

Adult Protection Committee Bi-ennial report 2016-18

What is Adult Support and Protection

The Adult Support and Protection Act 2007 gives greater protection to adults at risk of harm or neglect. The Act defines adults at risk as those aged 16 years and over who are **unable** to safeguard their own wellbeing, property, rights or other interests.

Vision

People have the right to live independently as possible in a safe environment, free from harm, to have their wishes and feelings taken into account and to have the minimal amount of intervention in to their personal lives.

The role of the Adult Protection Committee

The Adult Protection Committee (APC) is a multi-agency group that meets quarterly and is chaired by an Independent Convenor. Their role is to oversee Adult Support and Protection (ASP) activity and processes in Perth and Kinross by:

- (a) keeping under review the procedures and practices of the public bodies and office-holders
- (b) giving information or advice, or make proposals, to any public body and office-holder of functions which relate to the safeguarding of adults at risk
- (c) making or assisting in the arrangements for improving the skills and knowledge of officers or employees of the public bodies and office-holders.

In performing its functions, an Adult Protection Committee must have regard to the desirability of improving co-operation between each of the public bodies and office-holders for the purpose of assisting those bodies and office-holders to perform functions in order to safeguard adults at risk present in the council's area.

Adults at risk in Perth & Kinross

The information collected locally show that almost half of adults at risk in Perth & Kinross are over 80 years old. This consists of 2 main client groups with infirmity of old age accounting for 2/3rds and people with dementia for the other 33%.

People with a learning disability account for 30% of all adults at risk. As adults with a learning disability make up only 6% of overall population, this client group appear to be over represented.

Physical harm is the main type identified in over half of cases followed by neglect in a quarter of cases.

Care Homes was the location of harm in 56% of cases with 36% of cases recorded at the home address.

The main achievements over the past 2 years

- Financial harm work is ongoing with introduction of the banking protocol and new processes implemented for financial harm by paid carers.

- Work with Care Homes and Care at Home organisations to explore current issues and develop an action plan to address identified areas.
- Increasing referrals are being received for self-neglect and hoarding which has resulted in specific policies and training in relation to dealing with these issues.
- Improving the management information and performance outcome framework to streamline 6 monthly stats to cover a 4-5 year period to identify trends over time.
- A conference was held in March 2018 on addressing the effects of trauma throughout life. There is ongoing work in relation to adverse childhood experiences and vulnerabilities.
- Working with the Minority Ethnic Hub meeting to gain more understanding of the challenges facing different ethnic groups in Perth & Kinross.
- Health and social care integration has raised the profile of ASP in localities and at a strategic level.
- Police Scotland officers work closely with social work staff to identify repeat victims of harm and disability hate crimes to develop personal safety plans and identify other supports needed.

The Main areas for developments 2018-2020

- Capture Service user and carer experience in the best way to ensure views are heard and changes made if required
- Analyse the ASP national thematic inspection results and carry out self evaluation in relation to the key messages for APC recorded in report.
- Ensure actions from improvement plan developed following audits has been implemented and reported back to APC in relation to Chronologies, Protection plans and recording of outcomes.
- GP engagement, their role in process and impact of their involvement as capacity still a key issue
- Enhance learning and stream line processes in health and social care partnership.
- Agree areas of joint working in Tayside in relation to key processes and learning and development.

The Adult Protection Committee (APC) is committed to progress the continuous improvement in supporting and responding to concerns about adults at risk of harm, identifying trends and gaps and implementing actions as required.

An improvement plan has been developed for 2018-20 and will be closely monitored by the APC to ensure ongoing development.