

Edinburgh Adult Protection Committee Newsletter

December 2021

Firstly, Thank You...



To all of our colleagues who work relentlessly hard to protect adults at risk of harm in Edinburgh, and who have continued to do so despite increasingly difficult circumstances.

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter of the Edinburgh Adult Protection Committee! We hope to provide useful and interesting information about what is going on in the world of Adult Support and Protection, and also the work of the Committee in Edinburgh.

What the Edinburgh Adult Protection Committee does

As this is the first newsletter, we would like to briefly describe the work of the Adult Protection Committee. This Committee has members from across all of the relevant agencies including the City of Edinburgh, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue service, and representatives from the voluntary sector and advocacy partners. The Chair is Anne Neilson who is Director of Public Protection for NHS Lothian and the Committee meets quarterly. The Committee has various functions including:

- ❖ Developing ways for agencies and services to work together effectively to protect and support adults at risk and evaluating the effectiveness of these arrangements, including involvement of people with lived experience.
- ❖ Improving local practice in the light of knowledge gained through both local and national experience.
- ❖ Keeping relevant Adult Support and protection procedures and protocols updated and supporting the implementation of these by providing advice, guidance and information.
- ❖ Raising awareness and providing guidance to the wider community and professionals.
- ❖ Training and development activities.
- ❖ Monitoring, reporting, reviewing and disseminating data in relation to the protection of adults at risk.

Upcoming adult support and protection joint inspection



A major focus for the Committee and the wider Adult Support and Protection partnership in Edinburgh is preparation for an imminent inspection of our key processes and leadership. The programme of [joint inspections currently](#) is underway across all partnerships in Scotland. The areas we will be scrutinised on are listed [here](#). We don't know exactly when this will happen, only that it will be soon! In order to prepare we need to understand our strengths and weaknesses and we are seeking views from across the partnership.

Hoarding and self-neglect protocol and toolkit

A new [protocol and toolkit](#) to guide on working with people who hoard and who self-neglect has been developed by Senior Social Worker and Dementia Ambassador Diane Elliot who works in Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership South West Locality. Diane worked closely with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as well as housing and third sector partners.

[The clutter image rating](#) is a useful visual tool to guide on what may be considered concerning or harmful. Hoarding and self-neglect have become more and more prevalent in adult support and protection as ways in which people can come to very significant harm or even die, and it is important that the risk is recognised and acted upon.

The Herbert Protocol

The Herbert Protocol is a nationally recognised scheme focused on people living with dementia who may be at risk of going missing.

If you would like to find out more or know of someone who may benefit, you can find [more information](#) here on The Herbert Protocol National Launch.



Online fraud and scamming prevention – Take Five

The lead officer for Adult Protection Kate Armit and Adult Support and Protection Senior Practitioner Wendy Taylor are working with colleagues on the Council's digital safety strategy in recognition of the fact that the digital 'space' is increasingly an area where people can come to harm in various ways. Awareness of this is increasingly important for professionals.

We want to support ways to prevent harm from online scamming which is one common type of online harm. In Adult Support and Protection, we are more regularly seeing online financial scams, including '[romance scams](#)' where people are conned into sending money when they believe they are in a relationship with someone. Trading standards provide up to date information on scams [here](#).

Falling for a scam can happen to anyone but some people may be less able to safeguard themselves against it. If you are concerned that someone may be at risk from a financial scam and may be unable to safeguard themselves, this should be reported to [Social Care Direct in Edinburgh](#) on **0131 200 2324** or the police on **101**. These frauds can involve very significant amounts of money so it is important to be alert to them and to report any scamming activity to [Action Fraud](#).

Trading Standards warn of Covid related scams [here](#).

The [Take Five](#) website provides more information and gives the simple message to:

STOP: taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE: Could it be fake? It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT: Contact your bank immediately if you think you have fallen for a scam. Report it to Action Fraud.



Hourglass



Action Against Elder Abuse is now called **Hourglass** and has a [knowledge bank](#) online which provides information and resources in relation to all types of harm to older people. Hourglass also operates a program called **Safer Ageing Support Service** designed to help prevent harm to older people before it reaches the threshold for adult protection.

A volunteer is paired with an older adult and creates an individual support plan with them to meet their needs, acting as an interface between the older person and the local services in their area. Email scotland@wearehourglass.org or call 0238 235 5489 to make find out more.

Suicide prevention and mental health training

The festive period is nearly upon us and while it is a joyous time for many, it can also be a difficult time of year for some. ASP Senior Practitioner Vicky Soutar has a dual role for suicide prevention.

There are a number of licences available for an online [introductory level Suicide prevention skills module 'Living Works Start'](#) - these are available via Every Life Matters Coordinator Vicky.Soutar@edinburgh.gov.uk

Course: Living Works Start Suicide Prevention e-learning training.

Audience: Living Works Start teaches valuable skills to everyone 13 and older and requires no formal training or prior experience in suicide prevention.

Aims: In just 90-120 minutes online, Living Works Start teaches trainees to recognize when someone is thinking about suicide and connect them to help and support.

Contents: When you sign up to Living Works Start training, you'll get an individual licence to use the e-learning training for up to 60 days. You will learn a powerful four-step model to keep someone safe from suicide. Safety resources and support are available throughout the program. Teaching methods include:

- ❖ Narrated coaching
- ❖ Allowing learners to hear the lived experience of someone with thoughts of suicide
- ❖ Text message simulations
- ❖ Video simulations
- ❖ Practice scenarios (video simulations and text message simulations).

Further information: Those with personal experience of suicide that is still painful may find this training distressing & are advised to think carefully before applying. It is recommended that everyone arrange someone to 'touch base' with afterwards to discuss the impact of the training on their feelings and skills development.

Adult Protection Committee website

Finally we now have an [Adult Protection Committee website](#) where we will be uploading content which is relevant to the work of the Committee and Adult Support and Protection in Edinburgh and you will be able to find our future newsletters.

Get in touch

[back to the top](#)

If you have ideas for content for this newsletter, please contact Kate.Armit@edinburgh.gov.uk