

Perth and Kinross Adult Protection Committee Minute

Friday 28 November 2025
10am, held in person at 2 High Street, Perth

Attendees

Andrea McCallum (AM)	Service Manager, Housing, Perth and Kinross Council
Christopher Lamont	Strategic Lead for Mental Health, NHS
Graham Binnie (GB)	Independent Convener
Iain Wilkie (IW)	Adult Protection Co-ordinator, Perth and Kinross HSCP
Julie Hutton (JH)	CEO, Independent Advocacy
Keir Smith (KS)	Acting DCI, Police Scotland
Sheila McCole (SM)	Unpaid Carer Representative
Susan Duncan (SD)	Suicide Prevention Co-ordinator, HSCP
Susan Netherington	ASP Admin, PKC
Susan Torrance	Public Protection, NHS Tayside

Apologies

Alison Jenkins	Service Manager, Social Work, Perth and Kinross HSCP
Arun Singh	Chief Social Work Officer, PKC
Dave Henderson	Scottish Care, Independent Sector Lead, Perth and Kinross
Jane Menzies (JM)	Head of Integrated Services for Adults within HSCP
Julie Wyllie	Manager, Robert Douglas Memorial Care Home
Kerry Sweeney	Scottish Ambulance Service
Lyndsay Richmond	ECS (representative for Brian Hutton)
Grace Gilling (GG)	Associate Nurse Director (Public Protection), NHS Tayside
Paul Walker (PW)	DI, Safeguarding Unit, Police Scotland
William Young	Scottish Ambulance Service
Winnie Burke	Strategic Inspector, Care Inspectorate
Valerie Davis	Lead Nurse, PKC

Correspondence Members

Amanda Welch	Care Inspectorate
Brian Hutton	Improvement Officer, ECS
Deborah Lally	Perth College
Erin Wilson	Capability Scotland
Ewan Baird	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Gordon McNelis	Mental Welfare Commission
Jennifer Middlemiss	Safer Communities

Karyn Sharp	Service Manager, Social Work, Perth and Kinross HSCP
Louis Ford	Team Leader, SAS
Sarah Rodger	Legal Manager, Legal and Governance Services, PKC
Sal Peterson	GP Clinical Lead for Perth and Kinross, NHS

1 Welcome and apologies

GB welcomed all and apologies were noted as above.

2 Presentation on the Perth and Kinross Suicide Prevention Action Plan: Perth and Kinross Suicide Prevention Action Plan

SD, Suicide Prevention Coordinator was a guest at the Adult Protection Committee and presented the Perth and Kinross SP Action Plan and how Perth and Kinross is likened into national SP work.

SD stated that due to the complexities in understanding SP data, SD looks we need at patterns over a five-year period and there has been a slight reduction over the years. There is an early indication that numbers will increase this year based on data obtained up to date. Tayside sits above average for the numbers of suicide in Scotland with Dundee being the second highest nationally.

The average age of someone who dies by suicide is within the age between 25 and 64. When broken down further it is more likely to be middle aged men between 45 and 48. A universal approach as well as targeted approach is being taken so that all areas are supported.

SD shared the Suicide Prevention Action Plan for Perth and Kinross with the group and provided an overview. Outcomes of the National Strategy has been applied locally through this action plan. It is a three-year plan, and whilst there are some ongoing actions, there are forty-eight new actions. A priority is that people who have committed suicide have attempted suicide previously and currently there is no specific pathway of support for those people. The development of a pathway has started.

SD provided information on the areas she wishes to develop going forward and advised of steps taken already for example in rural communities, starting with Rattray in Blairgowrie there is a multi-agency group in place to drive suicide prevention work forward. The pathway for when social work is notified of probable death by suicide in our locality area is also being looked at also.

Transition between child and adult and how they are supported was discussed. IW highlighted the transitions pathway for those with additional support needs but beyond that there is no established pathway. Two final year social work students who are

conducting their own research into what transition looks like for a 17-year-old and will be attending the Adult Support and Protection Committee at a later date to provide their findings.

3 Minute of Adult Protection Committee (5 September 2025)

IW spoke to the minute of the APC. IW was tasked with highlighting the assisted dying bill at the ASP national meeting to understand who has this on their agenda. The national meeting is arranged for next week where this will be completed.

PW highlighted that the financial harm pilot in Angus mentioned at the last meeting is covering both financial and sexual harm. It is still underway and will be shared once the outcome is available.

GB to look at what external engagement within Public Protection co-ordinating group should look like regarding key safeguarding messages. The risk is that there are specialised teams but people do not know that they are there.

SM asked for her role to be changed, once changed APC Committee minute approved.

4 ASP Minute of Adult Protection Committee – Subgroup (25 September 2025)

Minute was provided to the group for information. IW provided a summary of discussion. No additional comments were provided.

5 Learning Review Update

Learning review request: Choking risks associated with Dysphagia

This review was regarding three sudden deaths by choking of adults within a supported accommodation setting during a three-year period. Preliminary enquiries revealed no missed opportunities, neglect or malpractice by the provider therefore the criteria for a Learning Review were not met. It was agreed that there was merit in establishing a HSCP multi-agency learning review group to consider conducting a discretionary learning review to identify learning. There was no correlation between the three adults found other than that the death was caused by choking. There were however two learning opportunities.

- The need for providers of support to those where the risk of choking is greater to participate in up-to-date specialised training in dysphagia/eating and drinking difficulties including the International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI descriptors).
- For increased prevalence about assessed diet levels in any referral paperwork. The provider amended their referral paperwork to include information prior to admission on any assessed diet and SALT assessment underpinning this.

Perth and Kinross APC and CPC contributing to a learning review conducted by Ayrshire CPC following the sudden death of an adult in Perth

IW explained that an adult who was a looked-after child from Ayrshire died suddenly in Perth. Ayrshire agent advised that they would like to lead the review with PKC support. Outcome of this will be shared with the committee in due course.

Learning review notification. A25

This review is following a death of a 29-year-old. Preliminary inquiries highlight that the individual was open to several services with the common theme of non-engagement with them all. IW feels there may be an opportunity to look at how we respond to non-engagement and do we see that as choice or was there missed opportunities. Currently information is being collated, once this is completed a learning review will be set up.

ST advised that from a health point of view it is a very complex case, there were multiple teams involved and multiple out of hours presentation. ST feels the barriers presented around engaging with complex trauma in the background needs to be looked at.

6 Quality Assurance

Audit in our use of 2nd worker and our use of advocacy services

IW is currently initiating audits in the both the use of 2nd worker and our use of advocacy services. There is a duty in the Act to consider advocacy. The new MOSAIC ASP assessment no longer allows the social worker to progress with the ASP investigation without advising if advocacy has been considered and if not, why not. IW is keen to understand if that has made an impact this. Once completed will be shared with the group.

With regards to the 2nd worker audit, the Council officer still tends to look to social work for the second worker and it is to understand why and encourage them to use health etc, especially when there are concerns such as skin integrity.

IW that a running programme of Council Officer refresher training is underway.

Large-Scale Investigation process review

IW advised that that a review of our approach to Large-Scale Investigations is currently being completed. Areas for improvement were discussed. GM highlighted a need for evidence gathering to be more planned in order to prevent people telling the same story six times. IW confirmed that there is evidence of where a police investigation into fraud and an LSI have run alongside each other well but agrees there is scope for improvement with multi-agency working during an LSI.

Good practice for gathering feedback from adults in Adult Support and Protection processes

The National ASP Implementation Group has produced a document called 'Good Practice for Gathering Feedback from Adults in Adult Support and Protection Processes' which he shared with the group as part of today's papers.

This is a key improvement area for PKC. IW has approached Independent Advocacy regarding obtaining feedback from adult 2-3 months following an ASP episode. IW hopes to obtain feedback that will inform what we do and how we do it. A discussion was had regarding the barriers and how adults that have experienced trauma do not want to engage and the benefits of Independent Advocacy in those situations.

Feedback has been obtained from LSIs and the information has been vital to how we do LSIs now. Recent feedback from a Care Home Manager who had experienced an LSI several years ago and one earlier this year provided positive feedback on the changes made. The Manager said that they felt supported and listened to. It is hoped that being able to obtain the same feedback from service users will bring about the right changes and improve the process.

7 NHS Update

NHS Tayside's Whole Family Approach to Safeguarding annual report was provided as part of the papers for today's meeting. ST advised that the post of Associate Nurse Director has been filled and will start at the end of January 2026.

Adult Protection guidance for NHS Tayside has been developed into draft policy which IW current has to review. It is hoped that this will be a working document come early next year.

Angus' Learning Review A24 will be published very soon. This includes learning around engagement and barriers services present, eating disorder, alcohol dependence and likely alcohol brain damage.

Key work within the team is the Public Protection approach which they have been working on for the last three years. Currently they are working on an Adult Multi-agency screening which is currently being piloted.

8 Police Update

KS confirmed that he is in attendance today on a temporary basis, going forward either Paul Walker or Gavin McKinley will be in attendance.

PW advised KS that the financial harm group that he sits on reconvenes in January 2026. Following that PW will update both IW and GB.

FYI For information

Julie Wyllie has retired from the ASP Committee. GB thanked Julie for all her dedication to the committee over the years and wishes her all the best.

The National ASP Day is on 20 February 2026. Information will be shared in two parts, information for the wider public and information for staff. GB asked for the group to share any ideas they have with them via email on what they would like to do or information they want shared. SM said that there is a lot of work that can be done in the lead up to 20 February in order to raise awareness such as activities etc. SM also feels a short video would be good that can be shared widely.

Other documents were provided for the committee's awareness:

- Scottish Government Update - September 2025
- National Public Protection Leadership Group newsletter 2025