

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 August 2019
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the actions detailed with regards to public information, awareness raising, self-evaluation and learning and development be noted.

3. Background

3.1. South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee (SLAPC) has finalised its fifth Biennial Report covering the period 2016 to 2018. The report highlights the work of the Committee over the last two years and the developments it will embark upon in the future. The work of the SLAPC is reflected in local practice and aims to meet local and national needs in keeping adults safe from harm.

4. Fulfilling Functions

4.1. The SLAPC is responsible for developing and implementing adult protection policy and strategy across and between the multi-agency workforces. Under Section 42 of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 the Committee performs a number of crucial functions:

- ◆ to keep under review the procedures and practices of member agencies that relate to the safeguarding of adults at risk in South Lanarkshire
- ◆ to provide information and advice, or make proposals to any member agency or relevant body on the exercise of functions that relate to the safeguarding of adults at risk
- ◆ to promote co-operation and communication within and between the public bodies, third sector, private and charity organisations
- ◆ to promote improvement in skills and knowledge of staff providing services to adults at risk
- ◆ to respond to the requirements of Scottish Ministers as required

5. Adult Protection Committee Business Plan

5.1. The SLAPC business plan sets out the high level priorities for addressing Adult Support and Protection (ASP) in South Lanarkshire and is aimed at frontline service provision with a clear focus on providing improved outcomes for adults at risk of harm

and their families. The SLAPC continually reviews this plan to ensure that its actions are implemented. In turn, the plan informs the priorities for joint self-evaluation and learning and development.

6. Continuous Improvement

- 6.1. The SLAPC continues to ensure quality assurance is an integral part of the adult protection improvement process, with all multi-agency evaluations of adult protection led by the SLAPC Quality Assurance Group. This group maintains an overview of single and multi-agency audit and evaluation activities based on issues of local and national concern and implements findings, actions and outcome measures as a result.
- 6.2. The SLAPC has in place an ambitious programme of multi-agency audit and self-evaluation activity. Over the past two years, self-evaluation tasks have been completed from a number of sources including two large scale multi-agency case file audits, SLAPC Adult Protection in Care Homes and SLAPC and the Care Inspectorate, Adult Protection Key Processes. The audit and self-evaluation activity highlighted that there were strengths across the agencies in terms of keeping adults safe from harm and also identified areas for improvement which continue to be monitored by the Quality Assurance Group via robust action plans.

7. Policies, Procedures and Protocols

- 7.1. The SLAPC designs and evaluates clear and robust multi-agency adult protection policies, procedures, protocols and guidance. It also ensures public bodies and other agencies have in place their own up-to-date adult protection policies and procedures and relevant materials and ensure that these are developed around existing and emerging local and national key issues and that they publish and regularly review their own adult protection procedures. Over the reporting period a number of guidance and procedures have been introduced and reviewed, including, Social Work Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 Procedures, SLAPC Large Scale Investigation Procedures and SLAPC Significant Case Review Guidance (reviewed) (2018).

8. Learning and Development

- 8.1. The importance of professional judgement in dealing with the risk and uncertainty of adult protection situations means that training must be a core consideration. Multi-agency training is an essential component in building common understanding and fostering good working relationships, which are vital to effective adult protection. The Adult Protection Committee is well placed to help develop and deliver such training through its comprehensive SLAPC Learning and Development Programme. Practitioners and Managers can learn about ASP by attending various training events throughout the year. The aim is to continue to raise awareness of ASP and ensure staff know how to recognise and report concerns. Partners are actively encouraged to link with the SLAPC Learning and Development Worker to ensure staff within organisations at all levels have the required knowledge and skills in this area.

9. Public Protection

- 9.1. The SLAPC believe that improved outcomes for the people of South Lanarkshire can be achieved by promoting and facilitating links between all of the Public Protection disciplines. Having these close links ensures that areas of overlap and commonality are identified and that a consistent approach to planning and service delivery continues to be delivered. To that end, a Public Protection Strategy and Action Plan has been developed and the Committee will continue to deliver on its outcomes. Throughout the reporting period, the Public Protection Team have worked closely to develop and implement various joint Protocols and Guidance including, Joint (Child and Adult Protection) Multi-Agency Chronologies Guidance (2017), South

Lanarkshire's Multi-agency Transition and Escalation Processes for High Risk or Complex Cases (2017) and South Lanarkshire's Multi-agency 'Forced Marriage' Guidance (2017) and MAPPA and ASP Joint Operating Protocol (2017). Two Public Protection events have been held to highlight to the workforce the cross cutting themes in the Public Protection arena which were very well received.

10. Statistics

- 10.1. The SLAPC monitor ASP statistics on a quarterly basis and prepare and present a report to both the Adult Protection Committee and Public Protection Chief Officers Group detailing key performance areas. During the reporting period 2016 to 2018, there has been a 4% increase in referrals from 1,998 to 2,006 respectively.

11. Source of Referral

- 11.1. South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership (SLHSCP) continue to receive ASP referrals from various sources as shown in the following table:

	2016/17	2017/18
NHS	132	172
Scottish Ambulance Service	2	3
Police Scotland	742	657
Scottish Fire and Rescue	32	38
Office of Public Guardian	3	7
Care Inspectorate	19	9
Voluntary Organisation	24	26
Social Work	148	204
Care Home non SLC	220	218
Other Care Provider non SLC	125	165
Other Care Provider SLC	62	70
Self	31	4
Family	31	17
Member of public	5	7
Anonymous	6	10
Other	50	30
Other sources	114	147
Unknown	252	222
Total	1998	2006

- 11.2. SLAPC recognise that ongoing work is required to continue to increase the rate of adult protection referrals from key partners and the public. Training will be targeted at the multi -agency workforce to raise their awareness and work will continue to look at creative ways to engage the public meaningfully in the adult protection agenda.

12. Location of Harm

- 12.1. The location of harm remains varied in South Lanarkshire. Of significance, adults being harmed within their own home account for just under half of all ASP referrals in the period 2016 to 2018. In 2016/2017, the figures show that the second most likely place an adult would experience harm was within a care home 20% (401 ASP referrals) with public areas 15% (307 ASP referrals). In 2017/2018 statistics remain the same in relation to care homes at 20% (399 ASP referrals) with public areas decreasing by 1% to 14% (272 ASP referrals).

- 12.2. Across South Lanarkshire the number of care home referrals remains high. This may be attributed to improved staff awareness of adult protection, influence from the Care Inspectorate or as a consequence of the care home environment. Given these statistics, care home referrals remain a priority area of interest for SLAPC going forward.

13. Harm Type

- 13.1. Physical harm continues to be the most frequent harm type reported in the period 2016 to 2018 with statistics showing 26% consecutively. These findings are comparable to those in the last Biennial Report. There continues to be an increase in self-neglect from 9% to 10% and self-harm remains static over the reporting period at 16%. This could be explained by the work SLAPC have been doing to promote awareness and understanding in self-neglect and self-harm cases in staff training and development sessions.

14. Challenges

- 14.1. The main challenges for the SLAPC over the reporting period have been, and continue to be:-
- ◆ increased demand on services in an ever more challenging financial climate
 - ◆ extending public awareness and understanding of adult protection
 - ◆ adult protection in relation to care homes
 - ◆ ageing population and increasing numbers of vulnerable adults living in our communities

15. Future

- 15.1. The SLAPC continues to meet its objectives contained within the Business Plan and remains committed to maintain a clear focus on working in partnership to achieve better outcomes for adults at risk of harm in South Lanarkshire. Partners are encouraged to consider their contribution to the work of the SLAPC by ensuring staff across the multi-agency workforce are supported to access the many and varied learning opportunities which aim to enhance and embed their learning of ASP.

16. Employee Implications

- 16.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

17. Financial Implications

- 17.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

18. Other Implications

- 18.1. There are no additional risk implications associated with this report.
- 18.2. There are no sustainable development issues associated with this report.
- 18.3. There are no other issues associated with this report.

19. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 19.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy, or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 19.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Val de Souza
Director, Health and Social Care

26 June 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

Previous References

- ◆ none

List of Background Papers

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Saffa Baxter, Independent Chair, South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee

Ext: 4128 (Phone: 01698 894128)

Email: saffa.baxter@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Julie Stewart, Lead Officer, Adult Protection, South Lanarkshire APC

Ext: 4145 (Phone: 01698 894145)

Email: Julie.stewart@southlanarkshire.gov.uk