

*Welcome to the second edition of the Glasgow Adult Protection Committee Newsletter.*

*We hope to bring you some news and articles three or four times a year. I hope you enjoy the second issue.*

*Thanks for reading*

*Colin*



Colin Anderson  
Chair of Glasgow Adult Protection Committee

## **In this issue...**

- Who does what in social care services? (Adult Support and Protection)
- Updates from the 3 Localities
- Adults with Incapacity: Sexual Relationships and the Criminal Law

## **Adult Protection Committee (APC) - a quick reminder of what we do**

The Adult Support and Protection Act requires each Local Authority have an APC with an independent Chair and a multi-agency committee with representation from the Council, Police and Health Board and other agencies who have an interest or role in adult protection.

The Glasgow committee is chaired by Colin Anderson and meets six times a year in the City Chambers. The committee has a range of duties, which include;

- reviewing adult protection practices
- improving co-operation
- improving skills and knowledge
- providing information and advice
- promoting good communication.

Glasgow also has a Service User Sub-Committee.

## Who does what in social care services? (Adult Support and Protection)

There is often a lot of confusion about individual roles and responsibilities when a concern is raised about the quality of care services and what are the roles of the numerous bodies who may be involved. It's probably best to have quick overview of the type of bodies that might be involved and explain a little about what they do.

**Care Inspectorate:** The Care Inspectorate used to be called The Care Commission but changed its name after expanding its role a few years ago. The Care Inspectorate is a **regulator** and inspects and grades **registered care services**. Not all care services are registered but as a general rule of thumb all residential services where more than 4 people live will require to be registered as will care at home services. Care Inspectorate staff visit these registered services and produce a report on the quality of care, with grades running from 1 (unsatisfactory) to 6 (excellent). All registered establishments must display a copy of their most recent report on the premises and all reports can be obtained from the Care Inspectorate website.

**Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC):** Often referred to as the 'triple S-C' this organisation is the regulator for the social care workforce. The SSSC registers workers and is responsible for their conduct, practice, training, education and setting standards for their practice. Where registered workers fall below the standards for practice or conduct the SSSC can investigate and take action.

**PVG scheme (Protection of Vulnerable Groups):** The PVG scheme is a membership scheme for people who want to do regulated work with vulnerable adults or children. It is run by Disclosure Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government. All care services require staff and volunteers to be PVG scheme members. When a person applies to become a scheme member they will undergo a criminal records check and a decision will be made to admit them to the PVG scheme or to bar them from regulated work. It is not necessary to have a 'clean' criminal record to be a scheme member as the nature and type of conviction information is considered on a case by case basis.

**Social Work Services and Social Workers:** Or the Social Work Department, who employ a lot of staff some of whom are Social Workers. Social Workers hold a professional qualification and must be registered with the SSSC. A Mental Health Officer (MHO) is a Social Worker with further specialist training and qualifications. MHO's have specific responsibilities under some legislation, for instance detaining a person under the Mental Health Act.

Under the Adult Support and Protection Act, Social Work departments must carry out an investigation when they believe an adult may be at risk of harm. The investigation must be led by a Social Worker with at least one year's post qualifying experience.

**Commissioning and Service Concerns:** 'Commissioning' is a section of Social Work Services. Most social care services are not provided directly by social work but are commissioned (or paid for) by them. This means social work will enter into a contract with a care provider such as a nursing home or care at home service and pay the service provider to deliver the care service on behalf of Social Work Services.

Each establishment or service commissioned by Social Work will have a Link Commissioner, this is a person who works for social work commissioning and whose job it is to monitor and report on the contract for the service being provided.

'Service Concerns' are a mechanism where Social Work staff can report concerns about a commissioned service. They will be sent by Social Work staff to the Commissioning section within social work.

**Adult Protection Committee (APC):** The APC is a multi-agency committee convened by an Independent Chair whose role is to have an oversight of all adult protection issues in its area. The Glasgow Committee meets every two months in the City Chambers.

## Summary

As you can see there are a lot of people and organisations involved in social care each with specific roles and responsibilities. However in all matters to do with Adult Protection (for example, if you suspect an adult is at risk of harm) there is only one agency to report this to: Social Work Services.

Social Workers investigating harm may involve some or all of these other agencies in an investigation depending on the information they have to hand. It is important to remember that whoever you are, an ordinary member of the public, a care worker or a health professional; if you suspect someone is being harmed you have a duty to report this to Social Work Services or if you think there is a crime the police. Staff within organisations should report any incidents to their line manager in the first instance.

---

## Updates from the 3 Localities

**North East:** The North East group is chaired by Willie Munro (Service Manager, Social Work) and meets every 6 weeks. Over the last few months we have moved the meeting location around the North East and met in various offices of the multi-agency partners including Cordia, Social Work, Fire and Rescue and the Police.

The agenda of the group is similar to that considered by the Adult Protection Committee and over the last months has included a Large Scale Investigation (LSI) around one residential care home in our area and also ensuring the learning from Significant Case Reviews (SCRs) are disseminated to multi-agency staff across the North East.

**North West:** The North West group is chaired by Isobel Paterson (Service Manager, Social Work) and meets at the Social Work offices at Gullane St. Each of the locality groups holds a Local Management Review (LMR) at least once a year. Attended by the relevant managers from all the multi-disciplinary partners, this focussed event allows people to come together to review and reflect on practice and developments in that area.

The North West LMR was well attended and around 40 workers came together to discuss an agenda which included a review of significant incidents and statistical reports on performance. Later in the afternoon there was a workshop based on a number of complex real life situations and an interesting presentation on Personality Disorder.



North West Local Management Review discussing local issues

**South:** The South group is chaired by Maggie Hart (Service Manager) and Christine Murphy (Service Manager). The South team have been doing a lot of multi-disciplinary work with health colleagues in the HSCP over the last few months. Some of the feedback from people who make adult protection referrals is that they are not always told of the outcome. To help everyone better understand the complexity of decisions around confidentiality, taking evidence from referrers and thresholds between the differing stages of an investigation, the South team have been working together on case file audits.

Usually led by an Assistant Service Manager (ASM) a number of case files are reviewed by workers from Health and Social Work together. This allows people to see the various stages on a typical adult protection journey and hear about why and whom made the relevant decisions. A referral may be closed at any stage of this journey and few go as far as having a formal protection plan or application to the court for a banning or removal order. There are potentially nine stages for an adult protection intervention from referral, initial screening, allocation to area team, duty to inquire, investigation, case conference, care or protection plan, review and finally closure from adult protection.

Early indications are that people feel this is a very insightful and interesting process and allows people from different disciplines to share their experiences and to learn from each other.

The ASM's in the South have also been leading some training around 'early indicators of harm' in residential settings for staff whose job involves visiting clients in care homes. This too has led to some interesting sharing of perspectives and is leading to a deeper understanding of everyone's duties in relation to identifying and reporting harm.

---

## **Adults with Incapacity: Sexual Relationships and the Criminal Law**

The Mental Welfare Commission has issued an advice note which considers some of the complex issues surrounding consent, capacity and sexual relationships.

It provides a thoughtful narrative on the various factors that may be involved and the balance between the rights of the person to engage in sexual activity and the role of the state in protecting adults from sexual harm.

This document will make interesting reading for Adult Protection practitioners and for Guardians who have sought powers under AWI for the purpose of controlling whom a person with incapacity should consort with.

The document is available from

<http://www.mwscot.org.uk/media/321674/>

In the Foreword to the report the Commission said “The Mental Welfare Commission has been contacted by professionals with concerns about:

- The position of staff supporting people with mild learning disabilities where there is uncertainty about their capacity to consent to sexual relationships but there is no concern about the relationship being exploitative
- The position of the person engaging in sexual relations with the adult in the same circumstances.

This report outlines some of the issues to be considered”. For further guidance on sexual relationships and people with mental health problems or learning disabilities, see the Commission’s good practice guidance ‘Consenting Adults?’:

[http://www.mwscot.org.uk/media/51782/updated\\_consenting\\_adults.pdf](http://www.mwscot.org.uk/media/51782/updated_consenting_adults.pdf)

---

## **Adult Support and Protection Service User Sub-Committee**

The Adult Support and Protection Service User Sub-Committee is a sub group of the Glasgow City Adult Protection Committee. It was set up to make sure the service user’s voice is heard and has an opportunity to inform the work of the Adult Protection Committee. If only workers are involved then the service user voice can be easily lost.

The people involved in the sub-committee are representatives of adults at risk of harm who are most likely to be the subject of adult protection reports and investigations. For example learning disability, mental health, physical disability, older people and dementia. The representatives are mainly from Voices for Change, People First and Glasgow Disability Alliance. The sub-committee nominated two representatives to attend the full Adult Protection Committee meeting. This allows the group to receive information such as reports, findings and recommendations and have an opportunity to ask questions of the main committee about policies and procedures.

The sub-committee produced a flyer which provides information on Adult Protection and lets people know who to contact if they have any concerns. They visited some organisations to tell them about the sub group and see if more people want to get involved.

They were given the opportunity to commission Adult Support and Protection research and agreed to look at the Service User Experience. Social Work provided funding for the research and an Independent Research Company was appointed in May 2014. The sub-committee were involved in designing the research. The final report with findings and recommendations was completed in January 2015.

There were two recommendations from the research:

- a. Produce an easy read leaflet on Adult Support and Protection which can be given to the Service user at the start of the process
- b. Design an evaluation questionnaire for service users to complete at the end of the process.

The sub-committee have been working on the easy read leaflet on Adult Support and Protection which should be ready before the end of 2016. They have also had some initial discussions on the evaluation questionnaire.

On a final note, the sub-committee is well represented in terms of learning disability and physical disability but would like to have better representation from mental health, older people and dementia. Please contact Anne-Marie Gorman on [Annemarie.Gorman@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:Annemarie.Gorman@glasgow.gov.uk) or 07880 176547 if you or someone you know is interested in getting involved in the sub-committee.

---

## In the next issue...

We will look in a bit more detail at the five National Adult Support and Protection priority projects:

1. Adults at risk of Financial Harm
2. Adult Support and Protection in Care Homes and Independent Hospitals
3. Adult Support and Protection in A&E settings
4. Service Users and Carers Involvement in Adult Support and Protection
5. National Data Collection

---

**If you know or suspect that an Adult is being harmed then you need to report your concerns.**

**Don't assume that someone else has already reported it. The person being harmed or neglected may not be able to report it themselves. Remember, the person who did this may be doing it to others too.**

**Phone: 0141 287 0555**

**textphone: 18001 0141 287 0555**

**Outwith Office hours phone: 0300 343 1505**