

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	7 th December 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Adult Support and Protection Inspection Update
REPORT NUMBER	ACHSCP/21/308
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' (maximum 20 pages), submission of 'supporting evidence' under specific themes (maximum 20 documents), a case file audit and a staff

survey (across social work, health and police staff). The case file audit will review records from the three agencies. 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 covered steps to be taken, culminating in the publication of the inspection report in April 2022. Key activities will be required in January / February 2022, which will place considerable impact on systems and services which are already under extreme pressure. Discussions have subsequently taken place with the Care Inspectorate regarding mitigation of these impacts via reconsideration of proposed timings and methodology. Formal Notification of Inspection has not yet been received (as of 25th November) and a formal response from the Care Inspectorate regarding potential mitigations is awaited.

A number of steps continue to be taken in preparation, notwithstanding:

- A multi-agency working group, established locally to coordinate and progress preparation for the inspection, continues to meet regularly. The group comprises strategic leads from Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP), Police, NHS Grampian and Advocacy Service Aberdeen;
 - Members of the working group continue to progress the development of a draft Position Statement (including via a multi-agency workshop discussion) and related Improvement Plan. Drafts of both these documents have been developed and continue to be reviewed by the Adult Protection Committee and the Aberdeen City Executive Group for Public Protection;
 - Work continues on the list of 'Supporting Evidence' which the Care Inspectorate requires to be submitted alongside the Position Statement;
 - A review of the Grampian Information Sharing Protocol is near completion. This is required in order to enable multi agency case file review which will be undertaken in preparation for the inspection;
 - An Aberdeen City Council Oversight Group is in place to ensure appropriate preparations on behalf of the Council as 'lead agency';
 - A sub group of the multi-agency inspection working group, including Information Governance colleagues, has been established to progress work relating to the logistics of sharing HSCP and NHS Grampian case files with the Care Inspectorate, to enable the remote access required (via a dedicated Sharepoint site). A lead agency 'operational' group is also working to develop the processes and resource necessary to ensure the provision of access to the required case file records during the inspection.
- 3.5 In terms of the significant work involved in providing the Care Inspectorate with the case file records to which they will need access, resources from the partnership will be difficult given the pressures being faced by health and social care staff, although we are working with the care inspectorate to minimise any negative impact.
- 3.6 Preparatory work will continue over the coming period, and a service update will be provided to the Committee once notification has been received that the inspection is to proceed. Assurance in respect of inspection preparations and

state of readiness is being provided to the Adult Protection Committee and the Aberdeen Executive Group for Public Protection. The findings following the inspection will be presented to this Committee during the course of 2022.

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. A letter has also been written to the Care Inspectorate regarding the significant resource this will take which is not in line with a 'light touch inspection'
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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