

## REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL – 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

### PUBLIC PROTECTION IN ABERDEENSHIRE

#### 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

- 1.1 Public Protection is a term used to encompass the many different strategic approaches and responses to keeping children and adults safe in our communities. Delivering an effective public protection response locally is achieved through multi-agency co-operation.
- 1.2 Public Protection is our joint commitment to preventing and managing the risk of serious harm to vulnerable individuals, families and communities in Aberdeenshire. ‘Preventing’ means reaching people before things go wrong, as well as responding effectively when they do.
- 1.3 Although specific Public Protection areas are governed and directed by law, in Aberdeenshire, Public Protection extends to a wider shared commitment to vulnerable people at risk.
- 1.4 Currently Public Protection in Aberdeenshire encompasses 7 areas of work as noted in the diagram below



- 1.5 This report outlines the impact of each strand of public protection, the governance arrangements to mitigate risk and to protect the most vulnerable residents in Aberdeenshire.

## **1.6 The Committee is recommended to:**

### **1.6.1 Acknowledge the Public Protection Arrangements in Aberdeenshire**

### **1.6.2 Endorse the democratic oversight of these arrangements**

## **2 Discussion**

### **2.1 Role of Chief Officer Group (COG)**

2.1.1 Across Scotland, Chief Officers Groups (COGs) have a statutory duty to protect the most vulnerable people in their local area by providing leadership, governance and effective oversight of public protection arrangements. In Aberdeenshire this responsibility is achieved through the Aberdeenshire Executive Group for Public Protection (EGPP).

2.1.2 The EGPP meet every two months. It is chaired by Jim Savege, Chief Executive, Aberdeenshire Council and members include the Local Commander of Police Scotland; the Chief Executive of NHSG; Local Commander of SFRS, Chief Executive of AVA, The Chair of Aberdeenshire's GIRFEC Leadership Group, the Chief Officer of the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, the Chief Social Work Officer and the Independent Chair of the Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee. The remit of the EGPP is to:-

- Provide leadership and accountability across all public protection arrangements within Aberdeenshire including improving the experience of and outcomes for children and adults who may need protection.
- Coordinate collectively strategic developments within public protection including identifying and commissioning inter-agency activity for public protection
- Approve annual plans, scrutinise data and self-evaluation of public protection activity and approve associated improvement plans.
- Review and direct improvements on performance and audit
- Provide direction to chairs and members of the Child Protection Committee, the Adult Protection Committee, the Violence against Women/Girls Partnership and the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership on local priorities
- Approve and consider the learning from Significant Case Reviews and be provided with assurance that the improvements and actions required are in place across the local authority.

2.1.3 The EGPP is committed to reducing risk of harm through providing strong leadership to all staff and ensuring that service meet demand. During Covid-19 the EGPP increased the frequency of their meeting to monthly and sought assurance through frequent reporting and data analysis. Below are some examples of where this oversight and data analysis has led to action:

2.1.4 Suicide prevention – Police reported a 13% increase in the rate of suicide in the North East. A deep dive exercise was requested and undertaken by the Adult Protection Committee, with a report being submitted to EGPP for further consideration. The deep dive included an audit to identify if there was a connection between suicide and adults at risk and confirm that appropriate assessment and support was provided when a person attempted suicide. The audit evidenced that many adults that commit suicide will not been known to any social work (sw) services either as an open case or been subject to a previous police concern report.

- 2.1.5 The audit evidenced that police share concerns with the appropriate services (sw and health) when they have attended to an adult who has attempted suicide. All reports received by sw were assessed in line with the guidance and information and advice/guidance is appropriate. The work resulted in awareness raising of SAMH (Aberdeenshire Council's commissioned service to reduce suicide) to staff and the public.
- 2.1.6 Domestic Abuse – During Covid-19 there was discussion at the Adult Protection Committee, Child Protection Committee and Violence Against Women Partnership regarding hidden harm and the concern that victims of domestic abuse would not seek support because of the advice around social isolation. These concerns were raised at EGPP who supported the public messaging regarding domestic abuse service which promoted the message that support should be sought.

## **2.2 Role of Chief Social Work Officer**

- 2.2.1 Leigh Jolly, Head of Children's Services is the Chief Social Work Officer for Aberdeenshire Council.
- 2.2.2 There is a statutory requirement for all Local Authorities to appoint a professionally qualified CSWO who is registered with the Scottish Social Service Council (SSSC). The overall role of the CSWO is focused on the provision of effective professional advice and guidance to Local Authorities, Elected Members, and Officers in the provision of Social Work Services. Public Protection is a key aspect of the CSWO role. Statutory Social Work Teams are integral to the planning, delivery, and monitoring of public protection responses across children's and adult's services. The CSWO has a key role to assist local authorities and their partners in their understanding of the complexities and cross-cutting nature of social work service delivery particularly in regard to areas of public protection.
- 2.2.3 Our CSWO is a member of the Council's Strategic Leadership Team and has direct access to Elected Members, the Chief Executive, managers, and frontline practitioners in relation to professional social work issues. The CSWO attends the Executive Group for Public Protection. Our CSWO is also a member of the Aberdeenshire Adult and Child Protection Committees and chairs the Aberdeenshire Violence Against Women Partnership and Aberdeenshire Prevent Multi-Agency Panels.
- 2.2.4 The governance of social work services continues to be undertaken across two structures. Children's Social Work Services remain within Aberdeenshire Council and are part of the Education and Children's Service's (ECS) portfolio. All other Adult Social Work and Social Care Services, including Criminal Justice, are part of the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and are overseen by the Integration Joint Board (IJB).
- 2.2.5 The CSWO produces and publish an [annual report](#) for local authorities and IJBs on the functions of the CSWO role and delivery of the local authority's social work services functions. This report outlines the governance in place for public protection and comments where practice improvements have occurred and are required.

## **2.3 Role of Leaders Group for Public Protection**

- 2.3.1 Although the statutory duty to protect vulnerable residents sits with each local authority areas there has been a long tradition of joint working across Grampian in many areas of public protection.
- 2.3.2 The Leaders Group for Public Protection (LGPP) covers Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray. This group will provides top-level leadership which drives public protection forward for the region. It provides strategic oversight of public protection as a regional priority and connects and seeks to influence national policy.
- 2.3.3 The remit of the LGPP is:
- To establish the new governance framework consistently across the region
  - To lead on selected whole system issues including risk and resilience, prevention, service provision, data sharing, influence and strategy
  - To establish a light touch policy framework for public protection, its outcomes and impact
  - To develop models and standards of civic leadership and partner engagement which supports public protection
  - To place data, intelligence and information at the centre of strategic risk management
  - To provide support to individual areas and organisations to strengthen public protection

## **2.4 Adult Support and Protection**

- 2.4.1 Our response to Adult Support in Protection (ASP) is defined in law by the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. The definition of people who are supported through ASP are:
- 2.4.2 Adults at risk are adults (aged 16 and above) who:
- are unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests,
  - are at risk of harm, and
  - because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected
- 2.4.3 An adult is at risk of harm if:
- another person's conduct is causing (or is likely to cause) the adult to be harmed, or
  - the adult is engaging (or is likely to engage) in conduct which causes (or is likely to cause) self-harm
- 2.4.4 Types of harm:
- physical, sexual, psychological, neglect, financial, self-harm and self-neglect
- 2.4.5 Aberdeenshire Council through SW is the lead agency for Adult Support and Protection. In Aberdeenshire all adult protection referrals are managed through, the Adult Protection Network (APN) as a single point of contact. Assessments, decision making and intervention to support adults at risk is undertaken on a multi-agency basis.

- 2.4.6 During Covid-19 the APN noted a 46% increase in ASP referrals and it is anticipated that this increase will not reduce over the medium/long term due to contributing factors such as poor mental health, national care crisis, cost of living crisis, poor staff reliance. The APN currently receive approximately 230 ASP concerns per month. Following assessment 10% of referrals will proceed to statutory ASP input with the majority of the rest being assessed or supported through non-statutory social work, health or third sector support. This is in line with one of the main principles of the ASP Act using least restrictive measures to protect.
- 2.4.7 Section 42 of The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 states that each council has a statutory duty to establish an Adult Protection Committee (APC). The [Aberdeenshire APC](#) is a strategic multi-agency partnership responsible for the development, publication, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of adult protection policy and practice across the public, private and third sector organisations in Aberdeenshire.
- 2.4.8 The Aberdeenshire APC has an independent chair, Susan MacLaren, who was appointed in February 2020. The APC meets at least 5 times per year. Annually the APC provides a data return and every 2 years the APC reports to the Scottish Government through publishing a biennial report. The APC also produces a risk register and action plan every 2 years.
- 2.4.9 The APC report to the EGPP at each meeting through presentation of minutes and additional papers and through regular attendance of the chair.

## 2.5 Alcohol and Drugs

- 2.5.1 Whilst Aberdeenshire does not suffer alcohol or drug related harms to the same extent as many other parts of Scotland, some parts of Aberdeenshire experience comparable levels and our overall experience compares unfavourably with many other parts of the UK and European countries. Alcohol and drug related deaths are an appropriate proxy for different kinds of alcohol and drug related harm. Aberdeenshire's alcohol related death rate per 100,000 adults is 10.8 in 2017 - 2021 which is significantly lower than the national rate of 20.8 per 100,000.
- 2.5.2 The Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) bring together local partners including health boards, local authorities, police, commissioned services and voluntary agencies. The Aberdeenshire's ADP purpose is to lead and coordinate a whole-system approach to better plan, deliver and improve services for those affected by alcohol and drugs and to monitor the effectiveness of approaches to prevent risk and harm. They are responsible for commissioning and developing local strategies for tackling problem alcohol and drug use and promoting recovery, based on an assessment of local needs.
- 2.5.3 In 2020 the Aberdeenshire ADP published an [Alcohol and Drug Strategy for 2020 – 2025](#). The strategy outlines the partnership's high-level vision and commitment to prevent and reduce the risk and harm from alcohol and other drugs across Aberdeenshire. In January 2021 the First Minister announced a new National Mission to reduce drug related deaths and harms across Scotland which, through the setting of a number of high level outcomes to be implemented at a local level, also provides focus for the partnership's activities.

2.5.4 The Aberdeenshire ADP is chaired by Avril Nicol, Head of Service – Communities, Wellbeing & Partnerships, Aberdeenshire Council. It meets a minimum of 4 times per year and is open to the general public, except for items that the Chair considers to contain confidential information protected by law. The ADP Committee reports annually to the Scottish Government and twice yearly to the Integration Joint Board on delivery of agreed local and national outcomes. In addition, the ADP has clear reporting links to the Community Planning Partnership and GIRFEC Strategic Group.

## **2.6 Child Protection**

2.6.1 Child protection refers to the processes involved in consideration, assessment and planning of required action, together with the actions themselves, where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of harm. Child protection guidance provides overall direction for agencies and professional disciplines where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of harm. Child Protection Procedures are initiated when police, social work or health professionals determine that a child may have been abused or may be at risk of significant harm.

2.6.2 Data on Child Protection is published by the Scottish Government. In 2019 – 2020 the rate per 1,000 of child protection investigation nationally was 14, in Aberdeenshire this rate was lower at 8.3 per 1,000. The lower rate pertaining to child protection investigations is generally understood to have a direct correlation with our strong GIRFEC processes whereby partners work together with families from an early stage to prevent escalation of concerns leading to child protection investigations.

2.6.3 Child Protection Committees (CPC's) are locally-based, inter-agency strategic partnerships which lead on the development of local child protection policy and practice. The Aberdeenshire CPC is a multi-agency group with members from the police, health, local authority and third sector organisation's. The role of each agency is to give individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of child protection services by promoting child protection policy and practice.

2.6.4 The Aberdeenshire CPC has an independent chair, Susan MacLaren, who was appointed in February 2020. The CPC meets at least 5 times per year. The CPC produces an [Annual Report](#) that is published and shared with Scottish Government. The CPC also produces an Improvement Plan and Risk Register both of which are reviewed on an annual basis. The CPC reports to the EGPP (through provision of minutes and additional papers) and the Aberdeenshire Education and Childrens Services Committee.

## **2.7 Domestic Abuse**

2.7.1 Domestic abuse is defined as a course of behaviour that is abusive towards a partner or ex-partner, this includes physical, psychological and emotional abuse and coercive control.

2.7.2 Domestic abuse is disproportionately perpetrated by men and experienced by women. In Scotland, it is estimated that 1 in 4 women will experience domestic abuse during their life and 1 in 5 children will experience domestic abuse by the time they reach 18. Public health experts include domestic abuse as an adverse childhood experience which can have life-long negative impacts on health,

education, development and relationships for children who do not receive specialist support. Domestic abuse is one of the most common reasons for children being placed on the child protection register.

- 2.7.3 The Scottish Government publishes an annual report on domestic abuse recorded by the Police although cautions that domestic abuse recorded by the police does not reveal the incidence of all domestic abuse committed in Scotland, as not all incidents are reported to the Police. Nationally there were 119 recorded incidents of domestic abuse per 10,000 population in 2020-21. Aberdeenshire recorded a rate of 65 per 10,000 population which is significantly lower than the Scotland average. It should be noted that that women enduring domestic abuse in rural areas are half as likely as urban victims to report the abuse and abuse in rural communities can last on average 25% longer than in urban areas (National Rural Crime Network).
- 2.7.4 The Aberdeenshire Violence Against Women Partnership (VAWP) brings together a range of statutory and voluntary agencies in Aberdeenshire with the aim of improving agency responses to women, children and young people who have experienced violence.
- 2.7.5 By adopting a gendered definition, the Partnership does not deny or minimise the use of violence against men or within same sex relationships. The gendered analysis is a reflection that women and girls are disproportionately affected by particular forms of violence because they are women and girls. Services provided by police, the council and NHS will be provided to all people experiencing domestic abuse no matter the gender or sexual preference.
- 2.7.6 The Aberdeenshire VAWP is jointly chaired by Leigh Jolly (Head of Childrens Services) and Alison Hay (Service Manager, Grampians Womens Aid). The Aberdeenshire VAWP report to the Aberdeenshire Child Protection Committee and EGPP. It provides information based on the Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework to the Improvement Service. The VAWP published a [progress report](#) in 2022 and is in the process of developing a new Action Plan.

## **2.8 Management of Serious Offenders**

- 2.8.1 The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), are a set of statutory partnership working arrangements introduced in 2007 under Section 10 of the Management of Offenders etc. (Scotland) Act 2005.
- 2.8.2 The purpose of MAPPA is public protection and the reduction of serious harm. In Scotland the MAPPA brings together the Police, Scottish Prison Service (SPS), Health and the Local Authorities, in partnership as the Responsible Authorities, to assess and manage the risk posed for certain categories of offender:
- Sex offenders who are subject to notification requirements under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.
  - Mentally disordered restricted patients.
  - Other offenders who are assessed by the Responsible Authorities as posing a risk of serious harm by reason of their conviction.

- 2.8.3 The local authority is the Responsible Authority with primary responsibility for the management of offenders who are subject to statutory supervision in the community. In Aberdeenshire there are currently 224 offenders under MAPPA, of whom 178 are living in the community.
- 2.8.4 Offenders liable to MAPPA management are identified, the nature and level of the risk of harm posed is assessed and actions are raised within a Risk Management Plan. Relevant information is shared across those agencies involved in, or likely to have a contribution towards, their risk management in order that the risks can be monitored and mitigated against to protect the public.
- 2.8.5 Within the Grampian Area, the Responsible Authorities are; the Local Authorities of Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray; Police Scotland and the Scottish Prison Service. NHS Grampian are deemed a Responsible Authority in respect of Mentally Disordered Restricted Patients only, and a Duty to Cooperate agency in respect of all other offenders subject of MAPPA. A number of other agencies are under a duty to co-operate with the Responsible Authorities and include housing providers, the voluntary sector and the Children's Reporter.
- 2.8.6 MAPPA is supported by the Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR). This is a UK-wide IT system which facilitates inter-agency communication and ensures that the Responsible Authorities contribute, share and securely store critical information about MAPPA offenders. It improves the capacity to share intelligence and supports the immediate transfer of key information when offenders move between areas.
- 2.8.7 The MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) provides the governance and oversight of MAPPA within the Grampian area. This group of senior representatives of partner agencies is tasked with ensuring that national MAPPA guidance is adhered to. The group is chaired by Detective Superintendent Alexander Dowall, Police Scotland and meets three times each year. It is responsible to Chief Officers and ensures Responsible Authorities fulfil their statutory duties by jointly preparing and publishing a MAPPA annual report for the Grampian area.

## **2.9 Radicalisation of Vulnerable People**

- 2.9.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 sets out the duty on local authorities and partners to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The Prevent strand of the UK's counter terrorism strategy relates to individuals who are not terrorists, but who are thought to be vulnerable to being recruited into extremist violent groups. In Scotland, the 'Prevent' duty is met through Prevent Multi-Agency Panels (PMAP).
- 2.9.2 Where a concern is raised about someone's vulnerability to being drawn into extremism, the police firstly rule out any criminal matters and confirm that the individual is not involved in terrorist activity. The case is then referred to Aberdeenshire Council through Rob Simpson (Head of Housing & Building Standards) as the allocated Single Point of Contact (SPOC) within the council and a PMAP is held.
- 2.9.3 A PMAP is a multiagency meeting, chaired by Leigh Jolly (Head of Childrens Services) and attended by all relevant partner agencies. PMAPs will meet regularly to establish the particular vulnerabilities present and implement support plans and

interventions to build the resilience of the individual and reduce the risk of them being drawn into violent extremism. Four PMAP meetings have been required in Aberdeenshire since 2021.

- 2.9.4 The process can involve bringing specially trained 'intervention providers' from the Home Office who have specialized knowledge of a particular ideology and are able to constructively challenge extremist beliefs. PMAP's for individuals can be 'closed' if risk's have been sufficiently reduced or mitigated which can take a number of months or even years. Review periods are set after a PMAP is closed to check on changes in vulnerability or risk.
- 2.9.5 The Prevent process in Aberdeenshire has various support arrangements through the Aberdeenshire Council Contest group and the North East Region multiagency Prevent group and North East Contest Group.

## **2.10 Suicide Prevention**

- 2.10.1 The Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) will publish a new Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan in September 2022. This will replace the current Suicide Prevention Action Plan: Every Life Matters which was published in 2018. The Partnership has also responded to the Suicide Prevention Strategy Consultation paper.
- 2.10.2 Data on probable suicide published by the National Records of Scotland shows that probable suicide in Scotland is at 14.1 per 100,000 population in 2017-2021. In Aberdeenshire this rate is slightly lower at 12.7 per 100,000.
- 2.10.3 Suicide Prevention is currently being driven by the North East Suicide Prevention Group, this group is made up of representatives from Aberdeen City HSCP, Aberdeenshire HSCP, Moray HSCP, Police and SAMH. This group directs and supports the work of 4 sub-groups these being – Training, Campaign's and Event, Data Analysis group and a Lived Experience Sub Group.
- 2.10.4 An Oversight Group was established in July 2022 , which the North East Suicide Prevention Group will report to, this group will have overall management of the regional programme, this new Oversight Group has had it's first meeting. Membership included leads from Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City and Moray, Senior Leads from Police Scotland, Public Health, NHS Grampian and SAMH with a representative from the Public Engagement Group.

## **3 Decision Making Route**

- 3.1 There are existing governance arrangements in place for all areas of public protection. As described above, all public protection areas have a specific multi-agency committee of partnership which provides assurance and set strategic direction for practice improvements. All aspects of public protection report to the Executive Group for Public Protection (EGPP).
- 3.2 The governance put in place for Full Council through the provision of this report around complements the role of the Education & Children's Services Committee and the Integrated Joint Board and Communities Committee who receive appropriate reports on specific areas of public protection as noted below. Members

are asked to endorse the democratic governance arrangements in relation to public protection.

PP Area	Strategic Committee/ Partnership	Linked Council Committee
Adult Support and Protection	Aberdeenshire Adult Protection Committee	Integrated Joint Board
Alcohol and Drugs	Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership	Integrated Joint Board
Child Protection	Child Protection Committee	Education & Children's Services Committee
Domestic Abuse	Aberdeenshire Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership	Education & Children's Services Committee
Management of Serious Offenders	Grampian MAPPA SOG	Communities Committee
Radicalisation of Vulnerable People	PREVENT	Communities Committee
Suicide Prevention	North East Suicide Prevention Oversight Group	*Communities Committee

3.3 \*Suicide Prevention is currently developing reporting structure, with the initial meeting of the North East Suicide Prevent Oversight Group occurring in July. Once established annual reporting will occur to the Communities Committee.

3.4 The governance framework is therefore designed to provide collective direction, clarity and support for all staff and to promote a sound platform for the involvement of the public and partners, who are a vital part of protection.

#### 4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Education Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Infrastructure Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy & Enterprise Estate Modernisation

4.2 Underpinning the Priorities are a number of key principles. They are: right people, right places, right time; responsible finances; climate and sustainability; Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plans; human rights and public protection; tackling poverty and inequalities; digital infrastructure and economy.

4.3 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority "Education and Health & Wellbeing" within the Pillar "Our People", having the right people, in the right place and; "Resilient Communities" within the Pillar 'Our Environment.'

- 4.4 This report helps deliver Aberdeenshire’s Local Outcome Improvement Plan priorities: Reducing Child Poverty in Aberdeenshire, Changing Aberdeenshire’s Relationship with alcohol and Connected and Cohesive Communities.
- 4.5 This report helps to deliver the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership priority of Tackling Inequalities and Public Protection.
- 4.6 This report helps deliver against Aberdeenshire Children’s Services Plan Priority – Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing
- 4.7 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is (are) agreed.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Financial			<b>X</b>
Staffing			<b>X</b>
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			<b>X</b>
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing			<b>X</b>
Climate Change and Sustainability			<b>X</b>
Health and Wellbeing			<b>X</b>
Town Centre First			<b>X</b>

- 4.8 There are no direct staffing, financial or Town Centre First Principle implications arising from this report.
- 4.9 An integrated impact assessment is not required because the report is to inform Committee of the arrangements for Public Protection in Aberdeenshire and does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.10 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:
- ACORP002 - Changes in government policy, legislation and regulation. All areas of public protection are subject to continual change and development of national guidance and policy. Risk are mitigated through attendance by chairs at various national groups that support the development of national policy and guidance.
  - ACORP007 – Social Risk (e.g. population changes, demographic changes, crime, anti-social behaviour. Risks are mitigated through working with other statutory and non-statutory partners to reduce risk of the most vulnerable residents in Aberdeenshire.
  - Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Risk Register (Risk 1975) - Child, Adult and Public Protection Failures. Risks are mitigated through sufficient training and awareness to understand and support public protection requirements which will reduce harm and Regular scrutiny at multi-agency partnership groups (APC, CPC, VAWP etc.)

## **5 Scheme of Governance**

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make.
- 5.2 This report has been submitted to Full Council as public protection crosses a number of committees and therefore does not fully fall within the delegated power of any other committee.

### **JIM SAVEGE**

#### **Chief Executive**

Report prepared by Ann-marie Bruce, Strategic Development Officer (Public Protection),  
Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership  
Date 1 September 2022

#### **List of Appendices –**

Terms of Reference Executive Group for Public Protection (EGPP)

## Appendix 1



## Aberdeenshire Executive Group for Public Protection

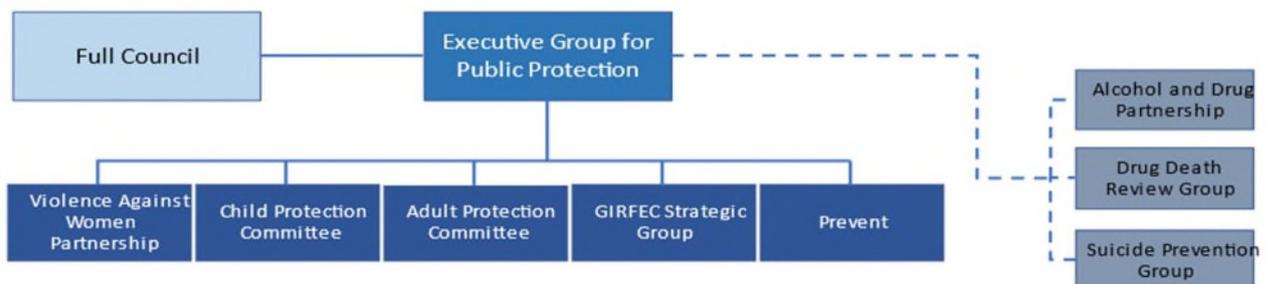
### Terms of Reference

#### Purpose

The Chief Officers Public Protection Group provides strategic leadership, scrutiny and the oversight of quality assurance and improvement of public protection arrangements within Aberdeenshire. This is achieved by providing strategic direction on priorities concerning risk and clear expectations for partnership arrangements on the safe delivery of services that keep people and their communities safe. It ensures that partnership working within Aberdeenshire meets with national standards around risk management and in addition considers how effective the local planning arrangements are within services and the partnership in managing public protection risk.

#### Governance

Governance Structure – Public Protection Arrangements



#### The Core Business of the Group is as follows:

Child Protection  
Adult Support and Protection  
Violence Against Women & Girls  
Alcohol and Drugs/Drug related deaths  
Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)  
Suicide Prevention  
Prevent/PMAP

#### Key Tasks

- Provide leadership and accountability across all public protection arrangements within Aberdeenshire including improving the experience of and outcomes for children and adults who may need protection.

- Coordinate collectively strategic developments within public protection including identifying and commissioning inter-agency activity for public protection
- Approve annual plans, scrutinise data and self-evaluation of public protection activity and approve associated improvement plans.
- Review and direct improvements on performance and audit
- Provide direction to chairs and members of the Child Protection Committee, the Adult Protection Committee, the Violence against Women/Girls Partnership and the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership on local priorities
- Approve and consider the learning from Significant Case Reviews and be provided with assurance that the improvements and actions required are in place across the local authority.

## **Membership**

Chief Executive Aberdeenshire Council,  
Chief Superintendent,  
Chief Executive NHSG  
Director of Education & Children's Services  
Head of Education, Chief Education Officer  
Director of Business Services  
Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action  
Area Commander, Scottish Fire & Rescue  
NHS Grampian Director of Allied Health Professions & Public Protection  
Executive Nurse Director  
Chief Officer, Integrated Joint Board/HSCP  
Chief Social Work Officer, Head of Children's Services  
Chair of Child and Family Protection Committee  
Chair of Adult Protection Committee

## **Expectations of Group Members**

- Strong collaborative and courageous leadership
- Regular attendance and active participation and contribution to agenda setting
- Accountable for progressing key tasks out with the meeting.
- Strong commitment to transformational change
- Collaborative and solution focussed with the ability to address barriers and manage and mitigate risk
- Accountable for supporting good, clear communication across services/partner agencies.
- Horizon scanning within their area of expertise to support the public protection agenda

## **Meetings**

A minimum of 4 times per year.