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Conveners of Adult Protection Committees
Chief Social Work Officers
Care Inspectorate
Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

30 April 2020

Dear Colleague,

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) NATIONAL ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION GUIDANCE

We attach COVID-19 additional guidance to the Adult Support and Protection Code of Practice which is intended to support the leadership already being demonstrated in this area.

The guidance will offer a level of consistency and a national context in which we are responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. It is equally important to ensure that the Adult Protection Committees and Chief Officers have access to a national perspective which will enable them to inform how they respond at local level.

It has been developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and is provided for Chief Officers, professional leaders in adult services and Adult Protection Committees, who should ensure it is taken account of within their partnerships.

This guidance will be published on the Scottish Government website at <https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/>, and should be read alongside other COVID-19 guidance. It will be kept under review and updated as the pandemic develops.

It is important to be clear that the duties placed on statutory bodies have not changed or been affected by the response to COVID-19. Adult Support and Protection principles still apply and should also be considered. It is vital that Councils and those named in the Act continue to offer the same level of oversight regarding these duties and their application. However, it is also important that staff are proportionate in their responses and mindful of the pressure care providers may be under. **The aim of this guidance is to support these decisions and the development of local guidance around safe, effective and proportionate adult support and protection activity at this time.**

The guidance is therefore designed to complement and support local processes. We know that a range of innovative practice is already emerging across local areas and professional networks are encouraged to share their developing approaches.

Examples of local Covid-19 operational guidance are available on the National Adult Protection Coordinator website <https://napc.scot/>.

Thank you for the work you and your colleagues are undertaking in response to the pandemic. These are unprecedented times, but good professional judgement and good practice will help to support and protect adults at risk of harm in Scotland.



Clare Haughey



Cllr Stuart Currie