



## Integration Joint Board

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	25 May 2021
<b>Report Title</b>	APC Biennial Report 2018-20
<b>Report Number</b>	HSCP.21.051
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<b>Consultation Checklist Completed</b>	Yes
<b>Directions Required</b>	No
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A - Biennial Report 2018-20

### 1. Purpose of the 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 Integration Joint Board (IJB). The Biennial Report can be found at the Appendix A to this report.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board notes the information contained within this report.

### 3. Summary of Key Information

- 3.1. The Adult Support & Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 stipulates that the (independent) convener of an Adult Protection Committee (APC) must prepare a general report on the exercise of the Adult Protection Committee's functions during the preceding two years. The Biennial Report must be submitted to the Adult Support and Protection statutory partners – Aberdeen City Council, SCSWIS, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, NHS



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Grampian, Police, 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, the local third sector interface.
- 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.

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.



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### 4. Implications for IJB

#### 4.1. Equalities

There are no direct 'Equalities' implications arising from the publication of the Biennial Report.

#### 4.2. Fairer Scotland Duty

There are no direct 'Fairer Scotland Duty' implications arising from the publication of the Biennial Report.

#### 4.3. Financial

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

#### 4.4. Workforce

The Biennial Report includes reference to the ongoing commitment to support staff to maintain the necessary levels of skill, in accordance with identified need, including: training for employees dealing with public enquiries or requests for help via the Covid response helpline; Self-neglect and hoarding training; training to care establishments and independent providers who were the subject of large scale investigation; chronology training for Council Officers; awareness-raising in relation to 'cuckooing'/ County Lines; an event at the Beach Ballroom focusing on learning from a Glasgow Serious Case Review; financial harm awareness; etc.

The increased number and complexity of concern reports being received has led to an emerging view that the Adult Protection Unit (APU) needs to be more fully resourced and supported. To this end the role of the Adult Protection Co-ordinator has been reviewed, a new strategic support role has been developed and recruited to (to improve data analysis, reporting and assurance in respect of adult support and protection activities), and work is progressing to merge the APU and the Duty Social Work Team, in order to more effectively undertake the 'screening' of adult protection referrals.



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### 4.5. Legal

Development and publication of the Biennial Report is a statutory requirement under the Adult Support & Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

### 4.6. Covid-19

The Biennial Report covers the period to end March 2020, prior to the pandemic.

### 4.7. Unpaid Carers

The report has no specific implications in relation to Unpaid Carers.

## 5. Links to ACHSCP Strategic Plan

- 5.1. The work undertaken in relation to supporting and protection vulnerable adults at risk of harm in Aberdeen aligns with all the Aims set out in the HSCP Strategic Plan, under the headings of Prevention, Resilience, Personalisation, Connections and Communities.

## 6. Management of Risk

### 6.1. Identified risks(s)

Risks associated with this report are those relating to non-compliance with the Adult Support & Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 regarding the requirement to produce a Biennial Report, and share it with key statutory partners, and the potential reputational risk associated with non-compliance.

### 6.2. Link to risks on strategic or operational risk register:

This report links to the below from the IJB Strategic Risk Register as at Feb 2021:

- Risk 5 - There is a risk that the IJB, and the services that it directs and has operational oversight of, fail to meet both performance standards/outcomes as set by regulatory bodies and those locally-determined performance standards as set by the board itself. This may result in harm or risk of harm to people.




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- Risk 6 - There is a risk of reputational damage to the IJB and its partner organisations resulting from complexity of function, delegation and delivery of services across Health and Social Care.

A biennial report must be produced in order to meet the requirements of the Adult Support & Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 – this report therefore mitigates against Risk 5, and also the potential ‘reputational’ risk (linked to Risk 6) of not complying with the Act in this regard.

### 6.3. How might the content of this report impact or mitigate these risks:

Production of this report is in mitigation of the risks identified above – the risks are therefore ‘low’.

Approvals	
	Sandra Macleod (Chief Officer)
	Alex Stephen (Chief Finance Officer)