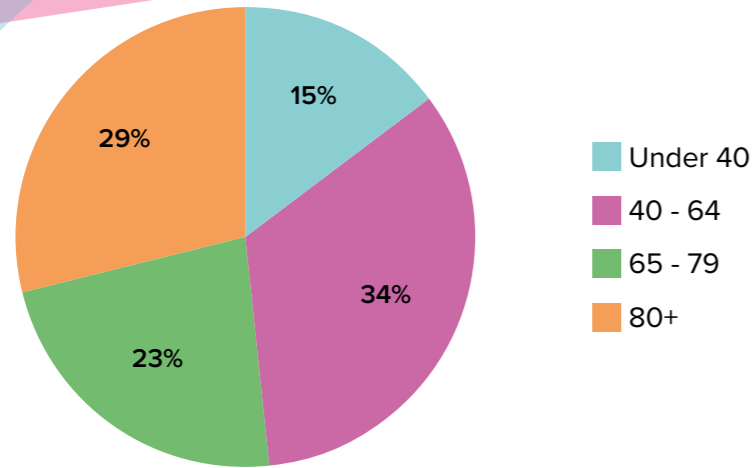
ii) in 2019-20

	Own Home 59% (181 cases)		Care Home 12% (36 cases)		Not known 10% (32 cases)
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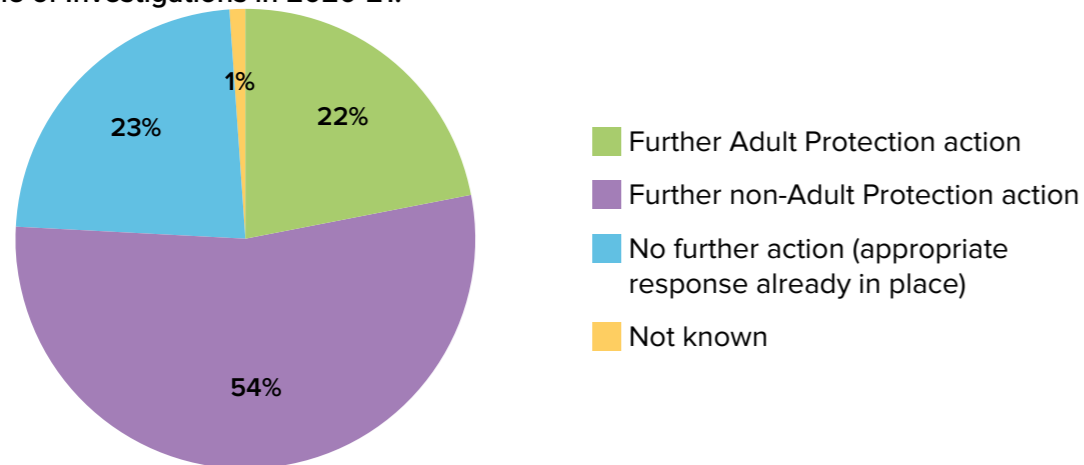
iii) in 2018-19

	Own Home 56% (211 cases)		Care Home 12% (44 cases)		Sheltered housing / Supported Accommodation 8% (30 cases)
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5) Age Groups of individuals for whom Investigations Commenced in 2020-21:



6) Outcome of Investigations in 2020-21:



LARGE SCALE INVESTIGATIONS

	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
	1	2	4

FEEDBACK FROM CLIENTS PROTECTED AND SUPPORTED UNDER ASP

	2020-21	2019-20
No. asked during ASP if they would be happy to give feedback at end of process	68	97
No. who agreed during ASP to give feedback at end of process	15	17
No. who gave feedback at end of process	8	10



Section 5

Progress against Priorities

Below we provide an overview of how we have continued to ensure the support and protection of adults at risk of harm over the last 18 months, covering the period of the pandemic.

OUR PRIORITY:

Multi agency adult protection policies, procedures and practice guidance is complied with consistently resulting in timely and effective multi agency support and protection to adults at risk of harm.

- Both the Adult Protection Committee and its Operational Sub Group have continued to meet regularly to support multiagency understanding and shared practice relating to ASP policy and procedure.
- The Grampian inter-agency Adult Protection policies, procedures and practice guidance have continued to underpin work relating to the support and protection of adults at risk of harm. The overarching [Grampian Interagency Procedures](#) have been reviewed during the period, to reflect changes in legislation and good practice, and work continues to update the appendices.
- During the summer of 2020, a review was undertaken of the operational model for delivery of the lead agency ASP statutory functions in Aberdeen. As a result of this a new team has been created, comprising Duty Social Work and Adult Protection Unit staff. This Adult Protection Social Work Team is screening all ASP concern referrals, leading to increased consistency of approach.
- Alongside this, an Initial Referral Discussion process has also been initiated, which brings together representatives from Social Work, Health and Police to consider referrals where there is high risk, or need for discussion about whether the criteria for ASP apply to a referral.
- A website has been developed ([Aberdeen Protects](#)), which hosts our multi-agency APC policies, procedures and practice guidance – a one-stop-shop for practitioners across partners, services and agencies across all the Public Protection agendas.
- The Health and Social Care Partnership - the 'lead agency' - has also reviewed and developed operational procedures, to ensure consistent standards of practice.
- Following wide internal and external consultation, NHS Grampian has rolled out an Adult Public Protection Training Framework for its staff and members – directing and signposting staff to training that ensures they are fully briefed on current procedures and their ASP duties. This has been accompanied with an increased frequency of training sessions in 2020/21.
- Lead agency quality assurance of case files undertaken in April / May 2021 found that in 100% of (18) cases reviewed, ASP investigations were found to have appropriately involved partners.

OUR PRIORITY:

The voice of stakeholders is key in the adult support and protection process and the service and system improvements are fully inclusive of the voice of the adult and their family.

- Throughout the pandemic period, Advocacy Service Aberdeen have continued to support adults and carers to participate fully in the ASP process, including implementing an iPad borrowing scheme to enable individuals to attend 'virtual' case conferences.
- Advocacy and Health and Social Care Partnership colleagues continue to ask adults and carers, both during and at the end of their adult support and protection journey, about their experience, and explore alternative ways of improving on the numbers who agree to give feedback. Feedback can also be provided via questionnaires on Advocacy's website, and information about how that feedback is used is also provided on the site. The questions asked align with the national Health & Social Care Standards.
- The Partnership acknowledges the significant support of third sector organisations and colleagues in supporting and protecting adults at risk of harm during this challenging time, and looks forwards to building on those relationships going forwards.
- In April 2021, a Communication Strategy was agreed by the APC, which aims:
 - to set out how appropriate and effective communication will support the achievement of the APC's key strategic objectives;
 - to promote effective communication in all aspects of adult support and protection; and
 - to ensure that key stakeholders are aware of, understand and are engaged in this work.
- A Service User Engagement Strategy and Guidance was approved by the APC on 4th August 2021, which sets out the Committee's approach to ensuring the voice of service users, their carers and representatives (where relevant) is heard, provides guidance to those working with adults under the Act about ways of engaging meaningfully with adults and their carers, and identifies improvement actions to be progressed in order to engage more meaningfully with adults involved in ASP, and their carers.





OUR PRIORITY:

Lead Agency and partners are adequately resourced, trained and developed to have both capacity and capability to respond to the demands of Adult Support and Protection work.

- ▶ Multi-agency training has been reinvented for delivery ‘virtually’, and has been rolled out, albeit capacity issues have impacted on the ability of staff to attend training as frequently as desired. More information about learning and development which has taken place during the year can be found in the box below.
- ▶ The pandemic period has seen the development of integrated and shared learning resources and use of technology in delivery of Learning & Development.
- ▶ The lead agency has developed an ASP Learning & Development Strategy & Action Plan. This is being informed by a pan-Grampian Training Needs Analysis, and links closely to the Grampian Learning and Development Framework.
- ▶ To ensure our staff feel fully supported, members of the APC have undertaken to agree an approach to ‘supervision’ across the partnership. This also ensures an appropriate level of supervision or management is in place across the partners, providing the relevant oversight, and in line with agreed principles, so that staff are appropriately supported and protected.
- ▶ NHS Grampian has invested in the new addition of an Adult Public Protection Lead for its Public Protection Team. This additional capacity has allowed NHS Grampian to lead and support ASP activities – such as IRD development across Grampian and the external ICR/SCR group. The lead agency has also invested in the addition of a new Strategic Lead post during the year, in response to an identified need for additional capacity to support both improvement activity and governance reporting around Adult Public Protection.

Learning and Development update:

- ▶ To fulfil a key commitment to support training across boundaries, the APC’s partners have jointly invested in the provision of a multi-agency trainer, hosted by NHS Grampian. This post-holder chairs the Grampian Learning and Development Sub-Group, and develops and delivers (in conjunction with all partners) multi-agency training and development opportunities. Police Scotland’s Adult Protection Coordinator, Advocacy Service Aberdeen’s Service Manager, and representatives from Aberdeen City Council’s Legal Service also contribute to the delivery of ASP training in the City, which is led by the Council’s Adult Protection Trainer.
- ▶ To ensure ongoing compliance with relevant ASP policies and procedures, and to make sure they are fulfilled effectively, staff across all statutory agencies and other stakeholders are appropriately trained and supported to carry out their roles. ‘Introduction to ASP’ sessions are promoted for staff across all agencies which highlight the message to individuals and their agencies that adult support and protection is everyone’s business.
- ▶ Council Officers are required on an annual basis to attend mandatory Refresher Training which provides access to up-to-date information and conversations around the latest events relevant to their practice.
- ▶ Council Officer support groups offer peer support and guidance around issues raised. This is based on the principle that all Council Officers should have access to a positive environment where they can discuss in more detail their anxieties or where they are struggling with various issues in their practice. Over the last two years, sessions for Council Officers have been held on a range of topics including cuckooing, chronologies, capacity, COVID, domestic abuse and older adults, investigative interviewing, decision-making tool, and ASP governance.
- ▶ Additional multi agency learning and development sessions have been held for partnership staff during the year, on a range of subjects relating to ASP.
- ▶ Aberdeen City Council staff continue to be required to complete mandatory ASP e-learning.
- ▶ NHS Grampian offers a strong ASP training portfolio which varies from electronic e-learning modules, which support ‘basic’ awareness and understanding, through to a comprehensive two-hour session that supports staff who are likely to be directly engaging with the adult support and protection process – including investigation and case conference. Given the critical role of GPs in relation to the identification of adults at risk of harm, there has been a significant ‘push’ with more GPs trained in the past year than in previous years. (25% of all Grampian GPs have been trained since 2019.)
- ▶ Dewis training sessions, on the impact of domestic abuse on older adults, have also been held during the period.

The below table summarises training and learning delivered across the partnership during the year:

Training / Learning during 2020-21	No. of Sessions	No. of Participants
Multi Agency Introduction to ASP	14	377
Other Multi Agency ASP Training	15	91
Dewis – training on impact of domestic abuse on older adults	2	33
Council Officer Refresher Training	1	15
Aberdeen City Council staff mandatory ASP e-learning (individuals)*	n/a	385
NHS Grampian basic awareness-raising e-learning modules (individuals)	n/a	8,512
NHS Grampian more specialist ASP training	25	369
Training for GPs (Grampian-wide)	5	94

* between August 2020 and June 2021



OUR PRIORITY:

Local and national case reviews contribute to learning and continuous improvement of services and systems.

- ▶ In line with the Grampian Serious Case Review and Case Review Protocol, all Initial Case Reviews (ICRs) are considered by the Operational Sub Group of the APC, prior to progression to Significant Case Review as relevant. Progress and outcomes are reported to the APC and also to the overarching Aberdeen Executive Group for Public Protection, alongside feedback regarding implementation of learning.
- ▶ On 9th June 2021 the APC adopted a Learning Strategy and Framework. This provides a framework for improving practice and embedding learning, by answering the following questions:
 1. How are opportunities for learning / improving practice identified?
 2. Under which circumstances should a Case Review be considered?
 3. What is the process for Case Reviews?
 4. How should learning be disseminated and embedded (including learning arising from Case Reviews) and practice improvements made?
 5. How will the APC seek assurance that learning has been embedded, and practice – and outcomes – improved.
- ▶ A Grampian-wide External Significant Case Review (SCR) group has recently been established to enable appropriate reflection, discussion and learning from national SCRs. So far, two external SCRs have been reviewed by the group – with actions and findings appropriately taken forward via reporting to the APC and the Aberdeen City Executive Group for Public Protection. This model of multiagency learning from activity in other areas, is considered by all partners to be exceptionally useful.

One case review referral received in Aberdeen during the period resulted in a Multi-Agency Review Meeting, rather than progressing to a Significant Case Review (in accordance with the Grampian Policy).

A plan was developed in relation to disseminating learning from this review, which related to Self-Neglect and Hoarding, to ensure that staff across the partnership are competent in taking appropriate decisions and actions in such cases. This is currently being implemented and has included the dissemination of local [Guidance](#) developed for frontline staff and managers and a '7-minute briefing'. An on-line event was held in June 2021 to launch this Guidance, which was attended by 170+ participants, reflecting the interest in improving knowledge about this topic. The event received very positive feedback including about how the Guidance will impact on practice going forwards, and further follow-up work is planned, including Quality Assurance work to evidence impact.

The development of the Self Neglect and Hoarding Guidance was informed by events for GPs, Scottish Ambulance service and Scottish Fire and Rescue staff held to raise awareness of this issue, as a result of an earlier (2019) case review. The Operational subgroup was key in helping to develop the Guidance by using the knowledge and skills across our lead agencies and stakeholders.

OUR PRIORITY:

The APC improvement plan robustly reflects all key areas of improvement as a result of effective multi-agency self evaluation.

- ▶ The Grampian Information Sharing Protocol is currently being updated to enable partners to undertake multi agency case file review, for which plans are being made.
- ▶ NHS Grampian undertook a Self-Evaluation process during the reporting period – the findings and actions from which have been integrated into the APC's multiagency risk register and improvement plan.
- ▶ The APC is also developing its approach to audit and quality assurance work going forwards.

OUR PRIORITY:

Multi agency collection, sharing, analysis and use of data enables better decision making to support and protect adults at risk of harm.

- ▶ Operational data analysis reports are provided on a regular basis to the APC. There is recognition of the need for a broader, multi agency dataset and Performance Framework and a workstream is currently leading on the development of this.
- ▶ The Aberdeen City Executive Group for Public Protection also considers data relating to adult protection, as well as the wider public protection agenda, on a regular basis, including the weekly SOLACE data collected for Scottish Government.

OUR PRIORITY:

The impacts of COVID-19 are considered and appropriately incorporated into ASP Activity.

- ▶ COVID-19 and the impact on vulnerable people has and continues to be a standing agenda item at each APC meeting.
- ▶ Full and part-time staff have been working additional hours and additional staff have been deployed, in order to maintain our statutory duties towards vulnerable adults.
- ▶ Regular briefings have ensured raised awareness with staff – specific Guidance was shared with staff to reinforce the need for continued focus on ASP.
- ▶ Adult Support and Protection has been considered in organisational Remobilisation plans across the partnership.

Section 6

Future Plans

On 1st December 2021 the APC approved its over-arching Strategy for the period January 2022 to March 2024. This encompasses the below re-focussed Priorities which will be delivered by progression of a related Improvement Plan (via which much of the work which commenced during the period covered by this Report will continue to be taken forwards):

Stakeholder Engagement

We commit to continue to develop appropriate mechanisms for effective communication:

- i) recognising how diverse our communities are, to ensure the 'voice' of all those we aim to support and protect is at the centre of all we do,
- ii) to raise awareness about ASP, so that staff and public recognise the risks of harm to vulnerable adults and know how to respond, report and connect to appropriate supports, and
- iii) to ensure we understand each other's roles, responsibilities and aims (including via sharing of updates and good practice across all partners' staff groups).

Performance / Quality Assurance Framework

We will develop a robust Data Performance and Quality Assurance Framework, to enable us to:

- i) identify trends, areas for improvement and areas of good practice; and
- ii) establish a process for continuous improvement and ensure learning is embedded into practice.

This will enable us to deliver safe and effective services with improved outcomes for those at risk of harm.

Learning and Development

We will continuously improve ASP practice, learning and development by reaching all our people, ensuring effective support, preventative measures and protection of adults at risk of harm.



Appendix - Adult Support and Protection in Practice during a Pandemic



Mr A's Story

Hello, I'm Mr A



I was referred to ASP because people were worried about my health.

The COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult for me to get out and about like before and my weight increased, causing my health to become worse. My mood was low at this point in time too. The council officer made me aware that there was going to be a meeting called a case conference because people had concerns about how I was looking after myself. I was really worried about going to this meeting. I felt angry and anxious about this. I was also worried about having to be in the same room as people because I was aware I wasn't very well physically and I did not want to catch COVID.

I knew some of the advocacy workers from my local advocacy organisation and I let them know about this meeting. They were able to let me borrow a tablet that let me attend the case conference virtually. This was really good as I wasn't able to meet face to face and I didn't have any devices that would have let me join in my meeting. My advocacy worker would meet with me to help me collect my views and wishes about things and we made a plan of how I would put my views across at the case conference. I am quite good at speaking up for myself but I like having my advocacy worker for these types of meetings because they help me explain what I am thinking if I need them to. It is also good having someone there who I know will always be putting things across from my point of view.

On the day of the meeting, I remember having to wait before getting into the case conference. I didn't like having to wait to get into my meeting. My advocacy worker was with me while I waited and this did help me feel less worried but it is difficult waiting to get in when you know there are people already there and they are speaking about you.

When it was time to go into the meeting, there were some people there who I didn't know. Everyone introduces themselves which is helpful.

I was able to tell people at the meeting what I thought was best for me going forward and my advocacy worker helped me do this too. I was able to tell the people there that I wanted more support as I thought this would help my situation. I was pleased that everyone else agreed with my view.

After the meeting I had a chance to spend some time with my advocacy worker. I think this is really important because I sometimes forget things that are said or I think of a few questions afterwards that I would like to ask. It's helpful having someone like an advocacy worker to get in touch with some of the people who were at the meeting to ask them things I want to know because when you are worrying and feeling low, it can be difficult to do these things on your own.

The meeting did help me get more support at home. I felt that this ended up working really well. After a few months of this I was asked to attend another meeting to see how I was getting on. This was done virtually like the previous one and I used one of the tablets from my local advocacy organisation again. I was pleased that everyone agreed with me that things were getting better and I didn't have any more ASP meetings after that. I understood that most of the professionals were there to make sure I was safe, but support from advocacy made sure that I was included in everything that was happening.

Mr B's Story

Hello, I'm Mr B

I have a Community Learning Disability Nurse, Jane, who helps me on a regular basis.



I have a learning disability – I present as verbally very able, but I can't read or write, and I need time to process information. Short sentences are better.

In August 2020 (during the pandemic) Mr B was in Police custody for breaching his bail conditions. The Police contacted Mr B's Community Learning Disability Nurse, Jane, for advice. Jane was concerned that Mr B didn't understand his bail conditions – he continued to breach them – and was at risk of more criminal charges.

Jane raised an Adult Support and Protection referral, and an Initial Referral Discussion meeting was held between partners to discuss the case. It was decided that no further action was needed under ASP legislation, following the principles of what was least restrictive and most beneficial for Mr B, and Jane was advised to contact the Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) Service in the Learning Disability Team to ask for support to help Mr B understand the legal matters, so that he wouldn't continue breaching his bail conditions.

The SALT team advised the use of a 'Social Story' to help communicate the necessary information, and Police and Social

Work colleagues met with Mr B over a number of weeks to deliver the Social Story. The meetings took place at Marischal College, where essential face-to-face contact was still permitted, which seemed to work better for Mr B than meeting at his home. Jane was also able to join the meetings, via Microsoft Teams. Mr B was supported to cope with the COVID restrictions in place – having to wear a mask, using hand sanitizer, being asked questions about COVID, one-way system, etc – and also with using the technology to link in with Jane. (Jane had previously only spoken to him by telephone.)

Several weeks later, a second ASP concern report was received relating to Mr B being physically assaulted. It was decided that the best course of action was to continue with Mr B receiving support from Jane and Duty Social Work using the Social Story, meeting on a weekly basis.

Mr B will continue to receive support from the Community Learning Disability Team.

In summary, Mr B's situation was made more difficult due to the pandemic and the restrictions in place, but every effort was made to meet his wishes, and to communicate with him in the most appropriate way, resulting in a positive outcome due to effective collaborative working between Police, Health, Social Work, Speech and Language, and Nursing colleagues.

Update: Mr B is still open to Learning Disability services. He has been assessed as eligible for services and now has a support worker allocated to him. He continues to be supported in relation to the offence for which he was bailed, and there have been no subsequent criminal proceedings, which is positive. He is also getting work done to his flat, which he is very pleased with, and generally is in a more positive place.

Jackie's Story

I am a Social Worker and a Council Officer. I am trained to fulfil the Council's statutory obligations under the Adult Support & Protection (Scotland) Act 2007



Hello, I'm Jackie

I chose Social Work because I like working with people. A cliché but I am continually in awe of how resilient people are and how we are all so unique

In early April 2020, shortly after the start of the pandemic, an ASP referral was made for Mr K to the Social Work team by Health colleagues, and the case was allocated to me.

Mr K suffers from Deep Vein Thrombosis and is at risk of having strokes – it is really important that he sees a medical practitioner regularly and takes the appropriate medication. In January 2020 he and his family moved to Aberdeen from England, and registered with a local medical practice.

The ASP referral identified a risk of harm through Neglect, as the District Nurse had not been able to access Mr K to look after his medication needs – there was a concern that Mr K's son was preventing his father's medical needs from being met. There were also concerns about the state of the property, and the amount of morphine being prescribed for this address.

Several joint visits involving Health and myself were planned, but we couldn't gain access to Mr K's address – there was no answer when the buzzer was rung. Lockdown conditions meant that there were very few people out in public, and no-one was around to let us in to the property (in a shared accommodation block). A further planned visit also had to be re-arranged as Mr K was showing signs of COVID.

Given the lack of access, a meeting of professionals took place to plan the next steps if access wasn't obtained, which could potentially include use of other legislation and powers. This was the first 'virtual' Professionals Meeting, held on MS Teams, and was all very strange and unfamiliar, using this new technology and coming together in this way. It worked very well, though, and was very successful in bringing together a range of professionals at short notice (Police, Social Work, Health, Nursing and Legal staff). This paved the way for many other similar meetings held to enable the sharing of information between

partner agencies about adults at risk of harm, in order to plan the most appropriate support and protection.

Eventually, I did succeed on visiting Mr K, along with the District Nurse. This was also a new and strange experience – I'm always apprehensive about interviewing someone who is potentially an 'adult at risk' under ASP legislation, but having to do this wearing a mask, and being socially distanced, made this increasingly challenging and stressful.

The visit and interview enabled me to establish that, despite all the concerns of health colleagues about being able to access Mr K to ensure he received his medication, he was not actually an 'adult at risk'. Mr K and his family were very happy to engage with professionals and to ensure that Mr K was receiving the medication he needed.

The situation reflected the uncertainty, changes in working practice, and the way the pandemic was impacting on every aspect of life and work:

- It transpired that the Medical Practice and District Nursing Service had incorrect contact details for Mr K – which was due to communication issues arising as a result of the new and strange circumstances we were in;
- The property was not really in 'a state' – the family still had packing boxes around from their recent move up from England;
- Concerns about prescriptions for morphine were allayed once it was realised that medical practitioners in England had taken a different approach to prescribing than is done locally;
- And those involved were unaware at the time that the buzzer at Mr K's home was not working – in normal circumstances, people would likely have been going in and out of the building, and would have been able to let us in.

All was well in the end, though.



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