WHAT'S NEW IN ADULT SUPPORT & PROTECTION? - FEBRUARY 2019

ADULT PROTECTION DAY  Fife Adult Support and Protection Committee raised awareness of Adult Protection Day on 20th February with initiatives across the week including:

- A local press release
- Social media information on Fife Council Facebook and Twitter featuring good news stories of how adult protection intervention has been positive. These are included at the end of this newsletter.
- Staff information on how to report harm, training opportunities, self-neglect resources, news on the missing persons working group, and how you can get involved in influencing the adult protection agenda.
- Adult Protection information on banners/posters/plasma screens in Fife.
- NHS Fife Dementia Champions event focussed on Adult Support and Protection
- Police Officers are speaking to community groups in Kelty and Glenrothes around Adult Protection Day. All Adult Protection information is available at: www.fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection

LOOKING FOR ADULT PROTECTION TRAINING?  For details see our Training Flyer for Fife Council/NHS staff, or Training Flyer for agencies external to Fife Council/NHS, or click below for further information. Fife Council employees should apply through CLMS. For all other applicants, use the ASPC Online Training Application Form.

DOES YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ADULT PROTECTION?  If you are looking for a speaker for your group, or your group members would benefit from an informal talk/chat about adult protection please call our Engagement & Participation Coordinator on 03451 55 55 55 ext 442134.

FGM  FGM is a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls, and should be dealt with using existing child and adult protection procedures. The latest guide for practitioners, from Fife Violence Against Women Partnership, raises awareness and offers support where FGM is/maybe an issue, and can be found here.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE  A free NHS Health Scotland one day conference on ‘Gender-based Violence, Relationships and Learning Disability’ will be held on 19 March in Glasgow. It will look relationships and sexual and reproductive rights in the context of gender-based violence. Book a place at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gender-based-violence-relationships-and-learning-disability-tickets-56643343766

HATE CRIME  Police Scotland have launched a campaign to tackle hate crime, directed at workers in the night-time economy, such as taxi services, convenience stores and fast food outlets. People are encouraged to report by calling 101 or through a Third Party Reporting Centre if they do not wish to contact Police directly. Watch the ‘Your hate is not welcome here’ video from the Scottish Government One Scotland website and follow #DontTolerateHate and #HateCrime on Twitter. The ASPC easy read resource Disability Hate Crime is adapted from information by Inclusion Scotland and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission.
INTERNET SAFETY

Safer Internet Day was on 5 February so in this newsletter edition we’re highlighting the Adult Support and Protection Committee (ASPC) resources plus useful information from other agencies:

STAY SAFE ONLINE  Fife ASPC have two easy read internet safety resources: ‘Scams and Shopping’ and ‘Security and Sharing’ which give useful advice on staying safe online if you’re not confident about using the internet.

STOP IT NOW! SCOTLAND RESOURCES: The ASPC also worked in partnership with Stop It Now! Scotland to produce two easy read resources: ‘What am I looking at online?’ gives advice to adults at risk of internet offending as a consequence of accessing and distributing child abuse imagery, when their understanding of the implications of their actions is limited or absent due to a learning disability or problem with cognition. ‘I’ve made a new friend online. But I’m worried. What do I do?’ gives advice about grooming, sexting, sharing images and information, and how to get support and help if this is happening to you. Request paper copies from: shona.mcewan@fife.gov.uk or call 03451 55 55 55 ext 442134. Both these resources were promoted as examples of good practice at the recent SCVO event ‘Wellbeing and the web: supporting vulnerable people online.’

VULNERABILITY IN A DIGITAL WORLD  The report ‘Vulnerable children in a digital world’ details how children and young people in care, or have special educational needs, mental health issues, physical or communication difficulties are growing up without the right information in formats that make sense, and are more at risk of online harm. The UK Safer Internet Centre site features online safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe online. The ‘Understanding consent in a digital world’ report gives details of how young people understand and practice consent online and how integral sharing and viewing online content is to young people’s lives.

STAY MOBILE, STAY CONNECTED  Older people from Paisley’s ROAR social enterprise have made four stop motion animations to share the message that if older adults stay mobile and stay connected, they can continue to live life to the full, learn new skills, stay well and prevent future ill-health. The animations are: Hugs are better than drugs. Prevention is cheaper than cure. Don’t let your world shrink down to a chair, and Don’t let your family wrap you in cotton wool.

REPORTING ONLINE HARMFUL CONTENT  A new website from the UK Safer Internet Centre at: www.reportharmfulcontent.online lets people find out about, and report harmful online content. The service provides links to the correct reporting facilities and gives advice on online bullying, harassment, threats, impersonation, unwanted sexual advances, violent content, suicide, self-harm and pornographic content.

MISSING PERSONS  The charities ‘Missing People’ and ‘Barnardo’s’ are developing materials to educate children and young people about the dangers of going missing and encourages them to access support. The project, in consultation with children and young people and Education Scotland supports the goals of Scotland’s National Missing Persons Framework. The resources are expected to be launched in August this year.

A working group has been established to implement the National Missing Person’s Framework in Fife. The aim is to reduce the number of people reported missing each year and ensure their safe return. The group has representatives from Police Scotland, NHS Fife, Fife Council, Education, private care establishments and the voluntary sector.
**FINANCIAL HARM**

**ACTION FRAUD**  Find the latest updates on frauds and scams on the Action Fraud website including a fake tax scam warning for university students, and fake Action Fraud sites. The official site is: www.actionfraud.police.uk. Report fraud using its online reporting tool or by calling 0300 123 2040.

**COLD-CALLERS**  If you receive a cold-call about your pension, this is now illegal. Try to get extra info from the caller, such as the name of the company they’re representing, but don’t give them any of your personal information. You can then report it to the Information Commissioner’s Office online, or by calling 0303 123 1113.

The MoneySavingExpert Stop Cold Callers guide has more help on blocking all types of unwanted and fraudulent calls and mail. Find how to spot a social media scam in the Which? Consumer rights web info. Police Scotland advice on identity theft, fraud and scams is available here and their Victims of Fraud leaflet can be accessed here.

**SCAM MARSHALS**  If you have been targeted by a scam and now want to share your experience, helping others to report and recognise scams and sending any scam mail that they receive to the National Trading Standards Scams Team, you can become a Scam Marshal. Find out more here.

**UNDERSTANDING SUICIDE**  A free online course has been developed to allow healthcare professionals and those working with at-risk individuals, to gain a better understanding of suicide and ways to prevent it. The University of Glasgow-developed course called ‘Understanding Suicide and Suicide Prevention Strategies in a Global Context’ – details the factors linked to suicide and explores suicide prevention strategies.

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS AT RISK OF HARM OR IS BEING NEGLECTED, CALL THE ADULT PROTECTION PHONE LINE ON 01383 602200.** Social Work Contact Centre email: sw.contactctr@fife.gov.uk  People with a hearing loss – SMS 07781 480 185

All Adult Protection information is online at: www.fifedirect.org.uk/adultprotection.
**ADULT PROTECTION DAY STORIES**

**Here’s Phillip’s story:** It’s not easy when it’s your own family. It’s embarrassing. Some weeks I didn’t have enough money to pay the rent. So I plucked up the courage and called the number. I needn’t have worried because they put me in touch with a really nice person. She came round and we had a really good heart to heart. Next thing I know she’s arranged for some special counselling to help with my daughter’s money worries and what have you. What a relief. **If you or someone you know is at risk of harm call the Adult Protection Phone Line on 01383 602200. It’s easy to do, and you can call confidentially.**

**Gordon’s story:** Enough, I thought. This can’t go on. So I called the number. I was nervous, but they really listened. And listened. I could trust them. Got loads off my chest. Years’ worth. They helped me work things out. Gave me some confidence. They said it wasn’t my fault, and I shouldn’t doubt myself. Made me feel that I matter. I’m getting stronger and a lot happier. It’s taken a while and a lot of meetings but I’ve realised that what was happening was wrong. I just put up with it because I didn’t want to make her angry. But now I’m safe. And away from her.

**Elsie’s story:** Turns out the neighbours were all worried about me but knew that I was proud and wouldn’t want them to interfere. They’d seen the van and the guy coming to my door a lot but he never seemed to fix the roof. Mary across the road called the Police for me cos she thought I was being ripped off. I’m glad she did that. The Police didn’t just deal with the crime, they got me help too. I’m not as able as I used to be.

**Kevin’s story:** Kevin used to be cheery and proud of his home. He got in with a new crowd and they were always there. Sometimes Kevin wasn’t keen to let me in for his support. I was worried they were taking advantage of him. He seemed to always be skint. I talked to my Manager and we called the number. Now Kevin’s getting extra help and he’s more like his old self.

**Jim’s story:** I saw a programme on tv about hoarding. I thought “that sounds like Jim”, so I gave the adult protection number a call and I’m glad I did. Now they’re helping Jim make his home safe and over the weeks working with him to sort his stuff. When we meet up Jim seems more relaxed. He said it’s tricky getting rid of stuff but he’s more organised now.

**Celia’s story:** The nurse said she needed to call the number. I didn’t want her to. I didn’t want anyone to know. I thought it’d make things worse. I don’t like admitting things are wrong. I was really scared once she’d done it, but she kept in touch with me and we talked about how my worst fears didn’t come true. It was actually ok. I didn’t have to face the guy or anything. I didn’t want it reported but she was right. If anything like that happens again I know that they’ll listen to me and we’ll work it out together.

**Bob’s story:** I was worried about telling someone. I thought it’d make things worse and I’d get into trouble. But it didn’t. It really helped. I couldn’t have kept going like I was. It’s hard to admit you need help or you’re not coping. I was asked if I wanted an advocate. They explained it’s someone who can help you to say what you want. You need someone who’s just on your side. They supported me at meetings so I could say how I felt. And things are better now.