



PERTH & KINROSS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

14 FEBRUARY 2023

ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

**Report by Chief Officer
(Report No. G/24/4)**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This annual report for 2022/23 provides an overview of the key activities and work of the Adult Protection Committee (APC) and its partners to safeguard the welfare and the interests of adults who are at risk from harm.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the IJB:

- Notes the wide range of work being carried out by Perth and Kinross APC and partner agencies throughout this reporting year to safeguard adults considered to be at risk of harm.
- Endorses the contents of this APC Annual Report 2022/23

2. SITUATION/BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Perth and Kinross Adult Protection Committee (APC), in compliance with Scottish Government guidance, publishes biennial reports. The APC Biennial Report covering the period 2020-2022 was shared with Elected Members, the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) and the Protecting People Chief Officers Group (COG) in 2022/2023. It was also shared with different strategic Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and health governance groups.

- 2.1 As part of the APCs ongoing commitment to a cycle of quality assurance and improvement, annual reports rather than biennial reports are prepared. Therefore, this APC Annual Report for the year April 2022 through to March 2023 provides an overview of the key activities and work of the APC and its partners to safeguard adults considered to be at risk of harm.
- 2.2 This report describes the APC's achievements within this reporting year. It highlights key strengths and areas for improvement. It confirms that the APC continues to place a strong emphasis on self-evaluation, audit and improvement and has prepared a programme of evidence-based improvement work for 2023/2024 and beyond.

PERFORMANCE

- 2.3 Page 7 of the report provides a summary infographic of adult protection activity throughout 2022/2023. It identifies the key changes in the volume and activity of key multi-agency adult protection processes.
- 2.4 The data shows an incremental growth in the number of adult protection (AP) concerns. 3081 adult protection concerns were received in 2022/23. This represents a further 30% increase in this reporting year in comparison to 2021/22. This increase would appear to be consistent with the national picture. The APC takes the view that an increase in reporting of AP concerns is positive and reflects an increase in our public campaigns raising awareness of how to recognise and report harm.
- 2.5 Adult protection referrals were received from a wide range of sources. The main three sources of referrals come from Police, Health, and social work & social care. Our data shows that Scottish Fire & Rescue, Scottish Ambulance Services, care homes, care at home providers and the general public have also referred. This indicates a growing awareness of adult protection, and a confidence in the reporting of concerns.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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 personality disorder, alcohol/substance misuse, and self-harming behaviour.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 Page 15 of the APC Annual Report refers to our use of Large-Scale Investigations (LSI) to mitigate harm in a regulated service (care home, care at home, hospital setting). A thematic review of LSIs in this reporting year has led to a more integrated, multiagency and coordinated approach to how key partners support this work.

KEY THEMES AND ASSURANCES

Adult Support & Protection Joint Inspection 2022

- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 Page 17 of the APC Annual Report 2022/23 refers to the findings from the joint inspection. In summary, the inspection findings are positive and recognise the hard work and determination of staff across the partnership to safeguard adults at risk of harm. The inspection report shows that we have strong multi-agency adult protection arrangements in Perth and Kinross, keeping adults who are at risk of harm safe and protected. The inspection report concluded that:
"The partnership demonstrated it was committed to achieving excellence in matters pertaining to adult support and protection practice and improvement."
- 2.13 Page 19 refers to how we continue to strengthen our support to the care home sector and where the interface between the APC, the Care Home Operational Group and the strategic leadership from the Health and Social care Partnership (HSCP) exists.
- 2.14 The APC Annual Report highlights the importance of data to inform service redesign. Page 20 refers to how the principles of early intervention and prevention has led to the implementation of a mental health triage pathway. This also embraces the principles of getting the right support from the right people at the right time (GIRFE/Getting it Right for Everyone)¹. GIRFE is about providing a more personalised way to access help and support when it is needed.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVMENT

- 2.15 The APC and HSCP are fully committed to self-evaluation, audit, quality assurance and review as a means to delivering confident and competent support to those adults considered to be at risk. The findings from this work informs the Perth & Kinross APC Improvement plan for 2023/24 and beyond. Page 24 of the APC annual report refers to our commitment to qualitative and quantitative audits to inform our improvement work. In this reporting year, the APC has conducted the following audits:
- I. Multi-agency audit 2022.
 - II. Multi-agency IRD audit 2022
 - III. Thematic review of LSIs 2023
 - IV. Review of AP -Telephone inquiries (2022)

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/getting-it-right-for-everyone-girfe/#:~:text=GIRFE%20is%20about%20providing%20a,at%20any%20stage%20of%20life.>

- V. NHS Tayside AP Annual Report 2022/23
- VI. NHS Tayside Quality Assurance Framework
- VII. Significant multi-agency self-evaluation and position statements supporting ASP Inspection 2022

2.16 On 17 November 2023, the APC approved the APC Improvement Plan for 2024 and beyond, giving a particular focus on:

- Strengthening a public partnership approach to safeguarding including violence against women, financial harm, those who experience addiction, mental ill-health, and suicide prevention;
- In 2024, we will continue to take a leading role in reshaping how we support those who experience self-neglect and hoarding;
- We will continue to give priority focus on young people and adults in transition between services and securing improvements in the multi-agency, coordinated response;
- We look to improve independent support through advocacy and the direct involvement of adults in need of protection in key ASP processes including case conferences.
- We will develop 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;
- We will improve how we capture learning from adverse events and learning reviews with partner agencies across Tayside;
- Improve our use of chronologies to identify patterns of behaviour and escalating risks;
- Continue to improve our integrated and coordinated approach to supporting a Large Scale Investigation.

3. PROPOSALS

None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

5. DIRECTIONS

The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans and this is provided for in Section 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Angus Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Perth & Kinross Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:
No Direction Required	X
Perth & Kinross Council	
NHS Tayside	
Perth & Kinross Council and NHS Tayside	

6. CONCLUSION

The Perth and Kinross APC Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of Adult Support & Protection activity in the reporting year 2022/23. It provides assurance that the protection and welfare of vulnerable and at-risk adults remains a strategic and operational priority.

The report clearly shows the pressures arising from increasing and changing 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.

As we move towards the end of the 2023/24 reporting year, our cycle of audit work demonstrates that we continue to make key improvements and that our multi-agency arrangements continue to be effective in safeguarding adults considered to be at risk of harm.

Author(s)

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NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
HSCP Strategic Commissioning Plan	Yes
Transformation Programme	No
Resource Implications	
Financial	n/a
Workforce	n/a
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	n/a
Risk	n/a
Other assessments (enter here from para 3.3)	n/a
Consultation	
External	Yes
Internal	Yes
Legal & Governance	
Legal	No
Clinical/Care/Professional Governance	Yes
Corporate Governance	Yes
Directions	No
Communication	No
Communications Plan	

1. Strategic Implications

1.1 Strategic Commissioning Plan

This section should set out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Strategic Commissioning Plan

- 1 prevention and early intervention,
- 2 person centred health, care and support
- 3 work together with communities
- 4 inequality, inequity and healthy living
- 5 best use of facilities, people and resources

This report relates to numbers 1, 2, 3 & 4 of the strategic commissioning plan

2. Resource Implications

2.1 Financial

There are no known financial resource implications at this time

2.2 Workforce

There are no known workforce implications at this time.

3. Assessments

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010, PKC and NHS Tayside is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the HSCP to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

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

3.2 Risk

There are no associated risks at this time.

3.3 Other assessments

None known.

4. Consultation – Patient/Service User first priority

4.1 External & Internal

The APC and its external and internal partners have been consulted and approved this annual report.

4.3 Impact of Recommendation

No adverse impact considered.

5. Legal and Governance

5.1 *There are no known legal implications.*

5.2 *Approval is sought from the APC before seeking endorsement from the Chief Officers Group, the IJB and from Elected Members.*

6. Directions

There are no known directions upon which this report highlights that the IJB needs to consider.

7. Communication

7.1 *There are no communication issues at this time.*

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCES

No background papers

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: The APC Annual Report 2022-23