

South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board



Report by Chief Executive, South Ayrshire Council,
to Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting of 27 October 2022

Subject: Chief Officers' Group Annual Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Community Planning Board on the activity of the South Ayrshire Chief Officers' Group (COG) for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is asked to:

- **note the contents of this report;**
- **request a further annual update in future years.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Within the public protection arena, the COG provides strategic oversight and leadership in relation to all public protection activity in South Ayrshire. Public protection is an umbrella term that covers activity in relation to:

- Child Protection;
- Adult Support and Protection;
- Alcohol and Drugs;
- Violence Against Women; and
- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) for high-risk offenders
- Prevent

3.2 Membership of the South Ayrshire COG for the reporting period was:

- Eileen Howat, Chief Executive, SAC (Chair);
- Faroque Hussain, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland;
- John Burns, Former Chief Executive, NHS AA;
- Hazel Borland, Former Interim Chief Executive, NHS AA; and
- Claire Burden, Chief Executive, NHS AA.

The COG is also supported by a range of senior officers including:

- Chief Officer HSCP;
- Chief Social Work Officer;
- Heads of Service;
- Senior Manager (Childcare and Justice);
- Lead Officers of Adult and Child Protection; and
- Nurse Director.

Also:

- Independent Chair of the Adult and Child Protection Committees (Professor Paul Martin).

3.3 The key areas of responsibility for Chief Officers can be grouped into the following thematic areas:

- Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of South Ayrshire children and adults;
- Ensuring child protection committee business links to the broader planning fora within children's services;
- Providing a collective responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to deliver on business plans and/or improvement plans;
- Consideration of Initial Case Reviews and Significant Case Reviews; and
- Ensuring oversight of performance and efficacy of public protection services including any improvement plans.

3.4 In February 2019 the Scottish Government published a paper on the responsibilities of Child Protection Committees and Chief Officers. This paper can be found [here](#). The statutory guidance for Adult Protection Committees which also references the role of Chief Officers in public protection can be found [here](#).

3.5 Revised statutory guidance for Child Protection Committees was also introduced nationally. [This is available here](#). The COG noted the appointment of the Protection Policy Implementation Officer.

4. Current Arrangements and Key Activity

Within the reporting period public protection activity has been subject to significant scrutiny because of the pandemic. Whilst the COG would normally meet quarterly to consider business, since March 2020 the COG has been meeting monthly to ensure appropriate oversight of public protection activity and recovery through the pandemic. The following are areas of COG activity that the Board should be aware of that have guided South Ayrshire's response to public protection through the pandemic.

4.1 Governance

The onset of the pandemic saw the COG move to monthly meetings and commission 4 sub-groups to provide oversight of activity in relation to child protection; adult protection; alcohol and drugs and violence against women (including Justice). These groups brought together key stakeholders to share intelligence and plan coordinated responses and provided a pathway to the COG

for escalation of issues.

In April 2021, the COG continued to provide governance and oversight of National and Public Health Guidance to ensure the safety of people who use our Services and our workforce who support them.

Additionally, the COG continued to monitor performance on key services impacted by COVID and develop a multiagency response in several areas such as:

- Delayed Transfer of Care
- Delayed Annual Review in Adult Care / Support
- Contact and Support to Vulnerable Adults, Families and Children

The COG maintained oversight of key information required by SG on a weekly basis with regards to public protection. This allowed for assurance on the maintenance of performance in relation to both our preventative activity but also oversight of Investigations and Inquiries conducted through Adult Support and Protection (ASP) and Child Protection (CP) procedures.

4.2 **Adult Care**

Care Home Oversight

While the impact of Covid has been felt across society it has disproportionately affected our older adult residents and our front-line practitioners who provide compassionate care and support daily. Significantly the availability of workforce has emerged as a risk in both the private and public sector. The added pressure of the reduction of those willing to enter this profession has created pressure on recruitment.

The COG maintained an oversight of the impact of covid and the supports and assistance we could provide to providers and services during lockdown and our transition post-pandemic. Our Care Home Oversight Group (CHOG) chaired by Head of Service for Community Health and Care Services continued to report on the status of our provision.

Within the reporting period the CHOG were asked to broaden their remit acknowledging the whole system nature of providing care and support and the dependencies and impact each area has on other parts, particularly in relation to delayed discharges of care and review of care and support packages.

This group working with the Care Inspectorate and Partners across healthcare has overseen monitoring of care homes.

Delayed Transfers of Care.

With the pressures throughout the system created by the pandemic and its Continued impact on the health of our people and our workforce delayed transfers of care has become a focus of attention. The COG maintained oversight of plans across an array of services to meet this challenge acknowledging the factors unique to South Ayrshire that create a significant demand.

Reviews

Reviews are crucial to ensuring that we have the right support at the right time for people. The COG maintains oversight of performance in relation to the completion of Individual reviews and subsequent actions required.

Large Scale Investigations may be implemented as part of the functions of the APC. These are utilised to protect people from harm in these care settings. In the reporting period has conducted one Large-Scale Investigation was implemented resulting in action, support, and improvement to safeguard and maintain the standard of care that we expect for people who use our services. This concluded on 14th October 2021. Monitoring is maintained by the CHOG and oversight by the APC.

4.3 Public Protection

Review of process, policy and structure.

The COG approved a programme of review into public protection aimed at providing prevention and intervention at early stages in people's lives.

Three areas were focussed on:

- Adult Social Work Learning Review
- Alcohol and Drug Partnership Learning Review
- Public Protection Learning Review

Additionally, the COG also provided oversight on these safeguarding areas,

MAPPA

The COG received regular assurance and update report in respect of our Multiagency Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) that establish joint arrangements for the assessment and management of risk posed by certain high risk

The annual MAPPA Report can be accessed here. [MAPPA – Annual Report 2021](#)

Prevent

During the reporting period the COG approved arrangements to establish PREVENT meetings and oversight arrangements to support those who may be at risk of becoming involved in extreme groups and radicalisation.

MARAC

The COG maintained oversight of arrangements regarding the establishment of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences in Ayrshire to discuss individuals who

may be at risk of serious harm due to domestic abuse. Details of MARAC may be found [here](#).

Significant Case Reviews (SCR)

SCR are significant in that they deliver learning recommendations relevant at a national level. The decision to proceed to an SCR is taken at the Initial Case Review (ICR) to review circumstances and decide if progression to SCR is required.

The COG has overseen the final stages of the implementation of the action plan of one adult services SCR. The report and the recommendation of this is available here. [Significant Case Review MJ](#)

In the area of children services three SCR's / Learning reviews have been undertaken.

Publication of circumstances relating to Child H can be accessed on the link below. [Significant Care Review Child H](#)

One SCR into matters relating to Child F was held in abeyance as some areas of inquiry fell sub judice.

The completion of this SCR relating to Child P was nearing completion in last quarter of the reporting period with the COG maintaining oversight of support to those impacted, publication and communications.

In the reporting period, the COG has accepted the APC recommendations that in a further four Initial Case Reviews (ICRs) progression to a Significant Case Review was not required.

Additional to this the COG provided oversight on professional discussions relating to the safeguarding and protection of children because of our duties under the Child Death Oversight Protocol (CDOP) and Death of Looked after Children (DLAC) review and reporting mechanism. Within the period one child was notified reported to the Care Inspectorate with the outcome no need move toward a learning review.

Child Protection

The COG maintains oversight of Child Protection Performance through sight of quarterly reports. The Annual Report for April 2021 – 2022 is due to be published in November 2022

Adult Protection

The reporting period of APC is on a biennial basis with the next report due to be published in October 2022.

Inspection

Within the reporting year the COG maintained oversight of the inspection of Adult Support and Protection processes and performance within the partnership. The Care Inspectorate report is available [here](#). Resulting from this an ASP Improvement Plan was developed and implemented to address the areas of improvement. The delivery of the improvement is monitored at the HCGB and reports into various governance boards for monitoring and oversight purposes.

4.4 Ongoing Developments

Alongside these key areas, the COG has overseen important developments in relation to other key public protection developments:

- Signs of Safety Implementation an integrated framework which is a strength-based approach to child protection.
- Refocussing of APC / CPC subgroups
- Development and implementation of audit activity of Initial Referral Discussions / Case Files
- Representation to the National Child Abuse Inquiry in relation to the historical abuse within foster care provision of fostering services and implementation of associated action plan
- Improved performance data and analysis of themes
- Representing with Community Planning subgroup chair the issues of the impact of Covid on the mental health of our communities and of the impact of family poverty. This sought to raise awareness of the impact of these agendas from a public protection perspective into the partnership activity.

5. Next Steps and Areas for Improvement

5.1 The COG continues to meet monthly to progress the public protection agenda in South Ayrshire. The coming year will see several significant developments in relation to public protection including:

- Implementation of new National Child Protection Guidance;
- Implementation of new Adult Support and Protection Guidance;
- Publication of Learning Review reports and associated action plans;

- Covid recovery and renewal as it applies to public protection activity; and
- Implementation of the recommendations from the:
 - Adult Social Work Learning Review
 - Alcohol and Drug Partnership Learning Review
 - Public Protection Learning Review
- Oversight of improvements and action arising from Inspection, CPC and APC Reviews and local audit / performance activity.

5.2 There have been key changes in terms of the membership of the COG with Jim Kerr replacing Professor Paul Martin as the independent chair of the APC and CPC. Additionally, Gary Hoey has replaced Scott Hunter as CSWO and Beth McClean has replaced Meg Williams as Child Protection Lead. The strategic links between public protection and community planning and public protection as an area will continue to be built upon by their support to the CPP board allowing for strengthened links and broader representation of public protection matters.