

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE 25 JANUARY 2022**

**ANGUS ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE SIGNIFICANT CASE REVIEW P19**

**REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ANGUS COUNCIL**

**ABSTRACT**

This report presents the Angus Adult Protection Committee (AAPC) [Significant Case Review \(SCR\) P19](#) and the subsequent development of a draft Scottish Government Commission to Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate for Independent Assurance and Improvement Support. Adult Protection Committees and Chief Officers have responsibility for commissioning SCRs and ensuring any improvement actions are delivered. There are 59 recommendations in the SCR report assigned to a range of agencies including Angus Council and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership. This report highlights the initial improvement actions in respect of these recommendations.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:

- (i) Review and scrutinise the Adult Protection Committee Significant Case Review P19.
- (ii) Review and scrutinise the initial improvement actions detailed for Angus Council and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership, the priority attached to these and capacity being made available to progress these.
- (iii) Note the ongoing work of the Adult Protection Committee partners to finalise a multi-agency improvement plan in response to the Significant Case Review and the complex and detailed nature of the work taking place.
- (iv) Agree to receive a further report detailing progress against actions in Autumn 2022.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN**

This report aligns to the following strategic priorities identified in the Council Plan:

- (i) To maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities.
- (ii) Communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The background and details relating to the tragic circumstances of the death of an adult in Angus, known as P19, are thoroughly narrated in the Significant Case Review (SCR) report. Following P19's death, the Angus Adult Protection Committee (AAPC) received a request from Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) seeking consideration be given to conducting a review of the case on the grounds that P19 was in receipt of services; subject to an Adult Support and Protection Plan; and that there was an apparent opportunity to learn and improve services.
- 3.2 Following completion of an Initial Case Review (ICR), AAPC agreed that a SCR was deemed necessary to explore the case in depth. The family of P19 remained involved and informed throughout the SCR and all partners are grateful for their engagement and support of the process.
- 3.3 The SCR was progressed with regard to the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, with reference to the Tayside Multi-agency Guidance for Adult Support and Protection (updated 2019) and the Interim National Framework for Adult Protection Committees for Conducting a

Significant Case Review (2019). The anticipated outcomes recommended by the AAPC and approved by the Chief Officers Group were to:

- Identify areas of good practice that should be developed and replicated in adult support and protection work.
- Establish any learning from the case about the way in which local professionals and agencies work together to safeguard adults at risk of significant harm.
- Identify any actions required by the AAPC to promote learning to support and improve systems and practice.
- To determine whether, and if so, what changes in practice are necessary to ensure opportunities are not missed to prevent avoidable tragedies.

3.4 A Terms of Reference was established for the SCR and Lead Reviewers were appointed from within AHSCP and NHS Tayside. Reviewers had no connection to operational work involving P19 nor operational management responsibility for any of the services involved. Independent support was commissioned from an Independent Consultant Practitioner.

3.5 The SCR report was published on 25 November 2021, with a number of briefing sessions offered to relevant groups, including Elected Members. As part of the preparation for publication, the report was also shared with Scottish Government in advance of publication to ensure awareness of the findings and recommendations.

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

4.1 Since the publication of the SCR report, work has been ongoing locally and with Scottish Government colleagues to agree the steps needed to prioritise and progress the full range of recommendations and actions arising from the report.

4.2 As part of these discussions, the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care is in the process of commissioning Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) and the Care Inspectorate (CI) to work together with partners in Angus. Early work on the detail of the draft commission suggests that such a commission may include to:

- ensure there is an appropriately prioritised and credible plan for delivering on the recommendations of the SCR
- assess whether the infrastructures and capacity to enable delivery are in place across all key partners
- support the partnership to identify what additional implementation support is needed, make recommendations on how that should be provided and identify any resource consequences
- where the implementation support is appropriately delivered by HIS and/or CI; deliver that support to agreed timelines
- agree with Scottish Government the nature, extent and timing of any further scrutiny that may be required to provide independent assurance on the progress in making improvements against the recommendation.

Local partners have reviewed the detail of the commission and provided feedback, comment and highlighted points for clarity. Following consideration of the feedback the commission will be subject to final sign off by the Minister. Partners, through coordination of Angus Adult Protection Committee, have been asked for a status report on recommendations that have already been implemented or completed, no later than mid-January. Alongside this work, there is an expectation that the full and complete multi-agency action plan will be drafted, agreed and in progress no later than end of February 2022.

4.3 A commission instructed to support a local area to deliver an improvement plan from an SCR is an indication of the significance of the findings both locally and nationally and the scale of work that is required to deliver the recommendations in a meaningful way.

4.4 As referenced above, a full multi-agency action plan is currently being developed to ensure all 59 recommendations are progressed. Within the list of recommendations, there are three specific actions for Angus Council and a range which relate to Angus Council's adult services

provision as part of the AHSCP. The recommendations and progress to date are set out in Appendix 1. The Angus Council specific recommendations are:

- Angus Council should ensure that contracts with providers make explicit escalation responsibilities. This should include clear information to the provider on how to escalate concerns and who to escalate these to.
- Angus Council Communities (housing) should develop clear guidance that provides the flexibility and governance required to ensure regular inspection of those properties where concerns have been raised on a regular basis.
- Angus Council Communities (housing) should develop a protocol in relation to vulnerable people at risk requiring urgent housing that provides clarification on roles and responsibilities for vulnerable people requiring temporary housing. This should make clear who has responsibility to secure accommodation when housing have no accommodation available, and this should be made widely available to partners.

## **5. PROPOSALS**

The Scrutiny and Audit Committee scrutinises and comments on the content of the AAPC SCR P19 report, associated actions for Angus Council and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership and note the subsequent development of a draft Scottish Government commission to Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this a report detailing the outcome of a review of a specific case, SCR P19.

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