

## **CCG9. Adult Support and Protection (ASP) Arrangements**

The committee considered a report by the Lead Officer Adult Support and Protection on the arrangements for Adult Support and Protection in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Falkirk Adult Protection Committee had agreed a number of recommendations to strengthen current Adult Support and protection (ASP) arrangements including:

- Staff should be reminded that their decision to submit an adult protection referral was based on their application of the 'adult at risk of harm' criteria commonly known as the '3 point test' and avoid being led by any concept that application of the test is different in a Covid-19 context. Rather they should recognise that Covid-19 may cause physical infirmity for the time that the adult is affected and if they are at risk of another harm and are unable to safeguard this may require ASP referral.
- ASP operational managers responsible for holding Interagency Referral Discussions (IRD) should liaise with the Falkirk Care Home Focus Group carrying out assurance activity where any ASP referral had been received for a resident of a care home. This would allow information sharing and risk assessment across both groups and ensure agreed actions, coordination and avoidance of disjointed or unproductive work. The rationale for these agreed actions will be Covid-19 informed, safe, effective and proportionate.
- The APC agreed in April that it would suspend responsibility for the Falkirk Early Indicators of Concern Group (EIOC) and that this should sit with Falkirk Care Home Focus Group. The responsibility for current permitted visiting staff to care homes and therefore concern identification and referral routes sit best with the care home group at this time. It was recommended that the EIOC reconvened in the recovery phase whenever any revision of membership or terms of reference realised from lessons learned was applied and training/briefing sessions on EIOC was offered by ASP lead officer to all partner agencies.
- Strong links and partnership working needed to continue between APC and the Third Sector interface responding to adults in need in Falkirk communities to increase chances of hidden harm identification.
- The Community Care Team Manager network should work closely to devise, agree and give clear guidance to frontline staff on what actions should be taken to ensure ASP investigations in locked down premises take place in a Covid-19 informed way when necessary. This guidance should also apply more generally to effective care management review which often prevents harm occurring. Communication tools and methods with adults and their carers both in locked down premises and those subject to adult

support and protection plans in the community should also be a focus.

Within Adult services we have become acutely aware of our known most at risk service user groups with a current focus on residents of care homes. It was important that our responsibilities around Adult Support and Protection can work in harmony with and alongside the need to support and guide the independent care home sector.

### **Decision**

**The committee noted the report.**