

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	28 th June 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Adult Support and Protection Inspection Report
REPORT NUMBER	HSCP/22/145
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 share the findings of the recent Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection (ASP) in Aberdeen which were published on 21st June 2022 on the Care Inspectorate website [[Joint inspection of adult support protection in the Aberdeen City partnership \(careinspectorate.com\)](https://www.careinspectorate.com/joint-inspection-of-adult-support-protection-in-the-aberdeen-city-partnership)] and next steps. The report can also be found as an Appendix to this report.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the findings of the recent Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection in Aberdeen and next steps.

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 commencement of the inspection was delayed, in conjunction with inspectors, due to the significant and extreme pressures on systems, services

and staff across the partnership, responding to Covid 19 and winter pressures, and formal Notification of inspection was finally received on 14th February 2022.

3.4 The inspection focused on key processes and leadership (see national [quality indicator framework](#)). The key activities included 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, which was completed by 327 staff across the multi agency partnership. Guidance and information about the methodology used can be found on the [Care Inspectorate website](#).

3.5 Scrutiny of the necessary files took place 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. Police records were examined via a nationally-agreed approach / mechanism.

4. INSPECTION FINDINGS

4.1 The main findings of the inspection were as follows:

- Our **Key Processes** are effective, with areas for improvement which are outweighed by clear strengths supporting positive experiences and outcomes for individuals;
- Our **Strategic Leadership** is very effective, demonstrating major strengths in supporting positive experiences and outcomes for individuals.

4.2 Key Strengths were identified as:

- The new Adult Protection Social Work Team undertaking collaborative and effective screening of referrals;
- Communication and information-sharing, at every stage of the process;
- Our commitment to joint learning and development;
- Our Vision being well embedded, with a strong culture of strategic change and improvement; and
- Our user engagement strategy and initiatives – including seeking feedback from users at the end of the process, and the Adult Protection Committee's User Forum.

4.3 Areas for Improvement were identified as:

- Quality of chronologies and protection planning (albeit the inspectors noted that we have well-designed tools and templates in place);
- Length of time taken to complete some investigations and case conferences;
- Lack of consistent and accurate recording by Health staff of their involvement in ASP;
- Need for more adults at risk to access independent advocacy; and
- Need to develop multi-agency evaluation approach, and better involve staff in change and improvement work.

It should be noted that all of these issues had previously been identified as areas for improvement, through local quality assurance and self evaluation work, and related activity had been incorporated into the Adult Protection Committee (APC) Improvement Plan.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Following receipt of the final published report, the APC will further review its Improvement Plan in light of the detailed findings. This is required to be submitted to the Care Inspectorate by 3rd August 2022.
- 5.2 Progress in relation to the areas identified for improvement will be overseen by the Care Inspectorate Link Inspector, who is a member of the APC.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. 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	The findings of the inspection were overall very positive. Work is being undertaken to address areas identified for improvement through quality assurance.
Operational	Risk that an essentially positive inspection report leads to complacency in delivering high quality operational services and driving forwards improvement.	L	A communication plan is in development to keep staff appraised and seek their input and involvement to progress the necessary improvements.
Financial			

Reputational	The publication of regulatory inspection reports can have a reputational management impact,	L	As the report is mainly positive this is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on reputation.
Environment / Climate			

9. 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 highlights the outcome of the recent joint inspection of adult support and protection in Aberdeen, which should 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

Inspection Report

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Val Vertigans
Title	Lead Strategic Officer Adult Public Protection, HSCP
Email Address	vvertigans@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel	07342 060939