

APC Conference Feedback

January 2017

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Welcome to the eighth issue of our newsletter which focuses on the feedback from the Intervention or Interference APC Conference which was held on the 25th November 2016

The Adult Protection Committee hosted this conference on the 25th November 2016 which was attended by 60 people from a range of agencies including, NHS, SIC and the Third Sector. The event held 5 workshops running twice in the day with the following themes:-

- Adults with Incapacity Act (Scotland) 2000
- Legal Basis for Intervention
- With You For You
- Support and Supervision for Staff Providing Services
- Adult Protection in cases where adults self-harm or self-neglect or where substance misuse is an issue

Please see the following web link which will take you to the PowerPoint presentations used in the workshops—<http://www.safershetland.com/documents>

Dr Roger Diggle Vice-Chair of APC hosted the conference. Dr Diggle made the following comment about the conference:

“The Adult Protection Conference was an extremely successful multi-disciplinary training day where many of the issues surrounding the care of adults who need protection were discussed. The multi-disciplinary aspect of the training allowed staff members who do not often meet to understand each other’s roles and issues.

Protecting adults is, arguably less obvious than the need to protect children but is just as important. Judging when an adult needs protection and then deciding how best to provide that protection, are difficult questions that need careful thought.

One key outcome of the meeting was to urge every adult to arrange not only a will but to make arrangements for power of attorney as this means that should an adult lose their legal capacity to make decisions then the person appointed as their attorney can take over with minimal difficulty whereas if power of attorney has not been granted then the legal process is complex and extremely expensive – costs may be several thousand pounds.”

Highlighting Issues

Participants were asked at the end of each session to highlight issues under the following headings:-

- Training
- Multi disciplinary Working
- Service Delivery
- Other

The Adult Protection Committee meeting on 25th January 2017 and looked at the comments made under these headings. A summary of each topic is given below. Responding to them will form part of the APC Business Plan 2017/18. APC would not have the role or remit to respond to all of these points, so they will be shared with the Integrated Joint Board and also other forums that plan adult services.

Training

- Training and awareness raising about adult protection, adults with incapacity and power of attorney for the wider community and also third sector
- E learning using case studies
- Better understanding of preparing referrals
- Training delivered in locality areas.
- WYFY training to help people with the paperwork
- Interagency training and events like the conference that give people an opportunity to learn together
- IT systems that work together and support interagency practice
- Feedback to staff who raised concerns about adults (please see information in APC newsletter January 2017 – <http://www.safershetland.com/adult-protection-for-professionals>)

Multi Disciplinary Working

- Important to have opportunities for different agencies and different staff groups within agencies to network
- Improving communication- between agencies, between care managers, improving local authority and NHS communication, regular multi-disciplinary team meetings. People felt strongly about this and it was noted a number of times
- Avoiding “silo” working and being able to be flexible and blur roles in order to provide an effective service to an adult.

Service Delivery

- Information sharing and working together were also noted as issues for service delivery
- Managing risk- not being risk averse, empowering people to take positive risks
- Recruitment problems- lack of learning disability nurse particularly noted
- Being creative and flexible to meet needs
- Being clear about who to contact to raise concerns
- Consistency across establishments and services as to how services are delivered

Other Thoughts

- The impact of diminishing resources
- Responding to changes in legislation and the shifting landscape of providing services to adults
- The impact of domestic abuse
- Involving Personal Assistants in training and support.

APC Response

Training

- Improve e learning, arrange ASP training in localities, ensure training is multi-agency
- Plan to host another conference in 2018
- Ensuring training includes how to raise concerns, feedback to staff who raise issues,
- Looking at how information and training can be made available to the wider community
- Ensuring AP is part of induction for new staff.
- Inclusion of Personal Assistants in ASP training

Multi-disciplinary working

- APC is an interagency multidisciplinary forum and quality assurance work on adult protection cases will look at the information sharing and working together effectively
- Confidentiality and information sharing- supporting work to clarify when it is appropriate to share information without consent and when consent should be sought.
- Ensuring involvement of the third sector

Service Delivery

- APC to focus on adult protection as a part of wider service delivery and to ensure that staff are aware of potential risks when assessing adults for services.
- Support good communication and flexible approaches to protecting adults

Other thoughts

- More effective links between APC and the Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership and the domestic abuse strategy

If anyone wants to discuss any of these points or has any good ideas about how these can be carried forward Kate Gabb would be very happy to hear from you

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