

# Perth And Kinross Council

6 March 2024

## ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

Report by Chief Officer/Director of Integrated Health & Social Care  
(Report No. 24/68)

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Adult Protection Committee prepares an Annual Report on its key activities each year. This report provides an overview of the key activities and work of the committee and the partnership approach to safeguarding vulnerable adults at risk of harm over 2022 to 2023.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:

- **Approves** the Adult Protection Committee report for 2022-23.

### 3. STRUCTURE OF REPORT

- 3.1 This report is structured over the following sections:

- Section 4: Background/Main Issues
- Section 5: Performance
- Section 6: Key Themes & Assurances
- Section 7: Continuous Improvement
- Section 8: Conclusions

### 4. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 4.1 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 considered and approved by Council, the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) and the Protecting People Chief Officers Group (COG) in December 2022.
- 4.2 As part of the APCs ongoing commitment to a cycle of quality assurance and improvement, annual reports are produced. 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.
- 4.3 The 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 learning and development and has prepared a programme of evidence-based improvement work for 2023/2024

and beyond. The report was approved at APC on 17 November 2023 and the Chief Officer Group for Public Protection on 19 December 2023.

## **5. PERFORMANCE**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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. Although there is no national ASP data set, 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 report harm.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 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.

## 6. KEY THEMES AND ASSURANCES

### Adult Support & Protection Joint Inspection 2022

- 6.1 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>

- 6.2 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”.*

- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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)<sup>1</sup>. GIRFE is about providing a more personalised way to access help and support when it is needed.

## 7. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- 7.1 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

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

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)
- 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

7.2 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; and
- Improve our use of chronologies to identify patterns of behaviour and escalating risks.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

8.1 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 has been prioritised throughout.

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.

### Authors

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

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

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 This report supports the following priorities within the Community Plan 2022-27.

- (i) *Reducing Poverty (including child poverty, fuel poverty and food poverty)*
- (ii) *Mental and physical wellbeing*
- (iii) *Employability*

#### Corporate Plan

1.2 This report supports the following objectives within the Corporate Plan: -

- (iv) *protecting and caring for our most vulnerable people*
- (v) *supporting and promoting physical and mental wellbeing*

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

2.1 There are no direct financial implications.

### Workforce

- 2.2 The report highlights the workforce implications associated with increasing demand and complexity in protecting the most vulnerable and at-risk people in our communities.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 N/A

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 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.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The proposals have been considered under the Act 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 N/A.

### Legal and Governance

- 3.4 N/A

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with the Council representatives on the Adult Protection Committee and Chief Officer Group for Public Protection and the Health & Social Care Partnership management team.

### External

- 4.2 N/A

## **5. Communication**

- 5.1 N/A

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

2.1 Appendix 1 The Adult Protection Committee Annual Report 2022/23