



Integration Joint Board

29th November 2018

This Report relates to
Item 14 on the Agenda

Public Protection Committee Structure

(Paper presented by Lillian Cringes)

For Discussion and Noting

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SECTION 1: REPORT CONTENT

Title/Subject: Public Protection Committee Structure

Meeting: Integration Joint Board

Date: 29th November 2018

Submitted By: Lillian Cringes, Chief Social Work Officer

Action: For Discussion and Noting

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Integration Joint Board of progress secured in establishing a Public Protection Committee Structure. Appendix 1 provides a copy of the new PPC Structure.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- **Note the content of the report.**
- **Note the progress of the Public Protection Committee.**
- **Note the interface between PPC and Clinical and Care Governance in relation to the protection of adults and children.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The new Public Protection Committee (PPC) structure, approved by Chief Officers in 2017, brings together the work of the Adult and Child Protection Committees and the Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women Partnership. This sits within the newly redeveloped formal Dumfries and Galloway Public Protection Partnership (DGPPP) structure, which is headed by the Chief Officer's Group – Public Protection (COGPP), providing scrutiny of and leadership to the Public Protection Committee.
- 3.2 The new arrangement seeks to streamline planning, manage areas of overlapping responsibilities and create opportunities to share information. The structure also provides the mechanism to share skills, knowledge and experience across the partnership; all of which aid the effective deployment of resources.
- 3.3 Across Public Protection there are a number of shared responsibilities such as Communication, Information Sharing, Public Information and Training. The

establishment of the new arrangement offers a more productive and cohesive way to deliver on these responsibilities with collaborative working underpinning the overall approach.

- 3.4 The Public Protection Partnership recognised from the outset that issues such as domestic abuse and substance misuse were common themes across both adults and children's services and the new structure provides the opportunity to adopt a more joined up and unified approach. By working collaboratively, committee aims to deliver effective leadership, harness expertise and deliver good quality services to those at risk of harm.

4. Main Body of the Report

- 4.1 The new Public Protection Partnership Structure was launched in 2018 with an inaugural meeting of the Public Protection Committee convened in June 2018. The initial meeting provided the opportunity to brief members on the work of the respective committees and discuss roles, responsibilities and accountabilities. The inaugural meeting also examined the content of the respective business plans and agreed broad priorities for the next two years. A follow on briefing session was delivered, and an information pack produced. The pack includes key information on the PPC's key areas of responsibility.
- 4.2 A further two meetings have been convened in August and October 2018. Regular pre-agenda meetings have been scheduled throughout the year to support the smooth running of committee. These meetings provide the opportunity to plan and prepare reports; ensuring they are submitted in a timely fashion and issued to committee members within seven days of any scheduled meeting. This also ensures agendas are reflective of the priorities for all partners.
- 4.3 Regular meetings between the independent chair and the chairs of sub-committees have been established to address issues or barriers which may affect progress. The meetings, along with pre- agenda meetings also allow for detailed debate in follow up to issues raised at, and in advance of subsequent committee; where this is required.
- 4.4 PPC meets six times per year and brings together all agencies involved in the protection of adults and children at risk of harm. Governance and accountability is provided by the Chief Officers' Group - Public Protection (COGPP) who undertake an important leadership and scrutiny role. COGPP ensure committee remains on track to deliver the priorities contained within the respective business plans. The Independent Chair attends each meeting of COGPP and provides written reports in advance. The meetings facilitate a closer examination of progress.
- 4.5 The respective agencies that make up PPC have a range of statutory responsibilities conferred on them in relation to protection. Responsibilities include the investigation of vulnerable adults and children at risk of harm alongside the coordination of interventions to manage and minimise risk. The regular review of interventions is another critical factor. A legislative framework sets out the detail of those responsibilities and national guidance clarifies the process for delivering them.

- 4.6 The task is complex and requires staff who are confident and competent in the delivery of their role and who understand the legal framework governing the protection agenda. In order to safeguard those in need of care and protection, staff require to work collaboratively, gather and analyse information, identify key risk factors and take steps to understand and manage risk effectively. This often represents a fine balance between individual rights and intervening to stop harm.
- 4.7 In planning interventions, frontline staff need to consider the views of children, adults, parents and carers and these can sometimes be at odds with the actions required to safeguard. Abuse is often hidden and staff sometimes encounter difficulties with avoidance and non-compliance; factors which can hinder investigations. In adult protection, balancing the rights of adults with the duty of care placed on organisations is an important concept that requires to be fully understood. In child protection, the rights of parents require to be balanced with the need to protect. The complexity of this task cannot be under-estimated.
- 4.8 Many aspects of the protection agenda are challenging, difficult and complex. The role of committee is crucial in overseeing the quality of our interventions and in providing assurance that the delivery of these tasks is effective and efficient. Of equal importance is the ability to take remedial action where needed. The discharge of these responsibilities requires leadership and direction; a key responsibility of PPC as well as those groups with a governance and accountability remit.
- 4.9 The role and function of public protection committee is outlined in the National Guidance for Adult and Child Protection Committees. Key responsibilities include scrutiny, oversight, improvement planning, training, public information, communication and inter-agency cooperation. Committee is also responsible for the coordination and completion of Initial and Significant Case Reviews; ensuring key lessons are identified, understood and disseminated. There are also clear links to the review of Significant Adverse Events and learning emerging from them. The recent introduction of Duty of Candour present further challenges in this arena.
- 4.10 Committee therefore plays a key role in providing assurance to COGPP and to those appropriate Boards and Committees with governance accountabilities. To do this effectively, robust scrutiny arrangements require to be in place as well as arrangements for taking forward actions to address areas of concern.
- 4.11 The Public Protection Committee are in the process of reviewing and improving performance measurement arrangements across Adult and Child Protection and Violence Against Women and Girls. This work is being driven forward by the Performance and Quality Sub-Committee (P&Q) who are working towards the introduction of a revised performance framework.
- 4.12 The new performance framework is informed by analysis of statistical data, the outcome of audit activity and feedback from service users. P&Q are in the process of identifying areas for joint reporting and areas which require separate and unique arrangements. A planned programme of self-evaluation for the next two years is under construction. The overall intention is to pool resources, share information and learn for experience.

- 4.13 The Practice Improvement Sub-Committee has been established to implement key findings from self- evaluation activity as well as lessons from ICR/SCRs. Their main role is to drive forward change to policy and practice. Their current focus is the introduction of evidenced based approaches and the updating of policies and procedures. This includes the neglect toolkit, signs of safety and the development of a risk assessment framework for adults at risk of harm. The list is not exhaustive but gives a flavour of the work of the group.
- 4.14 Similarly, the Learning and Development Sub-Committee are in the process of reviewing and updating the planned programme of training required to ensure staff are confident and competent in the discharge of their responsibilities. This is in the early stages of development, but a report will be presented to the December Committee meeting.
- 4.15 The collective work of Public Protection Committee is supported by a range of sub-committees and standing groups. Their work is governed by the content of the respective business plans for adult protection, child protection and violence against women and girls. These documents are SMART based and set out actions with associated timescales and leads. They are submitted to Scottish Government on a regular basis and reflect a combination of local and national priorities. The business plans are tracked by PPC and progress is reported to COGPP on a regular basis. The respective business plans represent a good balance between ambition and realism and this information is used by COGPP to scrutinise progress.
- 4.16 PPC therefore forms part of a wider structure of strategic partnerships charged with monitoring and scrutinising the quality of services delivered to those at greatest risk. The agenda is wide ranging requiring a coordinated and cohesive approach. The new PPC Structure has been designed to enhance our ability to work together to ensure those overarching risk factors affecting both adults and children are addressed effectively.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The information contained within the above report demonstrates the complexity of Public Protection and highlights the progress secured in establishing the new committee structure. The various successes and challenges are outlined alongside the philosophy underpinning our approach. The important role performed by Public Protection Committee is articulated alongside the relationship to scrutiny and accountability.
- 5.2 Public Protection Committee does not sit in isolation and requires to form part of an overall approach that monitors, tracks and improves performance across the Public Protection Partnership. This is particularly important with regard to the discharge of statutory duties and the protection of the most vulnerable in our communities.

SECTION 2: COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

6. Resource Implications

- 6.1 The Public Protection Committee has now been established and remains in the early stages of development. Over time, committee will continue to change, evolve and improve. Arrangements have already been established to systematically evaluate performance and findings will inform the changes necessary to secure continuous improvement.
- 6.2 There is a clear relationship to existing clinical and care governance structures where PPC play a significant role in respect of the protection of adults and children. Forging closer and more explicit links across the two structures is the stated intention leading to enhanced provision to monitor and oversee policy, practice and performance.
- 6.3 The overall intention of the new committee structure is to pool resources, share skills, learn from each other and ensure resources are deployed effectively and duplication minimised. At this stage no resource implications have been identified.

7. Impact on Integration Joint Board Outcomes, Priorities and Policy

- 7.1 This report is linked to the following national outcomes identified in the Dumfries and Galloway IJB Strategic Plan:
- People using Health and Social Care Services are safe from harm.

8. Legal & Risk Implications

- 8.1 No legal or risk implications have been identified.

9. Consultation

- 9.1 Prior to the establishment of the new Public Protection Partnership Structure in 2018, extensive consultation was conducted.

10. Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment

- 10.1 This is not required at this time.

11. Glossary

COGPP	Chief Officer Group Public Protection
DGPPP	Dumfries and Galloway Public Protection Partnership
HSCSMT	Health and Social Care Senior Management Team

IJB Integration Joint Board
PPC Public Protection Committee
P&Q Performance and Quality Sub-Committee of Public Protection
Committee