

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 15 JUNE 2023

JOINT INSPECTION OF ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION IN ANGUS

REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ANGUS COUNCIL

ABSTRACT

This report provides an update on the development and progression of the improvement plan required by the Care Inspectorate following the outcome of the joint inspection of multi-agency arrangements for adult support and protection in Angus that took place between September 2022 and January 2023.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the content of this update report.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to local outcomes contained within the Community Plan and Council Plan, in particular those that focus on People, and working collaboratively for and with our citizens to keep them safe in resilient communities.

3. BACKGROUND

A joint inspection of multi-agency arrangements for adult support and protection took place in Angus between September 2022 and January 2023 as part of an ongoing Scottish Government improvement plan for Adult Support and Protection (ASP). The purpose of this joint inspection was to seek assurance that adults at risk of harm in Scotland are supported and protected by existing national and local adult support and protection arrangements. This scrutiny and assurance was undertaken in the context of health and social care integration. The joint inspection focused on the contributions of Social Work, Police Scotland, Health and other agencies to keep adults at risk of harm safe, and how they work collaboratively to do this.

Angus received a draft inspection report on 09 January 2023. This was embargoed until 31 January 2023 when it was published on the Care Inspectorate website. Committee report 76/23 refers. The findings of the report were positive and included:

- The person-centred approach in Angus to adult support and protection, including the regular use of advocacy to promote the adult at risk of harm's rights.
- Investment in specific adult support and protection posts across health, police and social work in support of effective engagement and collaboration. This enabled the development of initiatives such as the Financial Abuse Support Team and Early Screening Group and contributed to good outcomes for adults at risk of harm.
- Highly effective delivery of inquiries, investigations and case conferences.
- Core group meetings for adults at risk of harm proceeding to case conference effectively oversaw risk assessment and the management of concerns.
- A comprehensive multi-agency learning and development plan. Learning delivered using a range of digital and face-to-face methods and open to all agencies, which had a positive impact on adult support and protection practice.

- A clear, well understood vision for adult support and protection, supported by an Adult Protection Committee strategic delivery plan.
- The established Adult Protection Committee and sub-group structure had progressed most improvement actions and supported delivery of statutory functions. This included the operation of a risk register to monitor practice and provide reassurance.
- A strong response to the pandemic, incorporating a wellbeing approach to supporting staff, a structured response to care home assurance and an increase in the frequency of overview meetings.

There were 5 main areas for improvement in Angus. As part of the inspection process, Angus were required to develop and submit an improvement plan to the Care Inspectorate, for review and approval by the inspection team.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The Improvement Plan

A multi-agency improvement plan was submitted to the Care Inspectorate in March 2023. This was finalised following consultation with all multi-agency partners and the Care Inspectorate Link inspector for Angus. The improvement plan has now been approved by the Angus Adult Protection Committee, the Care Inspectorate and the Angus Chief Officer's group.

The improvement plan focusses on the 5 main areas for improvement in Angus as recommended in the inspection report. These are:

- Recording of adult support and protection practice in case records varied in consistency and content. This was more evident in the application of the three-point criteria and the recording of actions taken to manage risk for those adults who did not progress beyond inquiry and investigation stages.
- The quality of chronologies had improved but needed progressed to include better recording of multi-agency information, significant life events and impact. This would further enhance decision making around risk.
- The quality assurance framework needed to be further embedded to include a frequent multi-agency approach to monitor change and sustainability more effectively. This should include frontline practitioners and adults with lived experience of adult support and protection.
- The Adult Protection Committee had recently refined their improvement plan, but further consolidation was needed. Both this and the annual performance reporting approach impacted on the visibility of change and timely identification of trends or issues.
- Strategic service user engagement and awareness raising were recognised by the partnership as areas for improvement. Recently developed plans should be progressed to support feedback and engagement with adults at risk with lived experience in the strategic work.

The improvement plan can be viewed in Appendix 1.

4.2 Improvement Plan Monitoring

Responsibility for monitoring progress of the actions within the improvement plan has been allocated to the Angus Adult Protection Self Evaluation and Continuous Improvement Subgroup. This is a subgroup of the Angus Adult Protection Committee. This sub-group will report on progress to the Angus Adult Protection Committee who will report on progress to the Angus Chief Officers group.

5. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that Scrutiny and Audit Committee notes the content of this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this is a summary report for information spanning the statutory organisations involved in the inspection – Angus Council, the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Tayside and Police Scotland. Individual EIA's are completed as required for specific areas of work, but as this is a collective report, these are not required.

8. CONSULTATION

Consultation and involvement in the development of the improvement plan took place with all relevant agencies, the Care Inspectorate and the Angus Adult Protection Committee.

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

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Angus Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan