

ANGUS COUNCIL

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 23 APRIL 2024
FAMILY, EDUCATION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE – 30 MAY 2024**

ANGUS ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE (AAPC) ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023

REPORT BY KATHYRN LINDSAY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE ANGUS COUNCIL AND MEMBER OF ANGUS CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP

1. ABSTRACT

This report presents the Angus Adult Protection Committee Annual Report for March 2022 to April 2023. 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.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This report aligns to the following strategic priorities identified within the **Council Plan 2021-2024**:

- To maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities
- Our communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens
- Angus Council to be efficient and effective

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:

- (i) Considers and notes the Angus Adult Protection Committee (AAPC) Annual Report 2022 to 2023 (appended to this report); and
- (ii) Considers and notes the key trends and areas for development emerging from the report.

3.2 It is recommended that the Family, Education and Justice Committee:

- (i) Reviews the content of the Angus Adult Protection Committee (AAPC) Annual Report 2022 to 2023 (appended to this report); and
- (ii) Notes the Council's cross departmental responsibilities in relation to Adult Protection.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The AAPC completes a national return biennial report.. In addition, the AAPC produces a local area annual report in the non-biennial report years. This reporting year is a local area report.
- 4.2 The previous report was the AAPC Biennial Report 2020 to 2022 covering the period April 2020 to March 2022. This is in line with national reporting requirements.

- 4.3 This Annual Report of AAPC for the period April 2022 to March 2023 presents the work undertaken across 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.
- 4.4 The Annual Report was approved by AAPC on 13 March 2024 and the Angus Chief Officer Group via email on 16 March 2024.
- 4.5 The AAPC is chaired by an Independent Chair who offers leadership, direction, scrutiny and challenge to all members of the AAPC. The AAPC meets minimally 4 times per year with an expectation that AAPC members ensure a high level of attendance either in person or by an appropriate delegate. Attendance at AAPC is reported to Angus Chief Officers Group (COG) as part of routine reporting of the AAPC Risk Register. There are no exceptional or unmanaged risks highlighted in the annual report.

5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 AAPC have continued to work together to improve adult protection practice in Angus throughout the reporting period.
- 5.2 Of note during the reporting period are:
- The ongoing work of multi-agency partners to ensure that vulnerable adults and their carers continue to be well supported as we continue to experience the cost of living crisis and further austerity cuts.
 - The Care Inspectorate undertook a multi-agency Adult Support and Protection Inspection in late 2022. Feedback was positive with the following being noted:
 - evidence of highly effective engagement and collaboration,
 - practice examples of a trauma informed approach being used and
 - almost all adults at risk of harm experienced improvements in their circumstances.

Identified areas of improvement by the Care Inspectorate had been noted in advance by the AAPC multi-agency partners and were being taken forward through other means (Learning Review recommendation implementation, Service User Involvement, Workforce Learning and Development Subgroup workplan, Practice and Policy subgroup paperwork reviews). This evidences that the partnership is effective in identifying where there are development needs and progressing plans to mitigate against this.

- Networks of support events were held in early 2023. These bring multi-agency staff together to focus on cases that they have been involved in. It gives them the opportunity to discuss 'what went well' and 'even better if'. Initial evaluations were positive with participants recognising the value of having time to reflect together. A full evaluation report will be shared with the AAPC during the next reporting period.
 - Self-neglect and Hoarding have continued to be a concern raised across the multi-agency workforce. Training has been provided by Scottish Fire and Rescue Services to multi-agency staff and cases have continued to be identified. Work is underway to establish a short-life working group to further explore the need across Angus.
- 5.3 Key trends from the statistical part of the Annual Report demonstrate a continued increase in demand across frontline adult protection services, these include:
- The number of referrals for 2022-23 rose to 840 from 681 the previous year. This is an increase of over 20% from the previous year. The majority of referrals continue to come from Police Scotland (44%) and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) (12%).
 - 55 females in Angus were deemed to be at risk in 2022-23, compared to 44 males. Females had also been at greater risk in the 2021-22 reporting period. The gender split between males and females does not indicate any notable trends, however, it is likely that gender inequality could be an aspect of this, with women often being more vulnerable to exploitation.

- 40% of adults at risk are over 50 years old but the largest group are people in the age range 35 to 49.
- 60 referrals were made to the Financial Harm Support Team during the reporting period. Those in the 65-74 age group were the highest referral rate with 24 referrals made.

5.4 The AAPC have begun to roll out the national dataset at a local level. The Self Evaluation and Continuous Improvement (SECI) subgroup has oversight of the phased rollout and report to the committee on a quarterly basis. This will allow for greater comparison between local authorities as all areas will be capturing the same data.

5.5 The AAPC Strategic Plan 2020-2023 is based around the core business functions of an Adult Protection Committee as set out under section 42 of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. It is also based on the local vision of "Working together to protect adults at risk of harm in Angus". The plan is flexible and regularly updated to include any emerging national or local priorities.

5.6 Areas for development and progression:

- Further align with other Protecting People Committees to ensure that there is a whole family approach and less duplication of work.
- We will continue to strive for all Angus adults to have a voice in decisions that are made about them through increased focus on Service User Involvement and Participation.
- By analysing the data contained in the national dataset roll out, and by further looking at relevant local data . the Self Evaluation and Continuous Improvement (SECI) subgroup will provide the AAPC with trends and themes from the data. This analysis will inform priority areas going forward. In particular, the development of robust data gathering systems will inform the writing of the strategic plan from 2024-2027.
- Implementing the Care Inspectorate Adult Protection Inspection Improvement Plan.
- Further develop strategic and workforce understanding and response to Self-Neglect and Hoarding.
- The AAPC activity for 2023-24 will be reported as part of the 2022-24 AAPC Biennial report that is submitting to the Scottish Government. This will be available to in Autumn 2024.

6. PROPOSALS

6.1 The Scrutiny and Audit Committee considers and notes the content of the AAPC Annual Report April 2022 to March 2023 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.

6.2 The Families, Education and Justice Committee is assured by the content of the report and recognises the ongoing multi-agency endeavours to keep adults within Angus safe.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 There are no risks arising directly from this report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

- 10.1 A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the following reason: - no full EIA is required as this is a report for information and scrutiny.

11. CONSULTATION

Director of Finance, Director of Legal, Governance and Change, Chief Social Work Officer

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 - AAPC Annual Report 2022-23