
Report To:	Health & Social Care Committee	Date: 27 August 2009
Report By:	Robert Murphy Acting Corporate Director, Social Care	Report No: SW/38/09/IH/AM
Contact Officer:	Barbara Billings Head of Community Care and Strategy	Contact No: 01475 714015
Subject:	Implementation of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 and West of Scotland Inter Agency Practice Guidance and Procedures for Adults at Risk of Harm	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the committee an update on the implementation of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 and to apprise the Committee of the development of West of Scotland Inter Agency Practice Guidance and Procedures for Adults at Risk of Harm.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report highlights the development of West of Scotland Inter Agency Practice Guidance and Procedures for Adults at Risk of Harm aimed at providing a consistent response to adult protection concerns across the west of Scotland area. This represents a developing collaborative response by local authorities and agencies in the west of Scotland.

The report details progress made on the recruitment process to Inverclyde's Adult Protection Unit, the independent convener of the Inverclyde Adult Protection Committee and frontline services as agreed by the Committee in January 2009. The establishment of the Adult Protection Committee provides the opportunity to publicise this and raise awareness locally to complement the Scottish Government's awareness raising campaign.

Details of the early impact of the implementation of the Act on police referrals to social work services are contained within the report.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the committee welcome the appointment of Mr Hugh Clark as the independent convener of Inverclyde's Adult Protection Committee.
- 3.2 That the Committee approve involvement of the local media to raise awareness of adult protection issues locally and the Council's investment in the protection agency when Inverclyde's Adult Protection Unit is established.
- 3.3 That the Committee approve progressing implementation of the West of Scotland Inter-Agency Practice Guidance and Procedures across Inverclyde.
- 3.4 That the Committee note the increase demand placed on Social Work Services as awareness of the Act increases across agencies and the public.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Detailed background was presented to the committee on the 8th January 2009 regarding the purpose of the Scottish Government's specific funding allocation. The funding was made available for the following purposes:

- To recruit and cover ongoing costs of appointing an independent convener for the local Adult Protection Committee
- The creation of local Adult Protection Units
- An allocation for additional frontline staffing
- To meet the extensive training costs of implementation of the Act

The Committee approved Inverclyde's Interim Adult Protection Operational Procedures and Guidance on 29th April 2008. A review of these procedures to incorporate the new duties and responsibilities arising from the Act and its code of practice was superseded by the development of the West of Scotland Adult Protection Procedures.

4.2 Adult Protection lead officers from the West of Scotland local authorities formed a working group in October 2008 and agreed to develop a common set of procedures similar to the West of Scotland Child Protection Procedures. These aim to provide a consistent approach across the west of Scotland area. Rather than commission an external agency to do this piece of work the lead officers felt it would be more effective and better value to develop these themselves. The working group also had representation from Strathclyde Police's Adult Protection Co-ordinators and the chair of Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Adult Protection Co-ordinating Group.

4.3 The WOS AP Procedures have been developed from scoping existing procedures and updating these to reflect both the new legislation, code of practice and interface with Adults with Incapacity and Mental Health legislation.

Inverclyde's Adult Protection Committee Steering Group support in principle the West of Scotland Adult Procedures and collaborative working across the west of Scotland area. It is planned to develop a local process guide to support implementation of the WoS Procedures. This and the training requirement implementation will require to be progressed by Inverclyde's Adult Protection Unit.

The recruitment process to establish Inverclyde's Adult Protection Unit and increase frontline staff to assist with the increased workload arising from the Act has started. An independent convenor, Mr Hugh Clark has been appointed from 10.08.2009. The establishment of the Adult Protection Unit will provide Inverclyde Council a local publicity opportunity to raise awareness of the Act and the Council's support and investment in the protection agenda. The Scottish Government are developing a national publicity campaign around the Act which it is anticipated will be released in October 2009.

An adult at risk police referral to social work process was introduced with the Act's implementation in October 2008. This alongside the commencement of awareness training on the Act has had a significant and continuously increasing impact on the volume of referrals from the police requiring Council Officers to undertake their new duties in relation to further inquiry, investigation and where necessary developing adult protection plans. Between December 2008 and March 2009 a 100% increase in Police initiated adult at risk referrals is recorded with a similar increase recorded in the previous quarter. Meeting the new duties and responsibilities this increased demand requires has meant augmenting Social Work Services emergency community care duty team through reprioritising work to enable additional qualified Social Workers to be drafted in as necessary. A consequence of this has been an increase in unallocated cases. It is anticipated the additional frontline staff capacity will go some way to alleviate this. Further increase in referrals are anticipated as a consequence of

- The Scottish Government's Publicity Campaign
- Local publicity
- Ongoing multi agency training
- Awareness training being completed by all Police uniform officers

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Inverclyde's Adult Protection Committee Steering Group supported the development of the West of Scotland Inter Agency Practice Guidance and Procedures for Adults at Risk of Harm and recommend these are adopted and implemented by Inverclyde Council. These would replace the current joint interim procedures between the Inverclyde's Social Work Services and Inverclyde's Community Health Partnership.
- 5.2 Greater Glasgow and Clyde have been involved in the development of these procedures and will adopt them also.
- 5.3 To promote awareness of adult support and protection issues it is proposed that the local media be involved in promoting the development of Inverclyde's Adult Protection Unit.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Legal: None from the adoption of new procedures.
- 6.2 Finance: None.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments

- 6.3 Personnel: None
- 6.4 Equalities: Equalities impact assessment for new procedures undertaken during their development.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Through Inverclyde's Adult Protection Committee Steering Group and the Adult Support and Protection Greater Glasgow and Clyde Liaison Group.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 West of Scotland Inter Agency Practice Guidance and Procedures for Adults at Risk of Harm (May 2009, 5th Draft), copies of which have been circulated separately to Elected Members.