

# **Chief Officer's Public Protection Group Report**

## **Report by Chief Executive**

### **Annual Report from Chief Officers Public Protection Group 2022/2023**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This report provides the Community Planning Partnership with an overview of the work of the Chief Officers Public Protection Group 2022/2023.

#### **REPORT**

##### **PURPOSE OF THE CHIEF OFFICERS PUBLIC PROTECTION GROUP**

2. The Chief Officers Public Protection Group provides strategic leadership, scrutiny and the oversight of quality assurance and improvement of public protection arrangements within East Renfrewshire. This is achieved by providing strategic direction on priorities concerning risk and clear expectations for partnership arrangements on the safe delivery of services that keep people and their communities safe. It ensures that partnership working within East Renfrewshire meets with national standards around risk management and in addition considers how effective the local planning arrangements are within services and the partnership in managing risk.
3. The core business of the group is as follows:
  - Child Protection
  - Adult Protection
  - Violence Against Women
  - Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Offender Management (specifically Sex Offenders and potentially dangerous offenders)
  - Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

##### **MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTION**

4. The group is chaired by the Chief Executive of East Renfrewshire Council and has the following core members:
  - Chief Executive East Renfrewshire Council
  - Chief Officer Health & Social Care Partnership
  - Nurse Director NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
  - Divisional Commander of Police Scotland G Division (East Renfrewshire)
  - Chief Social Work Officer and East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee Chair
  - East Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee Independent Chair
  - Violence Against Women Partnership Chair
5. In addition there are associate members that may be called upon by the core group to attend when needed. These include; the Lead Officers for Public Protection (child, adult, MAPPA and violence against women / girls), as well as the Lead Officer for Prevent, the locality Reporter (SCRA) and the Director of Education. The group meets bi-annually in May and November.

6. A summary of the functions of Chief Officers Public Protection Group are as follows:
  - Provide leadership and accountability across all public protection arrangements within East Renfrewshire.
  - Coordinate strategic developments within public protection.
  - Approve annual plans, scrutinise self-evaluation of public protection activity and approve associated improvement plans.
  - Review and direct improvements on performance and audit.
  - Provide direction to chairs and members of Child Protection Committee, Adult Protection Committee and Violence against Women / Girls on local priorities.
  - Approve and consider the learning from Significant Case Reviews and be provided with assurance that the improvements and actions required are in place across the local authority.
7. Public Protection arrangements require agencies and partnerships to work together strategically, operationally, and effectively and this is supported through robust planning and quality assurance processes. Partners are required to provide significant commitment and contributions through the Child Protection Committee, Adult Protection Committee, MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group and Violence against Women / Girls, by contributing to the development of strategic plans and measures that identify and mitigate risk as well as promoting best practice. Alongside these statutory plans the Chief Officers are provided with regular data, quality assurance and improvement activity that assures that people and communities are kept safe from harm.
8. Our responsibility to keep people protected and safe from harm is fundamental to the work of the HSCP and underpins the other strategic priorities set out in our Strategic Plan. Our plan recognises that everyone has the right to live in safety and be protected from neglect, abuse and harm. We respond to the identified key risk areas and new risks and vulnerabilities as these emerge, taking actions with our partners to prevent and respond and learning from each other to improve the ways we support and protect vulnerable people.

## **Covid-19**

9. The direct health impacts of Covid-19 in East Renfrewshire have been significant. At January 2022, around 24,000 Covid cases and 202 Covid-related deaths had been recorded since the start of the pandemic. In terms of cases, this equates to more than 250 cases per 1,000 of the East Renfrewshire population, which is some way above the national average of around 210 cases per 1,000 population.
10. Through these trying times we developed an inclusive approach, not only to supporting adults at risk of harm and their carers/families but also maintaining and strengthening relationships with established partnership agencies and developing new ones. The establishment of a specific ASP team within East Renfrewshire HSCP has assisted in providing an effective and consistent response
11. We continue to use learning from how we delivered services during the pandemic to shape and inform future service models.

12. The longer term impact on the sustainability of our partner care provider market in the post Covid-19 pandemic and current economic climate is a significant issue.

### **SUMMARY OF AREAS OF ACTIVITY 2022/2023**

13. In the past year our workforce have continued to support individuals and families within East Renfrewshire during national and local difficult times. The experience of many in our communities post pandemic has been challenging with added complications and pressures such as the cost of living crisis. This has involved responding to higher demands for support in continued unpredictable times. Our staff have continued to respond and support creatively never losing sight of the individual and an attempt to help increase self-efficacy.
14. During this time we have considered a range of national priorities and assured oversight of the implementation of local practice, by providing high level scrutiny and strategic leadership in response to performance information, self-evaluation activity and learning in each of the public protection areas:

#### **Child Protection**

- Oversight and scrutiny of child protection activity via the Child Protection Committee, its subgroups and the CPC Business / Improvement plan. This includes regular updates in relation to audit activity and data;
- Oversight and endorsement of the Public Protection Development Programme which delivers training across the partnership;
- Continued support of the implementation of the Signs of Safety approach, which focusses on relationship based practice as well as keeping the child and their network at the centre of all assessments and plans; and,
- Ensuring that concerns in relation to children are easily reported by the public through the Council's website.

#### **Adult Protection**

- Oversight and scrutiny of Adult Protection Committee, its subgroups and improvement activity.
- East Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee (ERAPC) is committed to providing high-quality services that meet the needs of adults at risk of harm, and align with legislative requirements and relevant guidance.
- Despite many competing pressures we maintained training and development activity in relation to ASP and provided dedicated virtual training on the new ASP procedures for council officers and second workers, and leadership and oversight training for managers. This has increased workers' confidence relating to policy and procedures, and has supported effective leadership and oversight.

- At all levels we have created and strengthened channels of communication between partners, providers, care homes and others. These robust channels are meaningful and support information sharing and partnership working.
- We have delivered ASP awareness sessions for partner agencies including specific, bespoke sessions for care homes and partner providers. We have developed a shared awareness of the complexity and multi-faceted nature of risk, particularly in relation to violence against women and girls, which has improved our joint working and understanding of the roles of other services and partners.
- We have strengthened our structure to provide additional leadership with respect to social work practice and a specific focus on adult support and protection

### **Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)**

- Oversight of activity and performance of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements;
- The justice service has prioritised contact with those offenders who are subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements requirements to ensure that Risk Management plans and statutory functions are adhered to.

### **Violence against Women and Girls**

Oversight and scrutiny of the Violence Against Women & Girls Partnership, subgroups and improvement activity, including data, audit and self- evaluation;

- Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Pathway;
- Implementation of MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference);
- Implementation of Routine Sensitive Enquiry and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Training;
- Implementation of Safe and Together;
- Aligned improvement planning with the Community Justice Partnership;
- Improving Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Interventions for Victims of Domestic Abuse;
- Completion of quality standards self-evaluation and data in respect of the national Equally Safe Performance Framework.
- Implementation of Equally Safe in Practice Pilot
- Completion of quality assurance audit of Routine Sensitive Enquiry in Alcohol and Drug Services and Adult Mental Health.

## **Alcohol and Drugs Partnership**

Progress towards the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards reflects a significant amount of work across the Alcohol and Drugs Recovery Service, working with lead officers from the ADP and the national MAT Standards Implementation Support Team. This work will continue into the next phase of implementation of the remaining Standards. The Annual Reporting Survey provides further evidence of East Renfrewshire's contribution to the National Drugs Mission:

- Arrangements for monitoring and recording lessons learned from alcohol and drug related deaths include Multi-Disciplinary Team reviews, and further investigation is undertaken using NHS ADRS Significant Adverse Event Review (SAER) process
- Mechanisms for involving people with lived / living experience including East Renfrewshire ADP Lived Experience Panel and Peer Research Programme.
- How services are aiming to reduce stigma for people who use substances through no barrier and rapid access to services and no wrong door approach
- Funding for prevention including youth diversionary activity and overdose prevention
- Confirming overdose response services are in place through Turning Point Scotland
- Detail of services in place for young people affected by substance use. East Renfrewshire does not have specific addiction services in place due to small numbers, however people aged 16 and over can access adult services. Youth Intensive Support Services (social work) do work with young people with substance use issues and work jointly with the ADRS where appropriate.
- Services are in place for adult family members affected by a loved one's substance use.

## **EXTERNAL VALIDATION**

### **Child Protection**

15. The inspection of Children and Young People at Risk of Harm undertaken by the Care Inspectorate in this period. East Renfrewshire's Children's Services Partnership were graded excellent and had no improvements to make. This is a national first.

#### Key findings

- The collective leadership, direction and accountability demonstrated by partners to deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people at risk of harm.
- The strong relational-based approach that was the foundation for collaborative working across agencies and with children, young people and their families.
- Partners actively engaging with children, young people, and their families in order to empower them to be more involved in identifying their needs and improving outcomes.
- The effective use and analysis of data to inform decisions and target resources.
- The partnership having already identified their achievements and areas of practice that they wanted to strengthen.

- The evidence of improvement in safety and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people at risk of harm, and their families.

## Adult Protection

16. The Adult Protection Committee received notification of a joint Adult Support and Protection inspection on 30 January 2023. Examples of good practice and good outcomes for service users and families will be included to illustrate the practice of the Health and Social Care Partnership and partners.

The Joint Inspection considered that our key processes for adult support and protection were very effective and demonstrated major strengths, supporting positive experiences and outcomes for adults at risk of harm. This inspection did not grade services, but used three forms of words to comment on areas inspected:

- Very effective
- Effective
- Important areas of weakness

The joint inspection found that our strategic leadership for adult support and protection was effective with areas for improvement. There were clear strengths supporting positive experiences and outcomes for adults at risk of harm, which collectively outweighed the areas for improvement. The Joint Inspection report was complimentary of our strategic leadership, recognising their enthusiasm and commitment to supporting adults at risk of harm and developing a culture of learning and continuous improvement which supported the development of adult support and protection services for adults at risk of harm.

## Key Findings

- All initial inquiries achieved the correct outcome for adults at risk of harm.
- Almost all were good or better in quality.
- All inquiries involved multiagency communication and had management oversight.
- Almost all adults that required a risk assessment had one that was good or better in quality.
- All adults that required a protection plan had one. Most were good or better in quality.
- Investigations for adults at risk of harm always determined the correct outcome.
- The quality of investigations was almost always good or better.
- Adults and unpaid carers were always appropriately involved in investigations.
- Case conferences were almost always convened when they should have been.
- They were a highly effective process and always determined the actions required to keep the adult safe, protected and supported.
- All partners shared information appropriately at all stages for adults at risk of harm.
- Management oversight of key processes was a key strength.
- Decision making was high-quality and consistent.
- Health were a strong partner in the leadership and delivery of key processes for ASP.
- Health services were engaged with ASP and proactively delivered services in relation to reducing risk of harm.

- The involvement of the adult at risk of harm in all stages of the ASP process was very positive.
- Unpaid carers were almost always appropriately involved in ASP processes.
- Almost all adults who should have been offered advocacy were.
- There was early engagement with adults at risk of harm with lived experience to inform developments.

#### Priority areas for improvement

- The partnership should improve the quality of chronologies to ensure they are comprehensive, and inclusive of relevant life events and analysis.
- The involvement of adults at risk of harm and their unpaid carers at a strategic level should be a priority for the partnership.
- Strategic leaders should establish multi-agency quality assurance and self-evaluation of adult support and protection practice including a multi-agency approach to audit of records.
- Strategic leaders should build on the existing foundations to ensure the full involvement of all key partners in relevant aspects of adult support and protection practice going forward.

#### What Next

As part of our continued commitment to improvement the Adult protection Committee has prepared an Improvement Plan for 2023-2025.

This plan incorporates the areas of development noted in the Joint ASP Inspection and our own aspirations to maintain the high level of service we provide

#### **Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)**

17. Work continues to progress at the national level on the revision of Moving Forward Making Changes to Moving Forward 2 Change (MF2C). We have completed the MF2C Role and Training Needs Register for our staff. We are waiting finalised accreditation and then roll out the training to appropriate practitioners. We will continue to monitor developments as the programme progresses towards accreditation.

An audit conducted by the Police Scotland MAPPA Unit on 21st July 2023. This was a random case file audit and returned positive feedback.

#### **Violence Against Women and Girls**

18. A second Independent observation of the East Renfrewshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference completed by Safe Lives. The report and findings highlighted a range of strengths and best practice and strategic oversight. This reflects the commitment of all agencies to share information and keep victims of domestic abuse and their children safe and improve outcomes.

## **Alcohol and Drugs Partnership**

19. East Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership is pleased to be recognised for achieving standards 1, 2, 3 and 5 however is disappointed to have been assessed as Amber for MAT Standard 4, which relates to the harm reduction interventions provided within the Alcohol and Drugs Recovery Service (ADRS). The MIST team have provided the ADP with feedback that enables the service to work on the small number of improvement areas required and move MAT 4 to a Green rating as soon as possible.

## **DISCUSSION POINTS**

20. It is recommended that the CPP Board:

- Discuss the high level public protection activity outlined within the report and identify any areas for improvement to the Chief Officer Public Protection group on public protection partnership arrangements within East Renfrewshire.
- Agree the East Renfrewshire Chief Officer Public Protection Group continues to provide annual updates to the CPP concerning public protection scrutiny and improvement activity that provides assurance that people and communities are being kept safe.

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