



'Round-up News' of 4th May 2022 ASPC for Fife Practitioners

**The aims of
Round-up News**



This is our new-look ASP newsletter. It aims to give you a flavour of the main business at the Adult Support and Protection Committee (ASPC).

What's been happening at the ASP Committee?

At ASPC, we listen, learn and take forward future work. This newsletter highlights ...

- **Key area of interest/topics raised at ASPC.... so, we keep you up to date**
- **Achievements.... so, you know we are always working on behalf of Fife citizens**
- **A member who contributes to the ASPC.... so, we help put 'faces' to the 'committee'**
- **Nest Steps so, you know we continue to work hard to achieve more**

Firstly ... before we share our update ...

Who are the ASPC?

If already a 'friend' of ASPC, please free to skip this short section!

The Adult Support and Protection Committee (**ASPC**) is a statutory body established under Section 42 of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 (the 2007 Act) within each Council.

The ASPC's key functions

- to keep under review the procedures and practices of the public bodies
- to give information or advice to any public body in relation to the safeguarding of adults at risk within a council area, and
- to make, or assist in the making of, arrangements for improving the skills and knowledge of employees of the public bodies.

Partners on the ASPC

Partners range from Fife Police, NHS, Social Work, Fife Fire and Rescue, Care Inspectorate, Trading Standards, Fife Drugs and Alcohol Partnership through to Housing team, Fife Carers, Fife Suicide Prevention Forum, RNIB and People First....to name but a few! Partners work together to support and protect vulnerable adults from harm. The Committee invites all present to submit their updates and all key business points are raised, discussed and agreed through the independent convenor, Alan Small.

The minutes of the Committee are published on the ASP website [ASPC minutes](#)

We hope you enjoy this catch-up!

An update by the Chair:

Adult and Child Protection approaches are consistent.

Adult Protection will adopt a learning review approach in line with Child Protection Committees guidance. This has been formally agreed to be used by Adult Protection.

It makes sense that the Public Protection Committees in Fife follow the same methodology.

5 Key Area of Interest/topics raised

1. The Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Act 2021 (the FMS Act)



Please just click on these cards to learn more about this worthwhile work.

While there will be further advertising on the impact of this Act.... please remember you can play your part to spread the word:

1. Background:

Chief Medical Officer set up a National Taskforce to improve healthcare and forensic medical services for Adults, Children and Young People who have experienced rape, sexual assault, or child sexual abuse.

Note: Police provided forensics prior to 2017.

2. Impact of the new law from 1st April 2022:

There is now a statutory duty on Health Boards so that services are provided.

The services offered to victims of rape and sexual assault were significantly redesigned to place a focus on:

the **healthcare needs** of the individuals as well as the **collection of forensic evidence**.

3. The positive changes to help support victims:

- **A new suite**

A suite at Queen Margaret Hospital, officially opened on the 1st April 2019, which allows victims to have their examination in a Health environment.

Victims can be supported through their examination by a female health chaperone.

The ability to access an examiner of the gender of choice will bring an improved experience to service users.

The suite also can allow a domestic space for a police interview to begin.

This has been ongoing since July 2019 and is working well.

- **Access to self-referrals**

There is now access to self-referrals: victims can come forward for examination and they do **not need to approach Police**. Patients will call NHS 24 who will triage that call and decide how the person can be best supported by NHS.

Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre are in full support of this.

- **Improved focus on Healthcare needs** The Gender Based Violence (GBV) Service has developed a care coordinator role to offer support to the service user following their medical examination. The support they offer follows the five primary guiding principles of **trauma informed care**, to achieve the best informed outcome for the individual:
 - safety
 - choice
 - collaboration
 - trustworthiness and transparency
 - mutuality and empowerment

The focus is to provide **high-quality person-centred health care and support to individuals** who have been referred to the service by Police or FME services.

The benefits of the self-referral

It is expected that the **option of self-referral to Forensic Medical Services without making an official Police complaint will support victims to seek medical help** whilst making 3rd sector support agencies known to them and referral routes more achievable. This service will *offer victims time to process the trauma they have experienced and preserves the right to bring a criminal conviction at a later stage.*

Evidence

Evidence is retained for a period of 2 years so that criminal proceedings can be commenced at a later date if the victim wants. Evidence is destroyed 26 months after the examination.

What healthcare support is on offer:

Pathways ensure that all individuals receive:

1. Appropriate Sexual Health screening
2. Diagnosis, treatment and designated support and counselling for up to 12 weeks from the GBV service.
3. Onward referral to 3rd sector agency partners, if required, is also facilitated by the team.
4. Throughout the 12-week support offered by the GBV team, individuals can require daily support whilst they try to understand and acknowledge their trauma. This is often resource intensive with the initial stages of care requiring the supporting nurse to incorporate many aspects of the safety and stabilization framework.
5. A formal psychological wellbeing assessment is completed, and any required actions are integrated into the individual's care.

Other agencies involved:

Fife Rape and Sexual Assault Centre are a partner in the management group that oversees and monitors this work which is also regularly reported to the Fife Violence against Women Partnership. The FVAWP work plan included the delivery of this work and is a multiagency partnership involving 3rd sector partners who work in this field.

Other Topics Shared

2. Quarterly Data Report

Statistics: These reflect the data gathered for the period January-March 2022, also known as Q4

There were 746 reports of harm recorded for 597 individuals. There has been a small increase in referrals (11%) since the last quarter (+76 reports, from 670 in Q3 to 746 in Q4)

Police continue to make the highest number of referrals (25% of total or 184 of 746)

During Q4 (January to March 2022), there were 94 investigations relating to 94 individuals. This represents a rise of 34% as compared to the previous period (+24, from 70 to 94). The rise is potentially due to the end of the Christmas period.

A higher proportion (66%) of investigations relate to females (62 of 94). Overall, the majority of investigations involve individuals under the age of 65 (69% or 65 of 94). During Q4, 11% of investigations involved individuals aged 85 years or over (10 of 94).

During Q4 (January to March 2022) the highest number of investigations related to self-harm (24% or 23 of 94) which is +8 investigations on the previous quarter. A higher number of investigations were also conducted in relation to physical harm (21% or 20 of 94), financial harm (20% or 19 of 94) and psychological harm (20% or 19 of 94).

3. Coming out of Covid-19

More freedom but challenges remain:

Services are under pressure with hospital discharge.

- There is pressure on temporary accommodation and particularly for those with mobility issues.
- There remains significant challenges for recruitment and this can create challenges for discharge.

While recruitment issues are also a problem, **suitable support packages being put in place to allow for hospital discharge.**

The Chair advised that this is a Scottish problem and is not unique to Fife.

The situation is being kept under constant review to help Fife citizens have the best treatment and after care possible.

4. Fire deaths - Important Facts and ASPC Responses



The facts:

The NAPC report by Paul Comley 2022 was raised (looking at messages and themes from other reports).

The report is based on findings from Yorkshire and Humberside, but Scottish data suggests similar conclusions.

The report highlights that **assumptions** should **not** be made if a person has a working fire alarm.

Why is this? There are a high proportion of cases when an alarm has gone off, but the person **didn't know how to respond**.

People are living longer so this finding becomes more relevant.

Key points to consider.....

It highlights the importance of close partnership working. For example:

*People such as carers who are in and out of premises of a vulnerable person may be in a good position

to spot a decline in the person's ability to respond to alarms.

Risk is likely to include one or more of several factors. This list is only a 'starter' but food for thought.....and action.

Those at **more risk of fires** in their home are:

Over 60

Smoking

Living alone

Experiencing hearing and visual difficulties;

Needing care and support;

Living in a deprived area.

Discussion and Responses at ASPC

There was an increase in fire fatalities during the pandemic and is an ongoing problem.

There was a fall in risk to fire referrals during Covid.

Training is starting to get developed again but the training uptake from practitioners needs to be strengthened.

This danger from fire is not going away - even with the new legislation around linked fire alarms.

There is a responsibility to get the message out that training of the workforce/third sector/volunteers is essential.

ASPC will play an active role in communicating these messages.

5. Ukraine Resettlement

The Scottish Government has requested that Health and Social Care Partnerships and Adult Protection Committees make **training** available to those involved with Ukraine resettlement. Those involved with **Housing and the Third Sector** have been identified and they have been encouraged to attend training. As some of the training is at capacity, numbers able to attend have been increased and there may be capacity to add an additional course if there are still not enough spaces.

Note: In Fife.....Housing is the lead service.

Basic information on 'what is harm' has been sent for translation.

The Scottish Government Child Protection policy unit have set up a Ukrainian Safeguarding Board.

Reference:

People arriving from Ukraine: Risk and need: Public Protection Guidance Summary for web publishing: Guidance for all practitioners involved in safeguarding of children and adults who are arriving in Scotland from Ukraine to identify and respond to risk and need. Scottish Government 11 April 2022

Achievements to date



- The Strategic Improvement Plan and the actions from the Inspection are being progressed
- Updated Interagency Guidance document ready to go live shortly
- Training feedback tool working well and reflecting effective training experiences

- Care Home Mixed methods Review started and feeding into future Care Home Awareness Raising sessions
- Ongoing partnership working by the ASP team to help messaging on 'What is harm'
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Week - the theme for this year's campaign has been set. It will focus on the current cost of living crisis, recognising the combination of events which has resulted in the current situation.
- Housing has taken a lead role in furthering the Ukraine resettlement programme. As mentioned, it is active in preparing staff too as they are carry out a front facing role.
- 2020-21 Easy Read on Annual Report available [Easy Read | Fife Council](#)

A member who contributes to the ASPC



1 - Let's find out more about one of our ASPC members:

People First (PF)

Please press on the arrows to see each card.

Who are People first?

People First is People First (Fife) is funded by the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership.

It operates at both a national and local level.

It is an organisation run by people with learning disabilities for people with learning disabilities. They are supported by staff who help facilitate their work.

Who represents PF at ASPC?

Susan Burt continues to be the representative on the Fife Adult Support and Protection Committee for People First. Susan continues to inform the Committee what affects people with learning disabilities across Fife. She prepares a detailed report and can speak to it. Recently, David Scott, from PF, has taken part this year in a radio campaign on Kingdom FM. This campaign is to raise awareness of Online Scams and encourages people to stay safe. They are busy people who are keen to share their voices not just for the benefit of others with learning disabilities but the whole community.

Where do PF meet and why?

PF Groups take place in - Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline, St Andrews, Leven and Mayfield hospital. PF often talk about issues that are relevant to Adult Support and Protection.

The meetings are also a safe place where people can talk about anything that is worrying them. Online groups also run for people who want to connect this way instead. There are good connections so any concerns can also be shared with the ASP team.

PF Interests

People First are always interested in learning more. They benefited from a NatWest Banking group talk to members (this can be organised through the editor as it has been one of the outcomes from the previous Financial Harm Working Group and is still running).

Not only are PF members keen to take in new information, but importantly, they also share what they know. For example....

People First have been working with the Mental Welfare Commission to look at changes to legislation and at a new law for adults with a Learning Disability and Autism. PF believe that People with a Learning Disability should not be under the **Mental Health Care and Treatment Act** and should have their own law which separates learning disability from mental health.

- PF have been /are also active in many areas.... here's a summary:
- Working closely with **Police Scotland and Social Security Scotland** in recent months.
- Talking in depth about the **new Fire Alarms and fire safety within homes.**
- Explaining **Transport needs** - PF recognise **that safe travel is very important for people with a learning disabilities.**
- PF are involved in the **Housing Strategy looking at Accessible Housing** and hope to contribute to improvements for people with a learning disability getting accessible housing.
- People First Members have also been involved in a recent **Serious Case Review.** They advocate for disabled people - they understand how isolated and forgotten people with a learning disability can become.
- Continue to campaign for Day Services and Community based supports throughout Fife.

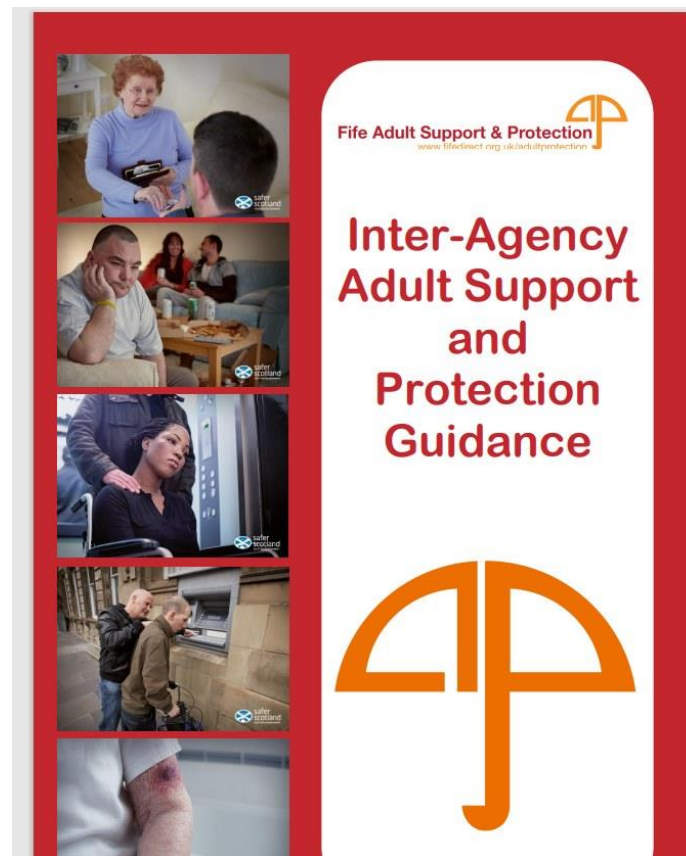
In short, now we know.....

People First are always willing to engage and participate at all levels to represent the needs of people with learning disabilities.

ASPC benefit from their wealth of experience and their commitment to work to keep people safer.

We are fortunate to learn from each other.

Next Steps to happen



A. Policies, Documents and Processes

- The new Inter-Agency Guidance will go live in June. There will be a 6-month review in December to monitor how the changes have worked.
- On course for the full inspection improvement plan (based around Chronologies, Risk Assessment and Protection Plan) to be completed by October.
- Strategic Improvement Plan - on course to be finished by end of 2022. Should anything not be covered, it could be carried over to the next plan. It is intended that the draft plan for 2023 is in place for the ASPC to consider towards the end of the year so it can 'ready to go' in January 2023.
- Large Scale Investigation Audit: Audit activity to start in relation to Large Scale Investigations which have taken place in Fife within the last two years - to identify any themes and improvement work required within our current LSI process.
- Inter-agency ASP Audit: This is a requirement of the Inspection Plan which will be completed in September 22.

- Work ongoing with Liquid Logic, the new data recording system used by Fife Council staff, to make sure everything will be aligned in the new system for the operational staff.

B. Training



- To build on the great feedback regarding the quality of training. ASP Training spaces available so.....The ask for ASPC is to highlight the training available and support attendance for partner agencies.
- The e-training courses for those involved in the Ukraine resettlement will be distributed shortly.
- Fire Risk - Self Evaluation and Improvement Group are going to take forward work from an Appendix in the recent NAPC report as it contains considerations aimed at ASPCs and it needs examined from a Fife perspective.

Staff present at ASPC are to reflect on how they encourage and sustain training as it must be embedded into good practice.

Problem solving and creative ideas are key to tackling such fatalities.

C. Consultations



Consultations

- Mental Health Review Consultation underway
- Scoping Exercise: Young People/Young Adults Transitioning from Children to Adult Service underway
- Care Home Mixed Methods Review is progressing

D. New Initiatives



- **Proposed Practitioners Forum:**

The starting point is to identify representation from partner agencies to attend and participate in planning of the forum.

Some of the aims of the Adult Support and Protection Interagency Forum is to:

- Provide a networking opportunity
 - Contribute to continuously improving practice, improvement, and positive change
 - Allow frontline practitioners to voice their ideas and highlight any areas for clarification
 - Improve partnership working
 - Raise awareness of roles, responsibility, and remit of other agencies
 - Share experience
 - Learn from others
- **The Short Life Working Group focusing on Hoarding and Self Neglect** has been set up and had its first meeting on Friday 15th April 2022.

This group aims to focus on the Identification of harms associated with hoarding and self-neglect, prevention, and consider support actions.

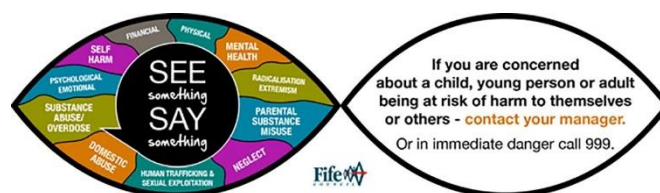
***The next ASPC Meeting is on 24th August, 2022
10 am via Teams.***

We hope you join us to read the next 'Round-up News' to be issued soon after this date.

To learn more about ASP and see our resources online

[Adult Protection information online](#)

Remember...



If there are items that interest you and you want to find out more, please email either:

Amanda Law (ASP Co-ordinator) at Amanda.law@fife.gov.uk

or me at Ruth.Smith-gr@Fife.gov.uk (the editor) with an Engagement and Participation role