



INTEGRATED JOINT BOARD

15 FEBRUARY 2023

PERTH & KINROSS ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE BIENNIAL REPORT 2020/22

**Report by Chief Officer/Chief Social Work Officer
(Report No. 23/50)**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Perth and Kinross Integration Scheme clearly sets out the functions for adult support and protection under the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 that are delegated to the Integrated Joint Board.
- 1.2 Perth and Kinross Adult Protection Committee (APC), in compliance with Scottish Government guidance publishes biennial reports. This biennial report focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on adults at risk, how performance has been maintained and how services and agencies have successfully adapted.
- 1.3 This report confirms that the multi-agency arrangements for adult support and protection are leading to improved outcomes for vulnerable adults at risk of harm and the APC continues to place a strong emphasis on learning and development and has a programme of evidence-based improvement work underway. The report will also be considered by Perth and Kinross Council at its meeting on 8 February 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the IJB:
 - Notes the wide range of work being carried out by partners through the Adult Protection Committee, to provide high quality services to protect adults at risk and the commitment to continuous improvement; and
 - Endorses the Perth and Kinross Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report for 2020/2022.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Section 46 of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 requires Convenors of APCs to produce a biennial report on the exercise of the Committee's functions in the preceding two years. Reports summarising the findings are published on the Scottish Government website. Since 2018, annual reports are provided to the Integrated Joint Board by the Perth and Kinross APC to provide regular assurance about the multi-agency adult support and protection arrangements and to demonstrate the ongoing cycle of self-evaluation and audit. These reports are also reported to Perth and Kinross Council.
- 3.2 The APC Biennial Report 2020/2022 presents an overview of the performance of multi-agency working to protect adults at risk of harm. The report sets out achievements, key strengths, and areas for further improvement over the last year. This report also describes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and importantly, how services have adapted to meet new challenges and demands.
- 3.3 On page 8 of the report, there is a summary infographic of adult protection activity throughout 2020/2022. It identifies the key changes in the volume and activity of key multi-agency adult protection processes. In line with the aims of the committee to improve management information, the report is informed a broader set of data and richer analysis. Positively, this comes at a time when there has never been a greater need to understand in more detail the impact of the pandemic on the lives of our most vulnerable and at-risk members of our communities.

Key themes and assurances

- 3.4 The data shows an incremental growth in the number of adult protection (AP) concerns. 1593 AP concerns were received in 2019/20. 1819 AP concerns were received in 20/2021 and 2376 AP referrals were received in 2021/22. This represents a 43% increase for this reporting two-year period compared to 2018/20. Although there is no national ASP data set, this increase would appear to be consistent with the national picture.
- 3.5 Adult protection referrals were received from a wide range of sources with the main three sources being Police, Health, and social work / local authority. Fire and ambulance services, care homes and the general public have also referred. This indicates a growing awareness of adult protection, and a confidence in the reporting of concerns.
- 3.6 The profile of people referred to adult support and protection processes shows that the older adult is most likely to give cause for concern. As with previous years vulnerability factors include infirmity due to old age, mental health, physical disability, and learning disability.
- 3.7 There has also been an increase in adult support and protection activity for younger adults, and in particular younger adults affected by learning disability,

mental ill-health, and substance use. This is an encouraging sign that partners have an increased awareness of vulnerability and risk. Younger adults are more likely to be the subject of repeat referrals typically featuring diagnoses of borderline personality disorder, alcohol / substance misuse, and self-harming behaviour.

- 3.8 Harm is most likely to occur within a home setting, either a person's own home or within a care home. Incidents of harm in care home settings are often found to relate to harm between care home residents, at the low end of severity, and do not relate to harm from staff members or other third parties.
- 3.9 The most prevalent types of harm remain relatively consistent, with physical harm, financial harm, neglect, self-harm, and psychological harm the most reported. It should be noted that many investigations involve multiple types of harm.

Adapting adult support and protection during Covid-19

- 3.10 Page 31 of the biennial report provides a more detailed account of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and how services adapted to the challenges. Adult support and protection was identified as an essential service by the Council and in addition to strengthening the governance and oversight of this work, a high priority was placed on ensuring that there were sufficient numbers of appropriately trained and experienced social workers to carry out this work. This included a temporary move to 7-day operations to support an increase in volume of activity outside normal office hours.
- 3.11 The report highlights a number of improvements in performance and practice in 2020/2022 that have been achieved within the most challenging of circumstances:
- the number of AP concerns increased incrementally in recent years, however, the proportion of concerns screened within 24-hours has remained steady at 97%.
 - the number of AP Concerns that progressed to formal ASP inquiry or investigation increased by 46% and notably performance against timescales for completion continued to improve; and
 - the number of APC case conferences increased from 12 in 2019/20 to 75 conducted in 2020/2021 to 85 in 2021/22.

Continuous improvement

- 3.12 The APC has maintained a focus on continuous improvement and the annual report looks forward to 2022/23 and identifies a programme of improvement actions. This includes:
- a focus on key risk factors including violence against women, financial harm, drug and alcohol use, mental ill-health, and suicide prevention;
 - priority focus on young people and adults in transition between services and securing improvements in the multi-agency, coordinated response;

- Improving independent support through advocacy and the direct involvement of adults in need of protection in key ASP processes including case conferences.
- development and implementation of a robust multi-agency data set to inform planning, manage workload efficiently, target resources on key issues, to inform improvements to practice, and to demonstrate outcomes;
- capturing learning from adverse events and learning reviews with partner agencies across Tayside; and
- recognising the importance of chronologies as a means to identifying patterns of behaviour and escalating risks, improve multi-agency practice in preparing and using multi-agency chronologies to identify, share and respond to risk.

Adult Support & Protection Inspection 2022

- 3.13 The Care Inspectorate, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, and Healthcare Improvement Scotland carried out an inspection of our multi-agency adult support and protection services during June and July 2022. This is part of the Scottish Government's improvement programme for adult support and protection. The final report of the joint inspection in Perth and Kinross was published on Tuesday 23 August 2022.

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/6794/Perth%20&%20Kinross%20adult%20support%20and%20protection%20report.pdf>

- 3.14 The inspection findings are positive and recognise the hard work and determination of staff across the partnership over the last two years . The report shows that there are strong multi-agency arrangements in Perth and Kinross, keeping adults who are at risk of harm safe and protected. Alongside this, our key strengths are leading to positive outcomes for vulnerable adults in Perth and Kinross. This inspection sits out with this reporting two-year period and will be included in the APC annual report 2022/23

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Perth and Kinross APC biennial report provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of Adult Protection activity over 2020/2022. It provides assurance that the protection and welfare vulnerable and at-risk adults has been prioritised throughout.

Notably, the governance arrangements for public protection have been strengthened in this last two-year period and in particular the management of Covid-19 specific risks are identified and managed across all public protection partnerships. The report clearly shows the pressures arising from increasing demand. It also demonstrates that this has been managed effectively by prioritising resources and ensuring that there are sufficient skilled social workers to respond timeously and effectively. This will continue to be monitored closely. It is commendable that key improvements in performance have been achieved in the most challenging of years.

It is recommended that the IJB:

- (i) Notes the wide range of work being carried out by partners through the Adult Protection Committee, to provide high quality services to protect adults at risk and the commitment to continuous improvement; and
- (ii) Endorses the contents of the Perth and Kinross Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report for 2020/2022.

Author(s)

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Iain Wilkie	Interagency Adult Protection Coordinator	iwilkie@pkc.gov.uk
Jacquie Pepper	Chief Officer/Chief Social Work Officer	jpepper@pkc.gov.uk

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Jacquie Pepper	Chief Officer/Chief Social Work Officer	17/11/22

1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes/None
Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	n/a
Workforce	n/a
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	n/a
Strategic Environmental Assessment	n/a
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	n/a
Legal and Governance	n/a
Risk	n/a
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	n/a

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective Number 4 & 5.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and

- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to Objective Number 4 & 5.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There are no known resource implications at this time

Workforce

- 2.2 There are no known workforce implications at this time.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no asset management implications at this time.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Not Applicable.

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 There are no legal implications at this time.

Risk

- 3.5 There are no associated risks at this time.

- 3.6 N/A

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Adult Services within the HSCP and partners have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

External

- 4.2 The Adult Protection Committee and partners have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

5. Communication

- 5.1 There are no Communication issues at this time

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None