

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
Community Safety Committee – 12 May 2010

ADULT PROTECTION CONFERENCE, PERTH & KINROSS 2010

Report by Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)

ABSTRACT

This report outlines the evaluation of the adult protection conference held at the Perth Concert Hall on 24 March 2010.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee:-

- (i) note the information contained in the evaluation report;
- (ii) note that a related report will be submitted to the Perth & Kinross Adult Protection Committee on 21 May 2010;
- (iii) request that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Community Safety Committee in respect of the key issues identified within this report.

2. BACKGROUND

The introduction of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 was needed to fill the gap between the Adult with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 and the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. It was identified that there were people who did not have a mental illness or learning disability but were unable to safeguard themselves. They did however have capacity and it raised the issue of when statutory authorities could intervene in private and family lives for protection purposes as highlighted by recent enquiries e.g. Steven Hoskins, Justice Denied. (Available at <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/Social+care+and+health/Help+for+Adults/Resource+library>)

Operational guidance for the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 was developed and it was decided to launch it at an Adult Protection Conference on 24 March 2010. Participants came from the public and voluntary sectors.

3. KEY ISSUES

One of the key challenges in adult protection has been achieving the balance between protecting people while upholding their human rights.

The human right aspect is central to adult protection as people have the right to make poor choices and can choose to live in harmful situations if they are deemed to have the capacity to choose. There is an assumption of capacity in Scottish law and everyone is assumed to have the right to choose unless it can be proven otherwise.

The dilemmas raised need to be understood by the key agencies and staff involved in adult protection.

4. CONSULTATION

This report will also be submitted to the Perth & Kinross Adult Protection Committee on 21 May 2010.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

6. COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2009-2012

The Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 lays out five Objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. The relevant three objectives are as follows:-

- (i) A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment
- (ii) Healthy, Caring Communities
- (v) Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

7. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

An equality impact assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.

The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

8. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS).

However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

9. CONCLUSION

The conference in Perth Concert Hall on March 24 2010 was attended by 184 people and 105 evaluation forms were received. Overall the conference was a success with many positive comments on the speakers and the content which focused entirely on human rights.

David Burke
Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)

Note: No 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 any material extent in preparing the above report.

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ADULT PROTECTION CONFERENCE

EVALUATION RESPONSES

Overall rating of event

Please give an overall rating	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Whole event	27	77	1	0
Speakers	39	61	4	0
Discussions	10	51	28	4
Networking opportunity	16	60	25	2
Venue itself	59	43	1	0
Accessibility of venue	57	42	4	0
Food and refreshments	40	52	12	1
Administration prior to event	33	51	11	3
Information prior to the event	19	51	25	5
Organisation over the day	42	60	2	0

The evaluation shows the event was a success with a 99% rating of good or excellent for the whole event. Speakers in general were rated at 95% and the venue and refreshments were rated from 88%-97%.

The administration and information prior to the event was rated the lowest at 67-80%.

Rating of individual aspects of the conference

Presentations were given by Duncan Wilson, Belinda Schwehr and Jean McLellan. All speakers were rated over 50% (Good / Excellent)

Specific comments

What did you find most useful about the event?	Many positive comments (15) about Belinda Schwehr as an excellent speaker who challenged on a practice level in addition to the interesting comparisons between Scottish and English legislation. Duncan Wilson was also rated highly (20) and there was consensus that this conference focused solely on the human rights aspect, how it can be implemented in practice and has been the most challenging event to date on adult support and protection. The format of the workshops and all presentations was liked.
What did you find least useful about the event?	There were more people (21) who found the comparisons between English and Scottish law the least useful information. While many found Belinda Schwehr an excellent speaker, it was felt a balance was needed to have someone from the Scottish

	system who could answer relevant questions about the legislation – would have been helpful to Jean MacLellan present earlier. There were other comments that this conference was aimed more at social work staff than other partner agencies, both statutory and private sector. Some would have liked the opportunity for workshops and networking as it was a lot of information to take in and a long time to sit and concentrate – a wider selection of speakers may have helped. Would have been good to have time for the case studies.
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Please provide any additional comments you feel would be helpful.

Most of the comments related to

- Enjoyment of the event
- Housekeeping comments on lack of seating for lunch, no tea and coffee at lunchtime, too long a lunch break – could be shortened to ¾ hour
- Parking availability both positive and negative
- Too long sessions without enough breaks
- Felt there should have been P&K management staff on rostrum all day

Conclusion

Overall the evaluations are very positive and people who attended felt it was a very relevant topic that needed a day that focused solely on this issue. There are some issues that have been raised that will help in planning any future events but they did not hinder the overall success of the conference. It was felt the timing was good so soon after the implementation of the legislation when staff are having to make difficult choices between duty to protect while not infringing people’s human rights.

Mary Notman
Inter-agency Adult Protection coordinator