

## EAST AYRSHIRE ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE

### MULTI-AGENCY BRIEFING NOTE - JUNE 2024

NO: 21

**TOPIC: MULTI-AGENCY ASP PLANNING MEETINGS, ESCALATING CONCERNS AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The findings of Adult R Learning review and a recent multi-agency self-evaluation audit identified the following priority areas for improvement:

- Trauma informed approach to the management of cumulative risk evident through repeat referrals
- Multi-agency escalation processes are embedded and understood by all partners
- Consistent application of escalation standards for ASP Planning Meetings including responsibilities
- ASP Planning Meeting benefits to be better understood and role for partners in making pro-active requests

When information is shared in relation to protection concerns regarding a person in our community, East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership (EAHSCP) has a statutory obligation to make inquiries into the person's circumstances to determine if they are an Adult at Risk as defined by the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act (2007) (the Act). The Act gives powers to make initial inquiries into the person's circumstances to determine if we 'know or believe' that the person is an Adult at Risk of Harm (as defined by the Three point Test) and may therefore lawfully conduct further investigations and intervention to protect the adult.

However, there may be occasions when the information gathered at initial inquiry stage is not sufficient to support least restrictive decision making and determine if there are statutory grounds to proceed with further investigation / intervention under the Act. This is often the case when more than one agency has involvement or relevant information pertaining to the adult.

In these cases a Planning Meeting is useful to ensure appropriate sharing of information from a multi-agency perspective to inform collaborative decision making.

## What is a Planning Meeting?

A Planning Meeting is a workers multi-disciplinary meeting that is convened where a report of an adult at risk has been received and either:

- There is insufficient information / evidence to support decision making of an ASP Inquiry and the collation of multi-agency information is required to support decision making

Or

- If there have been repeated referrals made by any agency, and multi-agency discussion is necessary to determine the level and type of risk and what is required to protect the adult at risk of harm.

There are times when there is multi-agency involvement and/or multiple categories of harm that require the need for clear information sharing between relevant agencies. In these situations Planning Meetings can facilitate this in a robust way which allows information to be noted and decisions to be recorded for example:

- Where it is felt intervention under alternative legislation may be required instead of ASP including consideration of criminality in relation to the alleged perpetrator of harm
- The level of risk warrants a multi-agency response to support and protect the person at risk of harm

A Planning Meeting is part of the Statutory ASP process and will therefore be convened by Social Work colleagues and a formal minute taken by Protection admin teams. However, the information presented here highlights the importance of attendance by multi-agency partners to ensure decision making is well informed and offers the most effective method of protecting the person and aligning professional responsibilities.

Section 5 of the Act describes the duty on public bodies to co-operate with the council when it is inquiring and/or investigating adult protection concerns including the sharing of information to keep adults safe and protected.

## ESCALATING CONCERNS

Where it is considered that a person is not an Adult at Risk as defined by the Act but the impact of cumulative risk presents sufficient concern for any agency involved with the person, a Multi-Disciplinary Case Discussion should be requested.

## What is a Multi-Disciplinary Case Discussion?

A Multi-Disciplinary Case Discussion is a workers multi- agency meeting that may be requested by ANY agency involved in the care / support of an adult. It is an opportunity to consider the WHOLE circumstances of the adult, the impact of trauma and any protective factors.

The meeting should facilitate communication and information sharing between agencies where concerns regarding the welfare of an adult are escalating to determine intervention to support the adult.

Whilst these meetings will be arranged and minuted by Social Work colleagues, it is central to improving outcomes for people that ALL agencies are aware of their responsibilities in requesting a multi-disciplinary case discussion.

The meetings should include analysis of any risk identified and decisions about how these will be managed and incorporated in the adult's care plan or carers support plan. The meeting should ensure allocation of responsibility for oversight or completion of actions within agreed timescales and should always consider and record decisions in relation to thresholds for statutory intervention, e.g. ASP / AWI.

**Further Information: For further information please contact Maxine Ward,  
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