

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 September 2022
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ inform the Committee of the timetable for the forthcoming Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection
- ◆ provide a progress update on preparations ahead of inspection

2. Recommendations

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

- (1) that the preparatory work undertaken by partners and the timetable for inspection be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. A national two-year programme of Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection was announced by The Scottish Government in 2019 to seek assurance that adults at risk are protected by existing local and national arrangements, and to identify areas for further improvement if necessary.
- 3.2. The two year inspection programme has faced significant delay as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eleven inspections have now been completed, and it is anticipated the programme will conclude in July 2023.
- 3.3. Inspections are led by the Care Inspectorate in collaboration with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Scotland (HMICS) and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS). The inspection team will scrutinise two key areas of adult support and protection activity, key processes and leadership.
- 3.4. Initial inspections were undertaken within Police divisional areas to reduce the level of activity for key partners working across different local authorities. However, this approach changed recently to council area inspections. Chief Officers across Lanarkshire communicated their preference to the Care Inspectorate that North and South ASP inspections should remain co-ordinated. The Care Inspectorate confirmed receipt of this request.
- 3.5. North Lanarkshire colleagues received formal notification of inspection on 18 July 2022, with inspection of case files taking place week beginning 26 September 2022. South Lanarkshire's notification was received on 1 August 2022 with case file reading planned for week beginning 10 October 2022.

4. Inspection Timetable

4.1. The timetable for inspection has reduced from a 20 week timeframe to 13 weeks as a result of the pandemic. The inspection will also be virtual with communication and case file reading conducted via a secure data sharing IT system.

4.2. South Lanarkshire key dates to note:

- ◆ 5 August 2022 - single point of contact for Partnership to be identified
- ◆ 11 August 2022 - Coordinator's meeting with representatives from each agency
- ◆ week commencing 29 August 2022 - Staff survey
- ◆ week commencing 12 September 2022 - professional discussion with senior managers/officers in the local partnership area
- ◆ week commencing 10 October 2022 - File reading and Focus Groups
- ◆ 6 December 2022 – report published

4.3. The inspection methodology includes:

- ◆ the review of a short position statement (20 pages) and supporting evidence (20 documents)
- ◆ the reading of 40 social work records of a sample of adults considered at risk of harm who did not require any further adult support and protection intervention beyond the initial referral stage
- ◆ The reading of 50 health, police and social work records of a sample of adults at risk of harm who have been subject to adult support and protection procedures (15 cases)
- ◆ the engagement of front line staff and senior managers in focus groups, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on adult support and protection practice
- ◆ a staff survey relevant to health, Police Scotland, provider organisations, social work and social care staff
- ◆ statement including our procedures, timescales and processes

4.4. Preparations for inspection have continued throughout the pandemic, taking cognisance of service pressures for each of the partners. An ambitious programme of self-evaluation has provided valuable feedback during this period from staff, service users and the wider community. A position statement document is in draft and provides clear statements of progress and an overview of the partnership's strengths and areas for improvement. This document is supported by best evidence.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. Ian Beattie, Head of Health and Social Care has been identified as the senior leader with responsibility for the inspection lead officers within Social Work. NHS Lanarkshire and Police Scotland have also identified officers to liaise directly with the Inspection Team.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no implications for climate change in terms of the information contained within this report.
- 7.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.
- 7.3. There are no implications for the environment in terms of the information contained within this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The activity described within this report relates to the following specific risk within the Social Work Resources Risk Register:
 - ◆ The Council fails to meet statutory and legislative duties in respect of public protection (very high)
- 8.2. Resource risks are accessed as [part of the Resources risk management arrangements and relevant issues identified by the inspection will be updated within the Resource Risk Register.
- 8.3. A GDPR Privacy Impact Assessment has been completed to ensure the Council complies with the law and best practice in relation to data protection and sharing of information electronically.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. There are no equality issues arising from this inspection. Consultation arrangements will be directed by the Inspection Team.

Soumen Sengupta
Director, Health and Social Care

19 August 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Health and Wellbeing - People live the healthiest lives possible
- ◆ Focussed on people and their needs
- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

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

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