

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE | Public Protection Committee |
| DATE | 28th April 2021 |
| EXEMPT | No |
| CONFIDENTIAL | No |
| REPORT TITLE | Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2018-20 |
| REPORT NUMBER | ACHSCP/21/089 |
| DIRECTOR | Sandra MacLeod, IJB Chief Officer |
| CHIEF OFFICER | Claire Wilson, Social Work Lead |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Carol Simmers, Service Manager |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 1.1, 1.2 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to share the Aberdeen Adult Protection Committee (APC) Convener's Biennial Report for 2018-20, as published, with the Public Protection Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 note and endorse the information contained within this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The [Adult Support & Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#) stipulates that the (independent) convener of an Adult Protection Committee must prepare a general report on the exercise of the Committee's functions during the preceding two years. The Biennial Report must be submitted to the ASP statutory partners, the Care Inspectorate, Scottish Ministers, the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland, and the Public Guardian.
- 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 (Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations), the local third sector interface. The APC will welcome a new independent Convener, Adrian Watson, from the beginning of April. Adrian is taking over the role from Sheena Gault, to whom the APC records its thanks for her work over the last two years. (Adrian will also Chair the Child Protection Committee.)
- 3.3 Adult support and protection activities are, by their very nature, often complex and challenging. The Biennial Report attempts to highlight the scale of activities

and initiatives over the two-year period, the collaborations between partners, the co-ordination between professionals and the positive impacts on those who are or who have been at risk of harm.

3.4 Some key messages from the Biennial Report include:

- The period saw an increase in adult support and protection referrals largely due to increased levels of awareness across sectors and services;
- Care at home, care homes and 3rd sector organisations are the main source of referrals, however relationships continue to be built within these services to prevent unnecessary escalation of lower-level reports;
- The largest age group for referrals was in relation to individuals aged 65+;
- Across all referrals, the most common type of harm reported is physical harm;
- Almost 32% of referrals met the statutory Adult Support and Protection '3-point test' (Adults who (a) are unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests, (b) are at risk of harm, and (c) because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected); and
- Harm is most likely to occur within a "homely" setting - almost 47% of harm occurs within a person's own home and this rises to 76% when referrals from care homes are included.

3.5 Improvement objectives for the two-year period for 2020 - 2022 can be found on page 35 of the Biennial Report (at Appendix 1). These include:

- continuing to improve our multi agency policies, procedures and practice guidance;
- working to ensure that we are capturing the views of those we are working with, to inform service development and make sure their voice is heard and rights respected; and
- Strengthening performance and quality assurance arrangements, alongside systems to ensure that learning from this can be embedded.

Work is progressing on all these areas, including the development and improvement of a range of policies, procedures and practice guidance, both at a Grampian and local level, looking at ways of ensuring that the views of clients are sought and heard, and implementing a framework for ongoing quality assurance.

3.6 Having recently paused its work, the national Adult Support and Protection (ASP) Multi-Agency Inspection Programme Partners Group have advised that the joint inspection programme will resume in April 2021 for the period to March 2022. Aberdeen is to be the focus of one of the inspections.

The inspection will focus on two quality indicators:

- Key processes, including policies and procedures, screening processes, ASP in practice, liaison, and collaboration with partners, how the adult is protected and appropriate training in ASP and is it sufficient; and
- Leadership, including governance, ethos of integrated and collaborative working, local processes, and timescales.

Work is underway to develop the multi-agency self-evaluation which will underpin the inspection and drive our improvement work going forwards.

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> | |
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| | 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 | The report aligns closely with Stretch Outcome 11 of the LOIP |
| UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes | The report sets out the Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2018-20, which fulfils the |

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| | requirements placed upon the Council by the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. |
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8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Impact Assessment | Full impact assessment not required |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | Not required |

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Biennial Report 2018-20

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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