

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.

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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.

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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.

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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:-

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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.