



# REPORT

Item No: 13

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	North Lanarkshire Adult Protection Biennial Report 2015/17
<b>TO:</b>	<b>Integration Joint Board</b>
<b>Lead Officer for Report:</b>	Chief Accountable Officer
<b>Author(s) of Report</b>	Head of Adult Social Work Services
<b>DATE:</b>	January 2017

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This paper is coming to the IJB

For approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	For endorsement	<input type="checkbox"/>	To note	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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## 2. ROUTE TO THE BOARD

This paper has been:

Prepared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reviewed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed	<input type="checkbox"/>
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By: Bobby Miller

## 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.
- 3.2 Note that a report regarding the Biennial Report will be submitted to the North Lanarkshire Council's Housing and Social Work and Policy and Resources Committees and the North Lanarkshire Partnership.
- 3.3 Receive regular reports on adult protection activity and performance, within North Lanarkshire, at times to be agreed as part of performance monitoring arrangements.

## 4. BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 (ASP Act), came into effect in November 2008. It placed duties on a range of "Public Bodies", most notably, Councils, NHS, Police, Care Inspectorate and the Mental Welfare Commission to cooperate in investigating and reducing harm to individuals "at risk of harm", with the Council given the lead role in inquiring and investigating concerns or allegations of harm posed to adults. To be considered an adult at risk a person needs to be 16 years of age or older, at risk of harm and unable to protect themselves due to some form of health condition or disability, which makes them less able to protect themselves.
- 4.2 The ASP Act also required Adult Protection Committees, (APCs), to be formed for each local authority area, appointment of an independent chairperson, the committee to take an

overview of joint practice across the agencies charged with reducing harm to adults at risk and providing a Biennial Report to the Scottish Government.

- 4.3 The independent chair of the North Lanarkshire APC, (Rab Murray), submitted his fourth biennial report to the Scottish Government in October 2016 and the main issues in it are highlighted in this report below.
- 4.4 As can be seen from the page of contents of the Biennial Report, (See Appendix below), the report is broken down into a range of issues, set out by the Scottish Government in order to provide some opportunity for comparison across APC areas.
- 4.5 The preface to the reports sets out the main issues considered in the report which relate to its activities and an analysis of areas of activity undertaken during 2014/16 by the agencies who are members of the APC. It also has statistical information available regarding the number and nature of referrals made to Social Work Services during the period and resultant responses.

#### MAIN ISSUES COVERED IN THE BIENNIAL REPORT

- 4.6 The report notes relative stability in the APC membership with more recent changes due to retirement from work of some members. It describes some of the initiatives the Committee has undertaken, including holding events for partner members staff, two annual events for user and carers and other stakeholders, regular meetings with representatives of user and carer organisation representatives, the work of its sub groups on performance, training and information and its sponsorship of an independent survey of the views of some individuals, who experienced adult protection investigations into their circumstances. Other areas considered by the report are information regarding an adult protection multi-agency case file review and its role in raising public awareness. The report also notes that the Committee has carried out a self assessment which will assist and inform its work plan, highlights its main past and future areas of particular interest, which include self harm care home and care at home issues, financial harm and the transitions from children to adult services.
- 4.7 In relation to the APC Partners, the report indicates a small drop in the number of adult protection referrals for the first time during 2015/16. This is in contrast to the doubling of referrals in each previous year between 2009 and 2015. It notes that the police are still by far the largest source of referrals and the drop in their referral numbers may relate to better application of the criteria for making a referral, (although there is a significant increase in police "adult concern referrals"). The report highlights very few referrals from people affected themselves by harm and/or by the public in general.
- 4.8 The report highlights that the first national statistical information issued by the Scottish Government in 2016, indicates that North Lanarkshire receives a very large number of adult protection referrals and investigates a higher proportion of these than other local authority areas but notes that the Committee will continue to monitor trends and indications of standards.
- 4.9 There is a range of information contained within the report and its appendices which covers a break down in the types of referral made, the age bands of adults affected and the type of harm suffered. In addition there is detailed information on different areas of committee and practitioner activity, issues on defensible decision making, relevant mental health statutory activity which support adult protection and reference to the North Lanarkshire Chief Officers Public Protection Group.
- 4.10 The Chair of the Committee highlights particular areas of ongoing interest and concern to the Committee as challenges faced by the Committee..... "

- The implications of health and social care integration, and public service reform generally, for adult protection practice
- Increasing demand on public services at a time of continuing financial constraint
- Changes in personnel and management structures within the key public agencies. Extending public awareness and understanding of adult protection remains a significant challenge
- Adult protection in relation to care at home services
- Risk threshold and risk enablement and practice within adult protection”

**5. CONCLUSIONS**

5.1 The Biennial report offers a global summary of aspects of work by the adult protection Committee and the practice of the partner agencies during 2014/16 and highlights the ongoing and future challenges to services and the Committee itself.

**6. IMPLICATIONS**

**6.1 NATIONAL OUTCOMES**

Adult protection is at the heart of the national priorities for keeping people safe.

**6.2 ASSOCIATED MEASURE(S)**

N/A

**6.3 FINANCIAL**

This paper has been reviewed by Finance:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**6.4 PEOPLE**

N/A

**6.5 INEQUALITIES**

EQIA Completed:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The full Biennial Report is available at:-  
[www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/protectingadults](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/protectingadults)



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 CHIEF ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER (or Depute)

Members seeking further information about any aspect of this report, please contact Bobby Miller on telephone number 01698 332001

**8. APPENDIX**

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