

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	10 October 2018
REPORT TITLE	Appointment of Joint Independent Chair of Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/18/166
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
REPORT AUTHOR	Graeme Simpson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the intention to appoint a joint Independent Chair of Aberdeen City's Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee:

- 2.1 Endorse the proposal to appoint a joint Independent Chair of Aberdeen City's Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 requires each Local Authority to convene an Adult Protection Committee. It also requires that the Chair of that Committee be independent of the Council. The Act sets out the legislative duties of the Committee.

- 3.2 The primary legislative duties of the Adult Protection Committee are:-

(a) to keep under review the procedures and practices of the public bodies which relate to the safeguarding of adults;

(b) to give information or advice, or make proposals on the exercise of functions which relate to the safeguarding of adults at risk;

(c) to make or assist in arrangements for improving the skills and knowledge of employees who have responsibilities relating to the safeguarding of adults at risk.

- 3.3 There is no legislative requirement for Child Protection Committees in Scotland. However there several pieces of legislation that place significant duties on local authorities in relation to child protection. Child Protection Committees were first established in each local authority area in Scotland in 1991. The roles and duties of Child Protection Committees are set out in the 2014 National Child Protection Guidance.
- 3.4 Child Protection Committees are locally-based, inter-agency strategic partnerships responsible for the design, development, publication, distribution, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across the public, private and wider third sectors in their locality and in partnership across Scotland. They work in partnership with their respective Chief Officers" Groups and the Scottish Government to take forward child protection policy and practice across Scotland.

At present the chair of the Adult Protection Committee is a suitably qualified independent person. His appointment is due to run out in the autumn of 2018. The chair of the Child Protection Committee is a senior officer within NHS Grampian with very relevant practice experience.

- 3.5 The Chief Officers Group (Local Police Commanders and Chief Executives of Health Boards and Local Authorities) have the responsibility for the strategic oversight of both the Adult and Child Protection Committees.
- 3.6 The National Child Protection Guidance makes clear the need for close alignment of both the Adult and Child Protection Committees. This enables the ability to address common agendas, resolve potential conflicts and create synergies.
- 3.7 To further promote this alignment the Chief Officer Group (COG) have decided to move to appoint an independent joint chair of the Adult and Child Protection Committees. This structure operates in some other authorities across Scotland.
- 3.8 The expectation of this joint Chair will be to:
- ensure that both the Child and Adult Protection Committees fulfil their duties
 - ensure that core responsibilities are effectively discharged in accordance with legislation and national guidance.
 - provide the COG with regular reports on the effectiveness of the policy framework and professional practice within the multi-agency partnership of adult and child protection services.
 - ensure the work of both committees informs the wider planning of universal services for children and adults.
 - advise the COG of advanced and emerging practice in the area of protecting children and adults.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The appointment of an Independent Joint Chair of the Adult Protection Committee and the Child Protection Committee will require a fee and reasonable expenses to be paid to the Chair. A fee is currently paid to the independent chair of the Adult Protection Committee from monies specifically aligned to adult protection. Having benchmarked with other Local Authorities the proposed fee will be £250.00 - £300.00 per day.
- 4.2 Although paid via Aberdeen City Council's payroll, the Chair will be undertaking the role on behalf the multi-agency partnerships across Aberdeen City. The Chief Officers Group have confirmed that the fee and reasonable expenses will be paid from within existing budgets.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As noted in 3.1 it is a legislative requirement for the Council to convene an Adult Protection Committee and that the Chair be independent of the Council. The standing of Child Protection Committees has a strong policy context although not a legal requirement.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	That the Local Authority has sufficient funding to remunerate the independent joint chair.	L	The Chief Officers Group have confirmed that the fee will be paid from within the existing budgets of the contributing partners; namely, the Local Authority, Police Scotland and NHS Grampian.
Legal	It is a legal requirement to appoint an independent chair to the Adult Protection Committee.	L	The move to appoint a joint chair fulfils the legal duties of the local authority and its partners.
Employee	The joint chair will have a critical leadership role to staff working in Adult and Child Protection within Aberdeen City Council and across the wider multi-agency partnerships.	L	The expectations of the role make clear the need for effective leadership.

Customer	Adult and Child Protection services are subject to separate inspections by the Care Inspectorate. These inspections provide assurance to the citizens of Aberdeen City that quality services are in place to identify and protect vulnerable members of the City.	L	One of the duties of the chair will be to highlight to the Chief Officers Group of emerging concerns.
Environment	No risks identified		
Technology	No risks identified.		
Reputational	No risks identified.		

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	The appointment of a Joint Independent Chair to the Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee will ensure that vulnerable children and adults are protected and able to access employment. This will contribute to the economy.
Prosperous People	The appointment of a Joint Independent Chair to the Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee will contribute to the effective protection of vulnerable children and adults. This will support individuals to be kept safe and realise their potential.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	The appointment of a Joint Independent Chair to the Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee will ensure early intervention to safeguard our children and vulnerable adults.
Organisational Design	No Impact
Governance	No Impact
Workforce	No Impact
Process Design	No impact

Partnerships and Alliances	The appointment of a Joint Independent Chair to the Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee will act on behalf of the partnerships that exist across adult and child protection.
-----------------------------------	--

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Completed – 6-9-18
Privacy Impact Assessment	Not applicable
<u>Children's Rights Impact Assessment/Duty of Due Regard</u>	Not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES

None

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name Graeme Simpson
 Email Address gsimpson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
 Tel 01224 523496