THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ANGUS ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE 2010-2011

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

ABSTRACT

This report presents the annual report for 2010/2011 of the Angus Adult Protection Committee. It sets out the work of the committee during 2010/2011 and details priorities for 2011/2012. A copy of the annual report is appended to this committee report.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee and the Strategic Policy Committee note the content of the Angus Adult Protection Committee Annual Report for 2010/2011.

2 INTRODUCTION

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. The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 was implemented on 1 October 2008.

The main provisions within the Act are:

- The establishment of statutory adult protection committees, operating on a multi-agency basis, to further develop strategic inter-agency working and collaboration;
- A power of right of entry to settings where adults are thought to be at risk of harm;
- A power to access health, financial or other records pertaining to an adult at risk held by any agency;
- The creation of protection orders so that adults at risk can be removed from a setting where harm is taking place or perpetrators can be banned from having access to an individual.

The Angus Adult Protection Committee was established in 2006 in preparation for the implementation of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. The lead partner agencies in Angus considered it beneficial to establish a local Angus Adult Protection Committee to oversee the development of procedures and practice in Angus to ensure the protection of vulnerable adults at risk of abuse or neglect. The Angus Adult Protection Committee is now well established and this is the fifth annual report of the Angus Adult Protection Committee.
3 THE ANGUS ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010/2011

The Angus Adult Protection Committee Annual Report for 2010/2011 provides a partnership perspective on the work in Angus to protect adults at risk of harm.

The focus of the Angus Adult Protection Committee over the past year has been:

- the training of staff and the development of a training programme within the partnership;
- development of multi-agency guidance and procedures;
- proposals for the engagement of service users and carers and development of a communications strategy.

Adult protection activity has increased significantly in 2010/2011, with referrals up by 74% and case conferences up by 41% compared to 2009/2010. The changing demographic profile in Angus with increasing numbers of adults with disabilities, older people and an increased prevalence of mental and physical ill-health, presents a significant challenge for the future as partner agencies seek to respond within tighter financial parameters.

The annual report highlights the effective partnership working that has taken place in meeting the challenges for adult protection in Angus over the past year. The report also identifies a continued need to ensure that the message that everyone has a part to play in protecting adults at risk of harm is heard and understood throughout partner agencies and in the wider Angus community.

4 ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2010/2011

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

- a quality assurance system of multi-agency audit and case reviews with the implementation of an improvement plan;
- the development of an outcomes framework and the collection of outcome measures;
- the development of a multi-agency adult protection strategy;
- a communications strategy developed;
- new operational guidance in relation to criminal compensation where a person lacks capacity to apply;
- the delivery of a multi-agency core training programme for adult protection;
- a multi-agency adult protection showcase event;
- a review of the training requirements of the independent/voluntary sector;
- the development of local multi-agency operational staff guidance;
- contribution to the review of the Tayside adult protection guidance which is now published;
- the implementation of a local protocol for accessing medical examinations in adult protection work;
- established a liaison group with child protection committee to address common issues and co-operate on joint projects;
- the development of systems to monitor the adult protection process;
- the implementation of the action plan following review of mental welfare commission report;
- the review of arrangements for consultation and development of proposals for the involvement of the public in the adult protection agenda; and
- an audit of current systems in place for identifying and protecting adults at risk.

5 PRIORITY OBJECTIVES FOR 2010/2011

The Angus Adult Protection Committee has identified the following priorities for 2011/2012:-

Priority objective 1 - To develop and review local policies, protocols and procedures in relation to adult protection

This will include:

- the development of an adult screening tool for children’s services and a child screening tool for adult services;
- new operational guidance in relation to criminal compensation where a person lacks capacity to apply will be published;
- the Tayside information sharing protocol is being reviewed by Tayside Police with the view to adopting it, this would mean that the protocol would be adopted across all agencies.

Priority objective 2 - To support staff to undertake their duties to protect adults at risk

The multi-agency core programme will continue to ensure that staff have the skills and knowledge to protect adults at risk. Chronologies training and case conference training will be delivered. Single agency training will include investigation training for council officers in Social Work and Health and the briefing of elected members about adult protection issues. GPs have included adult protection in their protected learning time at a world café event that will take place in November 2011.

Priority objective 3 - To raise public awareness of adult protection issues

Raising public awareness about adult protection is vital if adults at risk are to be identified and referred. To continue the progress made in the past year a number of events are planned. These include attendance at the summer fairs throughout Angus during the summer months, where there will be the opportunity to undertake a consultation exercise with the general public. The Angus Adult Protection Committee website will be advertised in the local press and an article will be published in Angus Life about adult protection. A public event including community safety issues is planned to raise awareness of adult protection and other media vehicles are being explored such as TV advertising.

Priority objective 4 – To develop and improve systems to identify and share information about adults at risk

Following the successful introduction of child protection messaging the committee will explore IT data sharing solutions in order that adults at risk are identified and agencies share information about individuals with whom they have contact.

Priority objective 5 - To develop a quality assurance system to ensure that services meet the needs of adults at risk

In order that the services to protect adults are of the highest standard, a standards framework will be developed in Angus and future case reviews will have a quality measure against those standards. Angus is contributing to a national standards framework being developed by the ADSW adult protection sub committee. It is planned to complete six case reviews where good practice can be identified and learning from practice will be reflected in the improvement plan.
Priority objective 6 - To involve service users, carers and the public in the work of the adult protection committee

Service users and carer consultations will be a focus of the work of the committee in the coming year. A service user event is planned for 2011/2012 which will involve other partnerships and agencies involved in public protection and include service users in its planning and delivery. The work to inform service users and carers about adult protection and ask how they would like to be consulted will continue. More user groups will be given the opportunity to add to the multi-agency adult protection strategy which is in draft. The direction of user involvement and public engagement is reflected in the communications strategy.

These priorities have been developed into an action plan that will be the basis of the work of the Angus Adult Protection Committee over 2011/2012.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

8 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

9 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, 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

The fifth annual report of the Angus Adult Protection Committee details the work the committee has undertaken in the past year and highlights the priorities for 2011/12.

R PEAT
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

NOTE: The undernoted 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 a material extent in preparing the above report.

The Angus Adult Protection Committee Annual Report 2008/2009

SW&H/RP/BS