

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 1 MARCH 2022

ANGUS COUNCIL - 10 MARCH 2022

ANGUS ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020 to 2021

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report presents the Angus Adult Protection Committee Annual Report for March 2020 to April 2021. The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 set up multi-agency Adult Protection Committees (APCs) in every council area. APCs are responsible for monitoring and advising on adult protection procedures and practice, for ensuring appropriate cooperation between agencies and for improving the skills and knowledge of those with a responsibility for the protection of adults at risk. Chief Officers across Angus individually and collectively have responsibility to ensure that the Angus APC's authority to carry out its functions effectively is recognised by local agencies and that the Angus APC has lines of accountability to the Council, NHS Board and Police Scotland.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:-

- (i) Scrutinise and comment on the Angus Adult Protection Committee (AAPC) Annual Report 2020 to 2021 (appended to this report)
- (ii) Consider the key trends and areas for development emerging from the report

It is recommended that the Angus Council:-

- (i) Review the content of the Angus Adult Protection Committee (AAPC) Annual Report
- (ii) Note the Council's cross departmental responsibilities in relation to Adult Protection

2. ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLANS

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

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

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The previous AAPC Biennial Report covered the period April 2018 to March 2019.
- 3.2 The Annual Report of AAPC for the period April 2020 to March 2021 presents the work undertaken in Angus by individual agencies and in partnership to deliver national, Tayside-wide and local adult protection outcomes to improve the lives of adults at risk of harm.
- 3.3 There is a statutory requirement for Adult Protection Committees to produce Biennial Reports that provide an overview of the work of local Adult Protection Committees. In addition, AAPC produces an Annual Report.

- 3.4 The Annual Report was approved by AAPC on 8th December 2021 and the Angus Chief Officer Group on 24th January 2022.
- 3.5 AAPC hold a risk register that is reviewed minimally quarterly and reported to Angus Chief Officers' Group. There are no exceptional risks noted within this report.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 AAPC have continued to work together to improve adult protection practice in Angus throughout the reporting period. Members will note that this annual report pre-dates the recent update to members on the publication of the P19 Significant Case Review (Report No. 18/22 refers).
- 4.2 Of note during the reporting period is:
- There has been significant ongoing work on initial and significant case reviews including, conclusion of an Initial Case Review and a further two referrals for review. At the time of writing, AAPC was awaiting the conclusion of Significant Case Review P19 (subsequently published) and led the publication of Significant Case Review O18. Recommendations and improvement actions from these learning reviews will inform future work and priorities of the AAPC.
 - Work was reaching conclusion on the review of referral pathways including the Angus Early Screening Group; analysis of this work will report mid-2022.
 - The work undertaken to revise adult protection learning and development opportunities and resources to support multi-agency staff, including the digitalisation of resources.
- 4.3 Key trends from the statistical part of the Annual Report are:
- A significant increase in adult protection activity and referrals; the number of referrals per month doubled between April 2016 and January 2021 with a notable increase in the last year.
 - Increase in referrals from family members and members of the public, friends/neighbours and in particular, carers, suggesting improved public information, accessibility of reporting routes, and confidence in recognising and reporting concerns for vulnerable adults
 - Increased use of Independent Advocacy for vulnerable adults demonstrated in data relating to case conferences
 - Significant increase in referrals for people experiencing mental health difficulties
- 4.4 The new AAPC Strategic Plan 2020-2023 is based around the statutory functions of an Adult Protection Committee as set out in legislation. This Annual Report reports under the same headings this year, in keeping with guidance provided by the Scottish Government for producing Biennial Reports. The plan will also be regularly updated to include any emerging national or local priorities. The plan remains flexible to take into account any future impact arising from the COVID pandemic.
- 4.5 Areas for development and progression:
- Implement learning from Initial and Significant Case Reviews
 - Implement the new AAPC dataset to provide scrutiny and identify priority areas for improvement
 - Work to ensure the AAPC priorities, business and practice is meaningfully informed by those who use services
 - Preparatory work for the forthcoming national inspection programme

5. PROPOSALS

The Committee scrutinises and comments on the content of the AAPC Annual Report April 2020 to March 2021 and considers the key trends and areas for improvement arising from the report. The Independent Chair of the AAPC will be in attendance at Committee.

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 is an annual report summarising multi-agency work over the year.

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List of Appendices: Angus Adult Protection Committee Annual Report for 2020 to 2021.