

December 2020

West Lothian Adult Support Protection (ASP) Newsletter

Dear All,

Welcome to the first edition of the West Lothian Adult Protection Committee's December 2020 West Lothian ASP Newsletter.

This is another way for us to keep in contact with one another and to discuss all things ASP related!

COVID-19 Weekly Public Protection Partnership briefing:

Your narrative to accompany the data for this briefing has enabled greater understanding about the weekly reported figures. This has highlighted the reasons for some of the fluctuations in the data and, where further analysis is needed, to better understand the attrition rates between each stage in the AP process.

Cameron Wilson, Adults Social Care Enquiry Team (ASCET)'s Team Manager and Elana Duff, Detective Constable in the Public Protection Unit (PPU) are now holding regular meetings to discuss any iVPDs where there is a difference of opinion about the management of these referrals. Information gathered from these discussions helps to promptly resolve any particular issues.

They have also reviewed the current iVPD procedure which was discussed and approved at the Adult Protection Committee and the Adult Protection Quality and Assurance Sub Committee.

Social Policy - Duty to Inquire Survey:

Thanks to those of you who completed the Survey. Your feedback will inform and be considered as part of the review of the local ASP procedures.

Multi-agency (MA) ASP Short-life Working Group:

The Adult Protection Committee recently formed the MA ASP Short-life Working Group to review and refresh the local West Lothian Council Adult Support and Protection Procedures with Guidance Notes. The Group has met twice with a third meeting taking place in December 2020.

You will have had a communication sent to you from your manager about implemented changes in practice.

We are keen to hear your views about local ASP arrangements especially what works well and what needs updated. Please direct your feedback and comments to your line manager who can then relay this information to the Group.

Adult Support and Protection Champions:

The identified Adult Support and Protection Champion Team Managers are; Cameron Wilson, Helen Dunn and Joanne Sweeney.

We are now looking for a champion from the CMHT, SCET, Day Centres, Housing with Care, Home Care and residential services to join this cohort. If interested please email Linda or myself!

So far we have completed the following tasks:

- The Police have agreed to remind officers to include the contact details of the subject of the iVPD ahead of sending to Social Work.

- Asked Social Work Group Managers if the Older Peoples Duty system can be amended in order to match the one used in the Adults Service in order to establish consistency and management of received ASP duty cases.
- Created an OP mailbox for the sending of Police Scotland iVPDs .
- The holding of monthly Team Manager/ Independent Chair Webex sessions since October 2020.
- Plan to hold multi-disciplinary Practitioner Focus Sessions in February 2021.
- Participated in a Webex session facilitated by our C & F Reviewing Officer colleague, Susan Jamieson to learn how to use the different features of Webex in anticipation of holding Adult Protection Case Conferences (APCC)/CC Reviews (CCRs) in this way or by a secure conference call line.

New NHS IRD Rota:

One day of well organised and appraised multi-agency (police, SW, NHS and Advocacy staff) remote training took place to train the 12 NHS staff who will participate on the West Lothian only NHS IRD rota.

This is a significant and positive development in West Lothian and will provide a tripartite response to manage risk robustly at this stage in the AP process.

Thanks very much to the facilitators who participated in the multi-agency IRD training. It is hoped to run another IRD session for SW Team Managers including SCET as a refresher or new training session soon.

ASP processes and timescales:

Please continue to use and access the local ASP procedures, updated COVID-19 ASP procedure and aide memoires to follow expected timescales for progressing ASP work.

The ASP Biennial Report:

The West Lothian Adult Protection Committee 2018-2020 ASP Biennial Report was submitted to the Scottish Government in October 2020.

It can be found on the West Lothian Public Protection Website.

West Lothian Appropriate Adult Service

West Lothian Council is in the process of recruiting Appropriate Adults to join the existing team.

In order to give some background, please see below a brief overview of the roles and responsibilities of an Appropriate Adult and the present local arrangements.

Who can be an Appropriate Adult

- An Appropriate Adult is a person with professional or voluntary experience in working with adults who have a mental health problem, learning disability, autistic spectrum disorder, dementia or similar.

What is an Appropriate Adult

- The Primary role is to facilitate communication with the police for an individual with a mental disorder aged 16 and over
- To ensure the individual understands and continues to understand their legal rights throughout the process

- Helping the person understand why they are being interviewed and the questions being asked
- Ensuring, as far as possible, the individual understands the explanation for, and give informed consent to, any examination or other police procedure
- To reassure and put the individual at ease
- To advise police if at any time the individual does not appear to understand
- Ensuring that the process is paused where necessary to discuss concerns about the welfare of the person and the need for a break

Local Arrangements

- Appropriate Adults will receive the necessary training as part of their role
- Appropriate Adults will form part of an ongoing daytime rota (Mon – Thurs 0900 -1630 hrs and Fri – 0900 – 1530 hrs) with expected availability twice monthly
- Appropriate Adults will not receive payment (unless out of hours standby) as this role is in addition to their current role
- Appropriate Adults will receive assistance and guidance from the West Lothian Appropriate Adult Co-ordinator and form part of the West Lothian Appropriate Adult Focus Group
- A PVG check will be required for an Appropriate Adult

If you are interested in becoming an Appropriate Adult or looking for more information please contact Linda.

Thanks again for your input, cooperation and ideas to continuously improve ASP locally.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Wendy and Linda

Linda.hughes@estlothian.gov.uk

Wendy.ramsay@westlothian.gov.uk