ABSTRACT

This report presents the Annual Report for 2007/2008 of the Angus Adult Protection Committee. The Angus Adult Protection Committee was established in July 2006 in advance of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. This is the second report of the Committee. It sets out the work of the Committee during 2007/08 and details priorities for 2008/09. A copy of the Annual Report is appended to this committee report and a copy has been placed in the members’ lounge.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health committee, the Neighbourhood Services Committee and the Strategic Policy Committee note the content of the Angus Adult Protection Committee Annual Report for 2007/2008.

2 BACKGROUND

In response to growing concerns regarding the need to ensure the adequate protection of vulnerable adults the then Scottish Executive introduced the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (Scotland) Bill in March 2006. Subsequently the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 was passed by Parliament on 15 February 2007 and received Royal Assent on 21 March 2007. It is anticipated that this new legislation will be fully implemented from October 2008.

The main provisions within the Act are:

- A new power of right of entry to settings where abuse of adults is thought to be taking place,
- The creation of banning orders so that perpetrators of abuse are removed from those settings.
- The establishment of Statutory Adult Protection Committees, operating on a multi-agency basis, to further develop strategic inter-agency working and collaboration.

In preparation for the new legislation the Angus Adult Protection Committee was established in July 2006 with the aim of coordinating the implementation of the Act and overseeing the development of procedures and practices in Angus to ensure the protection of vulnerable adults at risk of abuse or neglect.
The Angus Adult Protection Committee Annual report for 2007/08 seeks to provide a partnership perspective on the work in Angus to protect adults at risk of abuse and neglect. The past year has been extremely busy and demanding as the Committee has sought to prepare for the introduction of the new Legislation.

A great deal has been achieved in Angus over the past year including:

- training of staff,
- development of agency specific policies and procedures
- development of multi-agency guidelines on how to respond in a coherent integrated manner to concerns that a vulnerable adult may be at risk

There, does however, remain much more to be taken forward in order to build on progress made in preventing and responding to vulnerable adult abuse.

The changing demographic profile in Angus with increasing numbers of adults with disabilities, older people and an increased prevalence of mental ill-health, presents a significant challenge for the future as partner agencies seek to respond within tighter financial parameters. The annual report highlights the need for effective partnership working in order to meet the challenges ahead for adult protection in Angus.

The annual report summarises some of the progress made and achievements over the past year in Angus including:

- The establishment of a local Adult Protection Committee.
- The development of a multi-agency Adult Protection training strategy
- The further development and delivery of a basic awareness training across partner agencies
- The development of specialist training focusing on the investigation of adult protection concerns.
- The development of a Tayside multi-agency Steering group to coordinate the implementation of the new Act across Tayside.
- A multi-agency audit of the protection measures in place for adults with learning disabilities who are at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Coordinated responses to consultation on the draft guidelines for implementation of the new Act.
- An impact assessment of the likely resource implications of the new legislation.

The Annual Report details the following priorities for the Angus Adult Protection Committee over the coming year. These remain largely the same as those set out in the previous annual report and include:

**Priority Objective 1 - To coordinate the implementation of the requirements of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act.**
This will include the development of local policies and procedures in response to the new powers and the development of a multi-agency training programme. It will also require the development of a protocol around the sharing of information relating to vulnerable adults.
Priority Objective 2 - To keep under review and develop the local policies, procedures and practices in relation to adult protection.
This will include establishing a Practice Sub Committee and developing systems for reviewing and learning from areas of good practice as well as areas of concern.
Critical to achieving this priority will be the development of systems to monitor the adult protection process.

Priority Objective 3 - To raise public awareness of adult protection issues.
The Committee recognises the need to review current information and develop a public information leaflet about adult protection. The committee also recognises the need to review the arrangements for consultation and involvement of the public in their work.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While there are no direct financial implications arising from this report it should be noted that, in response to a request from COSLA, it was estimated that the cost of implementing the requirements of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 in Angus could reach £295,000 per annum. There has been an indication from COSLA that the Scottish Government is to make available an additional £7.8m for 2008/09 and £15.6m for 2009/10 to local authorities across Scotland. These additional resources are to be made available to cover:
- The recruitment of an independent chair and other costs associated with operating an Adult Protection Committee;
- The establishment of an Adult Protection Unit; and
- Additional frontline staffing.
To date this additional funding has not been confirmed nor has there been an indication of how this will be distributed across the local authorities. Future reports will be brought to committee if and when this finding is confirmed.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from the recommendation outlined in this report.

8 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

9 CONSULTATION

The Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10 CONCLUSION

This annual report of the Adult Protection Committee details work undertaken over the last year and sets out priorities for the coming year, in particular preparatory work for the implementation of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

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Chief Executive  Director of Social Work  Director of
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NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.