

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	23 rd February 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Adult Support and Protection Inspection Update
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/22/053
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, submission of supporting evidence under specific themes, a case file audit and a staff survey across social work, health and police.

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 at that time covered steps to be taken, culminating in the publication of the inspection report in April 2022.
- 3.5 Given the continued significant and extreme pressures on systems, services and staff across the partnership, responding to Covid 19 and winter pressures and the additional work which an inspection would add, discussions have subsequently taken place with the Care Inspectorate regarding mitigation of these impacts via reconsideration of proposed timings and methodology.
- 3.6 At a meeting with Care Inspectorate colleagues on 12th January, a ‘slow down’ of the inspection was agreed, in relation to the provision of case file documentation for scrutiny, and the situation was reviewed at a further meeting on 7th February. At this meeting, it was intimated to Care Inspectorate colleagues that the three key agencies are now in a position to proceed with the inspection. This is 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.
- 3.7 Formal Notification of inspection, including timelines, was received on 14th February. Key dates / timelines are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
14 th March	Staff Survey circulated (closes 1 st April)
30 th March	Deadline for submission of Position Statement, Supporting Evidence etc
20 th April	Case File Records to be uploaded to Care Inspectorate Sharepoint site
w/c 25 th April	Case File Reading
w/c 25 th April	Focus Groups (one for practitioners and one for senior leaders)
30 th May	Draft Report issued – for factual accuracy check
14 th June	Embargoed Report
21 st June	Published Report

- 3.8 The required Position Statement, Supporting Evidence, and Processes and Timescales documents have now been finalised, and will be submitted at the earliest opportunity.

3.9 The Lead for Social Work hosted a specific session for Council Officers on 18th January to update them about the inspection and provide an opportunity to discuss related issues or concerns.

3.10 The published inspection report will be provided to the CCGC on 2nd August 2022 (being the first meeting following publication). Assurance in respect of inspection preparations and state of readiness is also being provided to the Adult Protection Committee (APC) and the Aberdeen Executive Group for Public Protection.

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. Discussions continue with the Inspectorate with regards to the timescales

			and methodology for this, given current pressures.
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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