



Perth and Kinross Adult Protection Committee Minute

Friday 27 June 2025, 10am in 2 High Street, Perth

Attendees

Alison Jenkins (Nee Fairlie)	Service Manager, Social Work, Perth and Kinross HSCP
Andrea McCallum (AM)	Acting Service Manager, Housing, Perth and Kinross Council
Arun Singh (AS)	Chief Social Work Officer, PKC
Bill Atkinson (BA)	Independent Convener
Christopher Lamont (CL)	Strategic Lead for Mental Health, NHS
Grace Gilling (GG)	Associate Nurse Director (Public Protection), NHS Tayside
Heather Thompson (HT)	Social Work Masters Graduate, University of Stirling
Iain Wilkie (IW)	Adult Protection Co-ordinator, Perth and Kinross HSCP
Jane Menzies (JM)	Head of Integrated Services for Adults within HSCP
Julie Hutton (JH)	CEO, Independent Advocacy
Julie Wyllie (JW)	Manager, Robert Douglas Memorial Care Home
Lee Stewart (LS)	DI, Risk and Concern Hub, Police Scotland
Lynsey Nixon (LN)	Team Leader, Throughcare Aftercare
Michael Wilson-Wynne (MW)	Detective Sergeant, Public Protection Safeguarding, Police Scotland
Sheila McCole (SM)	Unpaid Carer Representative
Susan Hunter (SH)	Independent Vice-Convener
Susan Netherington	ASP Admin

Apologies

Dave Henderson	Scottish Care, Independent Sector Lead, Perth and Kinross
Jennifer McOmish	Safer Communities
Karyn Sharp	Service Manager, Social Work, Perth and Kinross HSCP
Winnie Burke	Strategic Inspector, Care Inspectorate
Kerry Sweeney	Scottish Ambulance Service
William Young	Scottish Ambulance Service
Valerie Davis	Lead Nurse, PKC

Correspondence Members

Amanda Welch	Care Inspectorate
Brian Hutton	Improvement Officer, ECS
Deborah Lally	Perth College
Daniel Smith	GP, NHS

Erin Wilson	Capability Scotland
Ewan Baird	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Gordon McNelis	Mental Welfare Commission
Louis Ford	Team Leader, SAS
Sarah Rodger	Legal Manager, Legal and Governance Services, PKC
Sandra Rae	Mental Welfare Commission
Sarah Peterson	GP Clinical Lead in Perth and Kinross, NHS

1 Welcome and Apologies

BA welcomed all and apologies were also noted as above.

2 ASP Dissertation presentation (Heather Thompson)

HT spoke via Microsoft Teams whilst her ASP dissertation presentation was shared on the screen.

Summary of the findings are:

Carers were typically involved in most aspects of the ASP process. Carers were involved in the inquiry/Investigation and had an opportunity to participate in case conferences. Communication between social workers and carers was generally good during ASP episodes and carers often had a role to play in helping to safeguard the adult at risk which was discussed at case conferences. Carer engagement in ASP processes was recorded across several key templates and in the case notes of the adult at risk. The carer is referred to in several different ways in the case conference minutes; their name, initials, or relationship to the adult at risk. The inclusion of 'carer views' next to 'family views' could signpost thinking in the direction of carers and consideration of the role of carer support and advocacy could be improved. Few of the templates utilised in the ASP episodes promoted the inclusion of carers specifically. It was more common that 'family views' were asked for. This project is limited due to its small sample size. Further research with a larger sample size or across different local authorities would be valuable.

SH highlighted the point raised regarding the distinction between family and carers in the recording.

HT said that the carers are typically family members therefore referred to as family members. HT said that we need to make sure that we are thinking of the carer as a carer and what their needs and rights are.

SM said the presentation was very interesting and asked HT about her findings regarding the involvement of unpaid carers or their access to case notes, and if she has any ideas on how it could be improved.

HT said some of the cases the client was living in a full time placement, and whilst the carer was recognised, the role is far less than someone who is living with the adult at risk. HT said a language change would be helpful, and the more we put across the message that they are a carer and not just a parent for example who has rights of their own.

SH asked if care at home person's views should be considered more as they spend more time with the individual.

HT said that it is important that they are involved in every stage of the investigation as they have the most information about the client and are living through it alongside the adult at risk.

JM said that it was disappointing to see the lack of reference to the impact that any interaction or any decision would have on the carer. JM said that if we are making decisions and we are not understanding what that means for the other person, we run a very high risk of our intervention not providing better outcomes for the individuals and more viable and economic response is not reached. JM said that it would be great that we could take some of the learning from this and see how we could strengthen those aspects more.

IW advised that work has already started based on HP's findings. With the change from one recording system to the other within social work it has allowed us to make changes. Going forward practitioners will need to opt out of Advocacy instead of opt in. Within the ASP assessment more attention has been given to the role of an unpaid carer. So that each and every time an ASP episode the council officer is required to give attention to the role of the unpaid carer. IW said at the end of the ASP episode there is a conclusion, asking what the impact has been and what was the outcome for the adult and the unpaid carer. IW hopes that with time data will be obtained from the new system to see what the impact and outcome has been.

IW is also going to look at the language used and if we are not getting that right, look to change it. IW said that is not solely about Adult Support and Protection but the broader carers agenda. IW said that HP's findings have been very useful, and he will continue to use the information to make improvements which will be seen in our audit work.

AS brought up the timescale for the ASP assessment which is currently 28 days and questions if this is a barrier to establish relationship based practice. People are going to be guarded; there will be barriers and a relationship may take more than 28 days to

build so that the assessment is based on understanding the individual's functioning within that environment. AS said that it is a broader question regarding how we do our assessment to allow us to get the best from it.

JH said that they have a small team and the timescale also compounds the pressure to obtain views within a short period of time.

IW said that currently the barriers regarding advocacy not being used needs to be understood along with at what stage the referral is made. IW said that from audit work it suggests a likelihood that a referral is made once the decision is made to go to case conference, however, there is no evidence obtained for this. Within the new system a date should be populated when a referral to advocacy has been made to understand this further.

And understanding for practitioners on how and when decisions happen. JH said that due to capacity it is not always possible which is then a commissioning issue which takes time to rectify.

BA referred to AS's question regarding performance being driven by timescales and if that is the best measure to assess the performance of important tasks.

SM asks if once a case is closed if there is follow up to see if the outcomes were still there, or if issues arisen.

IW said that this an area of priority. Previously a questionnaire has been completed with the individual and/or their unpaid carer, however the feedback obtain has not been meaningful and improvement is required. Ways to improve this is being looked at and one suggestion is for advocacy to obtain views 6 months after the ASP episode to understand better the impact. The questionnaire has also been looked at and the council officer needs to put in the adult or the unpaid carers words, how it has impacted them. We are also working with an agency called Authentic Voices who may be able to represent the voice of those who have been through Adult Support and Protection.

SM said that a single point of contact would be beneficial. Often a social worker will be assigned to a case and once that stabilises the case is closed. When they return to social work it is a different worker therefore consistency is key.

IW said that it is very complex arena to obtain peoples opinion regarding a difficult time in their life and many want to move on and not discuss it any further.

IW referred to the discussion regarding timescales. Timescales are required to prevent drag and delay. If timescales are not being reached, practitioners know that they need to make their team leader aware and ensure that the adult is not at any undue harm

because of the delay. An example of this is obtaining financial information from a bank which can take time.

BA advised that it is a wider issue, and an important one. BA is encouraging that we are developing a recording system that is facilitating practice rather than what is the fastest practice.

BA thanked HP and wished her all the best in her career.

3 Workstream 4 (WS4) - Supported self-evaluation and Associate Assessor in joint inspection activity

The APC were invited to participate in WS4. The APC heard from Paul Comley, Care Inspectorate about WS4, to support APCs learn, understand and replicate joint inspection activity in their own self-evaluation and audit work. IW has been working with the joint inspection team since the invite. Unfortunately, the dates allocated to the APC to review records clashes with the dates that IW is undertaking 'associate assessor' inspection work as part of his role within a joint inspection team undertaking an inspection of another areas integrated services.

Neither date was able to be shifted. Therefore, after collaboration within the joint inspection team, it was agreed that IW will continue with his associate assessor work, but continue with WS4 until case file reading, then convert to being a desktop partner where case file reading is not conducted.

IW stated that his experience of both WS4 and being an active associate assessor in a joint inspection was allowing him to see areas where ASP audit and self-evaluation work can be strengthened.

4 Multi-agency audit 2024/25

IW spoke to the Multi-agency Case File Audit that was sent to attendees prior to today. IW thanked MW who participated in the audit, along with GG's team as without them, it would not be a multi-agency approach to identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

IW highlighted that prior to the audit the Care Inspectorate published an updated quality improvement framework (QIF), and the methodology of this audit has been aligned with that improvement framework.

Within the audit they looked at eight of the more complex areas of Adult Support and Protection work, from the decision making to instigate Adult Support and Protection to the conclusion. In some of the cases looked at were complex enough to have multiple Adult Support and Protection case conferences.

The audit found improvement in adopting a greater multi-agency approach to ASP in P and K. It found that improvements need to be made about how we need to do everything we can to encourage the adult and the unpaid carer to remain involved.

IW notes that some of the learning was not dissimilar to the findings from previous audits around the benefits of a multi-agency chronology rather than a single agency and the need to change the thinking about ruling advocacy in to supporting those subject to ASP to one where advocacy needed to be ruled out.

An updated ASP assessment framework gives greater focus on these areas.

Now that MOSAIC the new system that will be used within PKC is in place from February 2025, he hopes that this will improve.

JH highlighted that Independent Advocacy Perth and Kinross is commissioned to advocate for Unpaid Carers, and notes that the service works with small numbers annually. This indicates these are self-referrals.

AS commended the audit and can see that there is learning taken from it. AS suggested a one-page infographic may be beneficial and asked how this audit is being shared with the wider workforce.

IW confirmed this audit has been informally shared with the Adult Social Work, Social Care forum and following today it can be shared as required. GG confirmed that the audit will be shared at the Public Protection group within health.

SM asked for the committee to consider how we portray or manage expectations about what services can be offered and if we need to reach out to our third-party partners

who very often work at the frontline. SM often signposts people to support services and the feedback is that they no longer have the funding or time available.

BA noted that part of the committee's responsibilities are communication and public information which is why sessions are being organised at the Letham Hub which will be discussed further later on within this meeting. BA agrees that if people are not aware of what support is available then the value is significantly limited.

JH commented on how Independent Advocacy Perth and Kinross and the Third Sector generally can be considered to have strong communication skills that add value to the delivery of services overall, and we could use this more; however, the competitive nature of funding can present resistance or misunderstanding between sectors and get in the way. Is this an indicator that funding discussions are required.

BA said that resources and the impact that has, has been discussed previously both at the Child Protection committee and this committee. BA said that he is happy to discuss this further if felt suitable but to ensure we meet the agenda today it should be discussed on another occasion.

5 APC Improvement Plan 2024 to 2026 Update

IW spoke to the APC Improvement plan shared prior to the today's meeting.

AS wonders if the areas should be broken down into smaller actions, for example under Assurance, improvement no 1:1 has eight points to meet that action. That way it is providing credit for the areas that have been completed. AS said that breaking down the points will highlight those actions that are more deliverable.

IW has considered this previously but was wary of making the document too large. IW agreed to look at that approach again, although he noted that each of the areas for improvement identified within this plan is complex and often required a complex response in several areas.

BA notes the complexity of the improvement plan and looking at possible areas that have had improvement and recognising that they may now be business as usual such as chronologies.

SR asked if the improvement plan is taken to a subgroup that works towards this improvement plan. IW confirmed that there is an ASP Sub-Group and if approved at APC today, the improvement plan will be shared with them to ask how members of the subgroup can contribute to the improvements. The sub-group is made up of frontline practitioners from Social Work, Health, and Police along with third sector Scottish Fire

and Rescue. There will be an ask from the sub-group for them to look at the improvement plan and share with IW where they can contribute.

The APC approved the latest update of the APC Improvement plan 2024 to 2026.

Risk Register

IW spoke to the Risk Register which was shared with the ASP Committee within today's papers. IW provided an overview of each section and opened the floor to any questions. No questions were raised therefore the risk register was accepted as our current risk register.

6 Letham Community Week – community engagement

In order to increase engagement and obtain what is important to the community, there is an Adult and Child Protection session on Tuesday 29 April at 6.30pm at the Letham Hub. Both IW and Julie Baker, the Child Protection Interagency Coordinator, will be delivering presentations and providing time for questions.

Coinciding with the meeting there are a number of opportunities at the Letham Hub which have been publicised through the website. There are targeted sessions around matters such as financial harm. It will allow people to see what financial harm is and what we can do about it. People from Letham have also been encouraged to complete a survey about what adult and child protection means to them.

The feedback provided to us will inform what we do to improve Adult and Child Protection.

SM said it is a really good initiative and asked if it has been shared with elected members for them to share on their social media.

BA confirmed that they had considered how broadly this session should be published and it was agreed that we should be cautious on this occasion. BA said that we need to make sure that we can act on the feedback provided, which is the commitment made. This will be a learning exercise and if it works can be carried out again and if not learning can be taken.

7 NHS Update

IRD audit

IRD review meetings took place between 10 January 2024 and 6 March 2024, involving Police Scotland, NHS Tayside Adult Protection Team, and PKC HSCP SW Team Manager representation, with 15 IRD meetings being reviewed.

Recommendations were:

- Minute template requires redraft if there is a wish to have a simple means of scrutinising when the safeguarding concern was received. It was also suggested that the template includes a specific section to prompt documentation of analysis of the three-point criteria. Ideally the template should be Tayside-wide capitalising on findings from IRD review processes that have taken place across the district.
- Rationale and context for holding an IRD would benefit from being explicitly recorded by minute takers, to provide a clearer audit trail of defensible decision making.
- Key partners should be invited to an IRD. Care Inspectorate highlighted too many people invited could result in an IRD adapting to an ASP case conference.
- Further single and multi-agency audit activity should build on the benefits of including front-line practitioners, in terms of embedding learning in practice.

IW said that he feels we can now say with confidence that IRDs within Perth and Kinross are mostly effective. We will continue to look at this to shoot for excellence.

GG agrees that significant improvement has been seen in IRDs and looks forward to the approach IW has suggested for ongoing scrutiny. MW echoed this thought.

Annual Report

GG confirmed this is the second NHS Tayside Public Protection Annual Report covering the period 2023-24. The focus of the report is how the public protection service is being embedded the service and strengthened the practice through a quality improvement approach.

The timeline for getting the document has been challenging. Currently the team are working on the annual report for 2024-25 which they hope to share in September so will be more timeliness.

GG welcomed feedback on the document which she hopes reflects a multi-agency approach which they recognise is greatly beneficial and welcomed.

BA commended GG for the report which highlights the improvements that have been made over the years in relation to increased support for all aspects of public protection.

Team update

GG highlighted work that the team are currently undertaking around the standards in our public protection accountability and assurance framework, which is around trauma training and practise. GG recognises that whilst we have completed a lot of training there is still a lack of trauma informed approach. GG, another Associate Nurse Director,

and partner agencies including Bonnie from Perth and Kinross met for the initial meeting. This meeting was to scope out how we embed the practice. GG hopes to bring this work back to the committee in due course to share their findings.

GG and her team are also looking at sexual safety within the NHS settings due to the media reports released at the beginning of the year along with a more recent media interest in single sex accommodation. GG said that they are taking this opportunity to align their policies and review them to ensure they are in line with key legislation and best practice. This will give clarity for both the workforce and members of the public on how they should expect to be treated and what services they should receive for areas around sexual safety, same sex accommodation, intimate care examinations, chaperone, etc. Updates will also be provided in due course.

SM notes that the annual report is very important and that many elected members will not be aware of this report, or the good work being carried out. SM agreed to speak with GG separately about sharing this document widely.

8 Police Scotland Update

Banning Orders

MW highlighted there has been an issue highlighted recently due to a new piece of legislation which is the Criminal Justice Act 2016 this allows new powers for our custody division and our custody settings. Within those powers it allows the custody division lawful authority to keep people in custody, and the justification for that. Equally it also provides the rationale for not keeping people in custody as well, and the justification for using other conditions like release on police undertakings, reported cases, etc. This has impacted Banning Orders, as it has almost made the ASP act in terms of Section 29 obsolete. This piece of legislation states that the officer in charge of the police station is to keep the offender in custody and bring them before the Sheriff the next lawful day. This has resulted in people that have been arrested for breaching a Banning Order, being either refused at custody, not accepted in the first place, or advised to report the matter as a standard reported case which is not what section 29 of the ASP legislation provides. MW confirmed that this matter has been escalated to the National ASP team within Police Scotland who are looking to see if this is a national pattern or if this is a local issue.

Another matter being looking into is the perception of the legislation specifically Banning Orders and the need for collaboration when removing someone's liberty. Currently police within Tayside will look for collaboration but from communications with the legal team within Perth and Kinross Council, their view is that police do not need collaboration and can arrest someone and keep them in custody overnight on the say so of one individual. Currently from with the police the advice given is to continue to

seek collaboration as we would with standard court bail conditions. MW advised that the individual involved in the Banning Order may have been assessed as lacking capacity or have other vulnerability such as learning disability or a dementia diagnosis etc, therefore if they make a statement that someone has breached a Banning Order and no collaboration has been sought, it could result in an unlawful arrest. MW agreed to look into this further with IW following today.

Financial Harm

MW highlighted the rise of financial harm within Perth and Kinross, which can be vary from misuse of Power of Attorney to Sextortion. Not every occasion will be related to Adult Protection but there is a risk of harm there which may be worthwhile looking at and a possibly option of a financial harm group set up to have a set pathway for these cases.

IW highlighted that that there was a previous financial harm sub-group, and he would be happy to reconvene this if felt beneficial. IW asked of the committee that if they were aware of anyone within the banking sector that would be happy to get involved to let him know. IW has wondered if concerns regarding financial harm should automatically go to an IRD to coordinate a joint social work and police response and would encourage a discussion around that.

AM highlighted that she may have a contact that could help. SM also noted that each bank should have someone that leads on fraud. SM also remembers a group call Making where we live better, and several banks were in attendance. If that is still in place they may be able to help. SM acknowledges that it is in the banks interest to prevent fraud. This will be discussed further out with today's committee.

FYI For information

- NAPC Progress Report

AOB The next ASP committee meeting is to be brought forward to the end of June to allow Bill to chair the APC before he steps down from his role as independent chair. IW will set a date for this.