

**We're starting this edition with a message from the Independent Chair of the Adult Support and Protection Committee (ASPC), Alan Small:**



“Can I first offer a warm welcome to new members of our Adult Support and Protection Committee and my thanks to those existing members who continue to support our aims and objectives. I thought it might be an idea to provide a short summary of the legislation that covers the committee and drives our purpose. The Adult Support and Protection Act 20078 was commenced in 2008, this led to the establishment of our Committee. Section 42 of the Act ensures that each Scottish council must establish an Adult Protection Committee” [read more...](#)



**CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** We are pleased to welcome Julie Shields who represents the Scottish Ambulance Service on the Adult Support and Protection Committee. We also said goodbye to Brian Rosie of People First, who has represented service users on the Committee since 2010 and is now retiring. Brian always contributed to Committee business with a fresh perspective, and his achievements included developing the original APC induction pack, helping to plan the APCs first service user conference, and introducing the Red and Green cards to encourage equality of involvement in the discussions. His input will be greatly missed. Service users will be represented at the next meeting by Susan Burt of People First.



**LEADING A CHARMED LIFE** Tenants from Dollar Court Retirement Housing Complex in Dunfermline have taken part in a pilot scheme to see how digital technology can support good health and wellbeing. Ten tenants aged from 68-92 wore a smart wristband called a CHARM bracelet (Continuous Health Activity Routine Monitoring) for four months which monitored step count, activity and sleep pattern. Wristband data was analysed to identify concerns that could lead to future health events such as a potential trip or fall. When there was a change in data, an alert was sent to their Retirement Housing Officer who offered the tenant appropriate assistance. Look out for further project updates in the 'Down Your Street' tenant magazine.



**COWDENBEATH ADULT PROTECTION PRACTITIONER FORUM** The third forum meeting is on 25 September from 1-3 pm in the Maxwell Centre. Anyone with adult protection responsibilities working in the Cowdenbeath area are welcome. For more information email: [helen.king@fife.gov.uk](mailto:helen.king@fife.gov.uk)



**E-LEARNING** Want to know more about adult protection? Why not try our e-learning module? It takes around an hour to complete. Please note that the way to access the module has recently changed. Find full details on our [flyer](#) or on our 'E-learning' page at [www.fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection)



**ADULT PROTECTION TRAINING DATES** Full details are in our [Training Flyer \(Council/NHS\)](#) and [Training Flyer \(External agencies\)](#). Please note the Working Together course on 17 September has been cancelled and there are courses on 2 and 22 October.



**CROSSING THE ACTS TRAINING** The ASPC has identified new training in response to a finding in a Fife Adult Significant Case Review. The 'Crossing The Acts' training covers the intersectionality of the 3 key protective acts (Adults with Incapacity, Mental Health and Adult Support and Protection). To book a place visit our [Staff Information and Training page](#) and click on the first section to find full details. Fife Council employees should apply through CLMS. For all other applicants, use the [ASP Online Training Application Form](#).



**LOOKING FOR ADULT PROTECTION INFO?** Is your group looking for a speaker before the end of the year? We can provide information on keeping your money safe and financial harm – always timely in the run-up to Christmas, plus information on harm and how to report it. For details email our Engagement & Participation Coordinator at: [shona.mcewan@fife.gov.uk](mailto:shona.mcewan@fife.gov.uk) or call 03451 55 55 55 ext 442134.



**NEW EASY READ BOOKLETS** Look out for details in our September edition about new easy reads on consent, capacity and mate crime. We've had invaluable help from groups IncludeMe, People First (Fife), Adult Basic Education, Real Life Options, Circles Advocacy, and SAMH. They've given feedback on the language and symbols which helps make sure that our information is accessible for as wide an audience as possible. All ASPC easy read booklets can be found [online](#).



**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP (FVAWP) PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE** FVAWP and Fife Housing Partnership are improving services for victims and survivors of violence against women. The practitioner's guide '[Violence Against Women – Housing Options](#)' details how the understanding of housing and legal options is important to recognising, supporting and responding effectively and sensitively. FVAWP training programme is available [here](#).



**FREEDOM PROGRAMME** New groups for women addressing domestic abuse are starting in Cupar, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Leven, plus a Lochgelly evening group. [The Freedom Programme](#) runs for 2 hours per week for 12 weeks, and is for any woman who recognises or is not fully aware that their relationship is abusive and harmful. There are no formal assessments - any woman can come along. To refer call 01592 786701 or use the [referral form](#).



**PEOPLE FIRST (SCOTLAND) PETITION FOR NEW LEARNING DISABILITY LAW** People First are urging the Scottish Government to introduce a new law addressing the needs and rights of people with lifelong learning disabilities. Read the [background information](#), and [previous action taken](#) and [sign the petition](#) by 5 September.



**SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS** Choice Support is a national charity, formed in 1984, supporting people with autism, learning disabilities and mental health needs. They have produced a '[Supported Loving Toolkit](#)' which provides clear advice on how to support adults with sensitive issues concerning sex and relationships.



**RELATIONSHIPS CHARTER** Values into Action Scotland's project 'The Life I Want' launched their [Relationships Charter](#) stating the rights of people with learning disabilities to be supported to have relationships and families of their own. Their leaflet '[My Relationship, My Choice](#)' is a guide for parents and carers of people with learning disabilities, about supporting positive relationships. Support the Charter [here](#).



NSPCC

**LOVE LIFE: RESOURCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES** The [NSPCC Love Life films and resources](#) are for young people aged 11 to 25 to help them learn strategies for staying safe as they grow up and gain independence. They help adults start conversations with young people about feelings, privacy and boundaries, friendships, different kinds of love and online safety.



**GET INVOLVED WITH THE INDEPENDENT CARE REVIEW** The Scottish Commission for Learning Disability and the Independent Care Review want to hear the views of people with learning disabilities who have experience of the care system when they were young. Find an easy read version of the information [here](#). You can tell your story by phone, email or by face to face.



**HEALTHY HEARING POP UP SESSIONS** Do you know someone living with a hearing loss? Come along and meet the Health and Social Care Partnership team who can offer advice and information about services in Fife that support hearing loss. The next sessions are on Tuesday 3 September from 10am-12noon at Oakley Library and Tuesday 1 October at Dunfermline Carnegie Library.



**BSL DEMENTIA INFORMATION** The '[Transforming the Deaf Dementia Experience](#)' Project supports Deaf people living with dementia and their carers. The project aims to promote a better understanding of dementia by developing accessible resources, information, and toolkits in British Sign Language (BSL). More information is available on the British Deaf Association [Facebook page](#).



**CHILDLINE BSL** Childline helps children and young people up to the age of 19. If you're a young person who is deaf or hard of hearing you can chat to Childline in British Sign Language using the Sign Video service or [1-2-1 online chat](#). [This video](#) gives details and you can find more [BSL information on the Deaf Zone area](#) of their website.



**BANK SMART: ACCESSIBLE BANKING FOR PEOPLE WITH SIGHT LOSS** Do you have a visual impairment and depend on other people to do your banking for you? Online banking could be the answer to your financial freedom. [SeeScape](#)'s Assistive Technology Trainer Stuart Beveridge can provide assistance and training to let you control your own financial affairs and bank smarter. For more information call: 01592 644979 or email: [info@seescape.org.uk](mailto:info@seescape.org.uk)

**RNIB**

See differently

**HEALTHY EYES PACK** The RNIB have created a new training resource called the [Healthy Eyes Training Pack](#) to support people with learning disabilities to access eye care services. It contains film clips by the Good Life Group, a drama group who have learning disabilities and complex needs. Visit the [RNIB webpage](#) for further details and links to resources to help adults with learning disabilities recognise signs of sight loss.



**ACTION ON ELDER ABUSE CONFERENCE** There's still time to book a place at the Elder Abuse Scotland conference in Glasgow on 4 September. Find details [here](#).



**LINK LIVING SOCIAL CAFÉ** Link Living's Social Cafe for people over 60 in Cowdenbeath helps reduce social isolation and loneliness. It's on Thursdays from 12.15-2.15pm at the Maxwell Centre, 70 Stenhouse Street. They offer activities for a £1 donation per session plus cake, coffee and a friendly atmosphere. For more information or if you need volunteer transport, contact Sylwia Nadolny on 07921 040 757 or email: [sylwia.nadolny@linkliving.org.uk](mailto:sylwia.nadolny@linkliving.org.uk).



**ADULT SAFEGUARDING SURVEY** [Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning \(DRILL\)](#) are working with Queen's University Belfast on a project to look at the different approaches taken by people with learning disabilities and their organisations, to influence adult safeguarding policies and procedures. [The online survey](#) takes around 20 minutes to complete and responses are confidential.



**SHUSH LISTENING TIPS** The Samaritans have created [SHUSH listening tips](#) on how to help someone you're worried about open up about their feelings. Watch the video [here](#). Read more about [what to do if someone you know is suicidal](#). Samaritans have commissioned [The Quest Study](#) to research how bystanders react when they come into contact with people who are in distress or suicidal. They are keen to hear from people who have experienced emotional distress and those who have stepped in to help or wanted to but did not know what to do. To share your views complete the [anonymous online survey](#). Samaritans are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call 116 123 for free, or [contact them by a different method](#).



**MONEY TALKS** [The Money Talk Team](#), previous called the Financial Health Check, offers one-stop, free, personalised advice on dealing with debt and ways to reduce household bills. The helpline is 0800 085 7145 or contact [Citizens Advice and Rights Fife](#).

### **Continued..... A message from the Independent Chair of the ASPC, Alan Small:**

“an Adult Protection Committee with the objective of:

- keeping under review the procedures and practices which relate to the safeguarding of adults at risk.
- to give information or advice, or make proposals, which relate to the safeguarding of adults at risk
- to make, or assist in or encourage the making of, arrangements for improving the skills and knowledge of those who have responsibilities relating to the safeguarding of adults at risk. present in the council's area,

The Act names a number of public bodies who must cooperate with the council when they know or believe an adult is at risk of harm these are the Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, the Health Board and the Police. These organisations are named in the Act we rely on the cooperation of many other services and organisations to keep people safe. In particular we work closely with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, People First, Trading Standards, Fife Carers Forum and Action Against Elder Abuse. It is important that the general public are vigilant and make services aware of any adult they think might be at risk of harm - encourage people who have seen something to say something!

It is worth mentioning that the Scottish Government are at present carrying out a review of the legislation and will be consulting with committees and others during this process.

The Act covers the role and position of the committee chair or to use its language the ‘Convener’. It is clear that the chair must be independent and cannot be a member or an officer of the council. In fact the legislation guidance goes further, suggesting it is best if the convener is independent of organisations represented on the committee. This is to ensure that the convener is “seen to be independent in thought and action”.

As a committee there is an onus on us to provide assurance to ourselves, Chief Officers and the public that our processes and procedures are contributing to keeping adults at risk of harm safe. We do so through the work of a number of sub groups who focus on specific areas of continuous improvement and report to the committee. We have four established 'working groups' with the flexibility to establish other short life groups as and when required. The working groups are:

- Case Review Working Group
- Self-Evaluation and Improvement Working Group
- Learning and Development Working Group
- Financial Harm Working Group

In addition there is a Missing Person's and Trafficking Working Group which reports to the committee and other public protection groups.

Through the work of the members of groups and the committee we are continually striving to improve. Our aims and objectives are carefully thought and managed through our ASPC Improvement Plan which is refreshed every two years and sets realistic but ambitious performance targets.

I hope that this short walk through the make up and function of the Committee has proved useful and thank everyone who is a member of the committee or who in some way contributes to keeping adults at risk of harm safe."

## Alternative Formats

Information about Fife Council can be made available in large print, braille, audio CD/tape and Gaelic on request by calling **03451 55 55 00**



**British Sign Language**  
please text (SMS) 07781 480 185



**BT Text Direct:**  
18001 01592 55 11 91

## Language lines

Arabic	خط هاتف اللغة العربية: 03451 55 55 77
Bengali	বাংলায় আলাপ করার জন্য টেলিফোন লাইন: 03451 55 55 99
Cantonese	中文語言熱線電話: 03451 55 55 88
Polish	Polskojęzyczna linia telefoniczna: 03451 55 55 44
Urdu	اُردو زبان کے لیے ٹیلیفون نمبر 03451 55 55 66