

To: Council

On: 30 September 2021

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group – Annual Report 2020/21

1. Summary

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group (COG) is responsible for leadership, strategic oversight and scrutiny of multi-agency public protection activity and practice in Renfrewshire, including in relation to child protection, adult protection, community safety, the management of offenders and community justice, alcohol and drugs, and gender-based violence.
- 1.2 The group is chaired by the Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council with core representation from the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Police Scotland, and wider membership drawn from other partners agencies and services.
- 1.3 This is the sixth annual report of the Chief Officers Group. It provides an overview of the key areas of work of in relation to public protection during 2020/21, with a particular focus on the partnership working that has taken place during the pandemic to support local people and communities. The report notes for information that an independent review of the Chief Officers Group was completed during 2020, providing formal reassurance that oversight and scrutiny arrangements in Renfrewshire are robust and facilitate effective joint working at a strategic level.
- 1.4 The pandemic and associated restrictions have continued to impact those most vulnerable across Renfrewshire's communities, and there has been an ongoing need for partners to work together very flexibly in order to ensure local people living across communities receive the support they need. The Chief Officers have met with much greater frequency during 2020, regularly scrutinising activity and to consider the local response in relation to protection issues as these have arisen. The annual report

attached at Appendix 1 to this report provides detailed information on the activities which have been undertaken over this period, whilst section 4 of the report highlights the key priorities which partners have identified for collective focus and action during 2021/22.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council:
- (a) Note the content of the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Chief Officers Group was established to provide leadership, governance, direction and oversight to ensure local accountability for all aspects of public protection. Chief officers are responsible for ensuring that their respective agencies, individually and collectively reflect national guidance, which directs local services to work in partnership to achieve public protection measures. The arrangements are comparable to Chief Officer Group arrangements in other local authority areas throughout Scotland.
- 3.2 The key area of activity overseen by the Renfrewshire Chief Officers Group are:
- child protection;
 - adult protection;
 - offender management (MAPPA processes for sexual and violent offenders);
 - community protection;
 - Alcohol and Drug Partnership; and
 - Gender Based Violence Strategy
- 3.3 The Chief Officers Group provides regular reports to the Member Officer Group which is comprised of elected members on a cross party basis, and key officers from the Council and partners. The purpose of the Member Officer Group is to provide senior elected members with the opportunity to formally and regularly discharge their strategic independent scrutiny and assurance role in relation to key activity and significant developments which have implications for public protection matters in Renfrewshire.
- 3.4 This is the sixth annual report of the Chief Officers Group. It provides an overview of the key areas of work in relation to public protection in Renfrewshire over the course of 2020/21, and in doing so highlights the ongoing importance of partnership working.
- 3.5 The annual report is provided against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is now recognised as being the most significant challenge to have faced the international community in modern times. On 23 March 2020, the first national measures were introduced by the Scottish Government which placed restrictions on all non-essential travel, work and social contact out with the home. This had an immediate effect on service provision most of which moved to delivering an emergency response. Since this time, our understanding of COVID-19 has developed and the Scottish Government introduced a framework to guide decision

making and latterly introduce a route map on how Scotland will transitioning out of lockdown.

- 3.6 During these unprecedented times public services continue to be under significant pressure and it is widely acknowledged that many vulnerable individuals will be impacted significantly and for a considerable time by the pandemic and the unintended consequences of actions taken to control it. While the most vulnerable have been disproportionately affected, new vulnerabilities have been created amongst individuals and families as a result of a range of factors such as, loss of employment, school closures and shielding.
- 3.7 During the pandemic, the strength of partnership working within the Chief Officers Group has been evident and our approach has adapted and flexed in order to jointly address and respond to emerging issues. The introduction of special meetings of the Chief Officers Group provided a platform for short notice meetings to be arranged to tackle the most imminent issues and threats.
- 3.8 Despite the challenges of the pandemic, good progress has been made collectively at a local level to drive improvements to joint working and practice across Renfrewshire. A summary of key activities is provided for elected members within the annual report attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

4. Strategic focus for 2021/22

- 4.1 Whilst services are now focusing on recovery, the Chief Officers Group remains very alert to the impact of the pandemic over the medium to long term, and of the demand pressures which the local service and employees are responding to on a daily basis.
- 4.2 Moving forward the Chief Officers Group have identified a number of specific priorities to be progressed during 2021/22 in addition to ongoing activity. These are:
- Collectively monitor the impact of COVID-19 on those most vulnerable across communities, including the impact of demand pressures being experienced by all local partners, and considering opportunities for joint working in relation to any new areas of concern or harm identified.
 - Continue to provide scrutiny, support and oversight of activity in relation to care homes, with a particular focus on the safety and wellbeing of residents and staff;
 - Robustly respond to increasing levels of alcohol and drug related harm in Renfrewshire, providing strategic leadership and support for the local response to the recent findings of Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission.
 - Provide leadership to support the implementation of trauma informed and responsive practice across all services and partners in Renfrewshire;
 - Promote learning and improvements to practice identified through initial and significant case reviews undertaken within Renfrewshire and from other areas;
 - Review cyber crime activity across Renfrewshire, identifying joint action which can be taken to reduce or prevent levels of crime and harm.
 - Support positive mental health and wellbeing with a focus on suicide prevention and people presenting to agencies in distress; and
 - Have oversight of the Care Inspectorate Thematic review of Justice Social Work Throughcare arrangements in Renfrewshire and implement any findings from inspection activity.

- 4.3 The Chief Officers Group will continue to seek to ensure that performance and practice are scrutinised at a strategic level, to identify what works well, to highlight any areas for improvement, and to consider where further opportunities for early intervention and prevention activity would achieve improved outcomes for local people.
- 4.4 The group will also continue to review on an ongoing basis the implementation of relevant policies and legislation which relate to public protection including Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 and the review of Forensic Mental Health the incorporation of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community/Council Planning** – the Community Protection Chief Officers is embedded within the wider approach to community planning in Renfrewshire.
4. **Legal** - none
5. **Property/Assets** - none
6. **Information Technology** - none
7. **Equality and Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health and Safety** - none
9. **Procurement** – none
10. **Risk** – none
11. **Privacy Impact** – none
12. **COSLA Policy Position** – none
13. **Climate Risk** – none

Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group

Annual Report 2020/21

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Renfrewshire Profile
3. Analysis of Current Trends
4. Chief Officers Group
5. Member Officers Group
6. Strategic Partnerships Activities
7. Strategic Focus for 2021/22

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group (COG) is responsible for leadership, strategic oversight and scrutiny in relation to multi agency public protection activity and practice in Renfrewshire. The group oversees the work of seven strategic partnerships which examine performance and ensure the provision of quality services in relation to child protection, adult protection, wider public protection, offender management, community justice, alcohol and drugs, and gender-based violence.
- 1.2 As elsewhere in the country, Renfrewshire continues to face challenges in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing a range of local protection issues, however the Chief Officers Group and the local multi-agency partnerships, continue to recognise, alongside scrutiny and reflection, the value of a proactive focus on awareness raising and preventative approaches to protect people in the community. This has been evident in the work of those groups, agencies and partnerships involved in public protection.
- 1.3 This is the sixth annual report of the Chief Officers Group. It provides an overview of the key areas of work in relation to public protection in Renfrewshire over the course of 2020/21, and in doing so highlights the ongoing importance of partnership working.

Impact of the Pandemic

- 1.4 The annual report is provided against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is now recognised as being the most significant challenge to have faced the international community in modern times. On 23 March 2020, the first national measures were introduced by the Scottish Government which placed restrictions on all non-essential travel, work and social contact out with the home. This had an immediate effect on service provision most of which moved to delivering an emergency response. Since this time, our understanding of COVID-19 has developed and the Scottish Government introduced a framework to guide decision making and latterly introduce a route map on how Scotland will transitioning out of lockdown.
- 1.5 Since the crisis unfolded, many local people, including our most vulnerable citizens, communities and businesses have been impacted, through for example bereavement, loss of income and isolation and loneliness and physical and mental health and wellbeing. Sadly since the beginning of the pandemic until 04 April 2021, 522 Renfrewshire residents died where COVID-19 was confirmed or suspected, of this 172 (33%) of these deaths occurred in a care home setting.
- 1.6 During these unprecedented times public services continue to be under significant pressure and it is widely acknowledged that many vulnerable individuals will be impacted significantly and for a considerable time by the pandemic and the unintended consequences of actions taken to control it. While the most vulnerable have been disproportionately affected, new vulnerabilities have been created amongst individuals and families as a result of a range of factors such as, loss of employment, school closures and shielding.
- 1.7 During the pandemic, the strength of partnership working within the Chief Officers Group has been evident and our approach has adapted and flexed in order to jointly address and respond to emerging issues. The introduction of special meetings of the Chief Officers Group provided a platform for short notice meetings to be arranged to tackle the most imminent issues and threats.

2. Renfrewshire Profile

- 2.1 Covering an area of some 270 square kilometres, the Renfrewshire area hosts major towns such as Paisley, Renfrew and Johnstone, and a number of attractive villages and settlements.
- 2.2 In terms of population, Renfrewshire is the 10th biggest local authority area in Scotland with a population of around 179,390. Over the 15-year period to 2010 the population did decline but has in recent years increased and is projected to increase steadily over the next 10 years. This brings challenges with a projected decline in the population under 16 in the region of 6% over the next 20 years coupled with 25% increase in the number of pension aged people over the same period.
- 2.3 Renfrewshire has lots to offer and many strengths and assets to build on. One of the most critical challenges for partners is addressing the gap that has emerged between different communities in Renfrewshire, with the life chances of some being negatively impacted by poverty, poor health, and unemployment. More than 1 in 5 children in Renfrewshire are growing up in poverty. According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, 12 areas (or datazones) are within the 5% most deprived in Scotland.
- 2.4 Alcohol and drug use are major elements of ill health in Renfrewshire, contributing to the fourth highest rate of drug related deaths in Scotland and the seventh highest rate in Scotland of hospital stays related to alcohol use. Parental neglect and harmful substance use have a significant impact on Renfrewshire's children. Over 600 children in Renfrewshire are looked after by the authority - the sixth highest in population terms in Scotland.
- 2.5 Renfrewshire is a thriving area for business and economic activity, with Glasgow Airport within its boundaries and excellent transport links across the West of Scotland, nationally and internationally. Employment levels in Renfrewshire had returned to levels experienced before the crash of 2008, with key sectors of employment being in the health and care sectors, transportation and manufacturing. Renfrewshire, as with all areas across the country, now faces the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic and is putting in place strategies to address the effect on jobs and investment.

3 Analysis of current trends

Child protection

- 3.1 Child protection work, as a critical function, continued throughout the periods of lockdown and ongoing restrictions. Activities remained stable over the course of 2020, with a slight drop-off in activity during July and August when schools were closed, and a subsequent increase in September.
 - There were 4020 child concern referrals received between 1 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 – 88% of these came from Police Scotland;
 - Domestic abuse was the largest single reason for a referral, with 1757 concern reports over the 13-month period;
 - Other reasons for referral include missing person reports (385 referrals);
 - Mental health issues being experienced by a carer (248 referrals);
 - Youth offending (272 referrals);
 - Alcohol/drug use by a child (148 referrals); and
 - Alcohol/drug use by a carer (138 referrals).

(It should be noted that these are distinct referrals and not the number of children who were the subject of a referral)

- 3.2 There were 462 Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRD) between 1 March 2020 and 31 March 2021, with multiple IRDs being held for some children. Of these, 189 proceeded to a child protection investigation. At the time of writing, there are 79 children on the child protection register and 4 young people in secure care. A total of 8 young people have been placed in secure care since 1 April 2020.

Adult Support and Protection

- 3.3 Between April 2020 and March 2021, 3,483 adult welfare concern and adult protection referrals were received by Renfrewshire. Of these, 1,325 were adult protection concerns and 2,158 were adult welfare concerns. Following initial inquiries, 100 adult protection investigations were conducted, a slight rise from 96 the previous year. 51 of these investigations resulted in an Initial Adult Protection Case Conference.
- 3.4 The table below highlights that this is the largest number of adult welfare concerns and adult protection referrals since 2016/17.

2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
2,578	2,829	2,719	3,106	3,482

- 3.5 The total referral number for 2020/2021 reflects a 12% increase in the referral rate as compared to the 2019/20 financial year, which was a 14% rise on the previous year. The 2020/21 figure is higher than in any previous years which is as a result of three Large Scale Investigations being carried out in care homes across Renfrewshire.
- 3.6 Across the year Police Scotland made 61% of all referrals. There is a long-term trend of a decrease in the ratio of referrals received by Police, though this figure has been stagnant over the past two years. The table below provides an overview of the percentage of referrals that were made by Police Scotland since 2016/17.

2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
77%	70%	66%	61%	61%

- 3.7 This reflects an increase in referrals from other sources (Scottish Fire and Rescue Services; care homes; Housing; HSCP Health and Social Work staff; and GPs) throughout the year, leading to the proportion from Police Scotland remaining stable.

Adults with Incapacity (AWI)

- 3.8 Demand for AWI reports, which require to be completed by a qualified mental health officer (MHO), had risen steadily over recent years (mirroring increases across Scotland), but this year saw a reduction in such requests locally. However, the complexity of cases has increased; the demand of such reports subsequently has an impact on the service. Some such complexity includes cases referred following financial harm risks identified through adult support and protection processes. The local authority may become involved to pursue the removal of a financial proxy and to pursue alternative financial arrangements to safeguard an adult at risk of harm.
- 3.9 In 2019-2020 Renfrewshire received 131 requests for AWI mental health officer reports. In the previous year there were 196 such requests (and 208 in the 2017/2018 year). It is worth noting that 65% of all new orders granted are time-limited, which brings additional work pressure in respect of renewal reports required. Often such requests arrive with less than 4 weeks until the expiry of the existing order, putting pressure on the service.
- 3.10 At the end of the 2019/20 financial year, pandemic response measures included court closures and AWI work 'stalled' for a period. This will likely have an impact on MHO service pressures as courts resume AWI work.

Welfare Guardianships

- 3.11 Orders where the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) is appointed Welfare Guardian rose in recent years, from 79 in March 2015 to 114 in 2019; on 31 March 2020 there were 116 such orders existent in Renfrewshire. Each order requires a qualified social worker to act as the “nominated officer” on behalf of the CSWO for day to day management of the case. In addition, there are in excess of approximately 435 private welfare guardianship orders running throughout Renfrewshire. These require a minimum of one statutory visit by a guardianship supervisor after being granted.

Gender Based Violence

- 3.12 A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a multi-agency victim-focussed meeting where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic abuse between different statutory and voluntary sector agencies such as local Police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates (IDAA’s), probation and other specialists. There was a 7.2% reduction in the number of cases discussed at MARAC in 2020/21 compared to the previous year.

Cases Discussed at MARAC	
March 2019 to March 2020	157
March 2020 to March 2021	146

Renfrewshire Women’s Aid

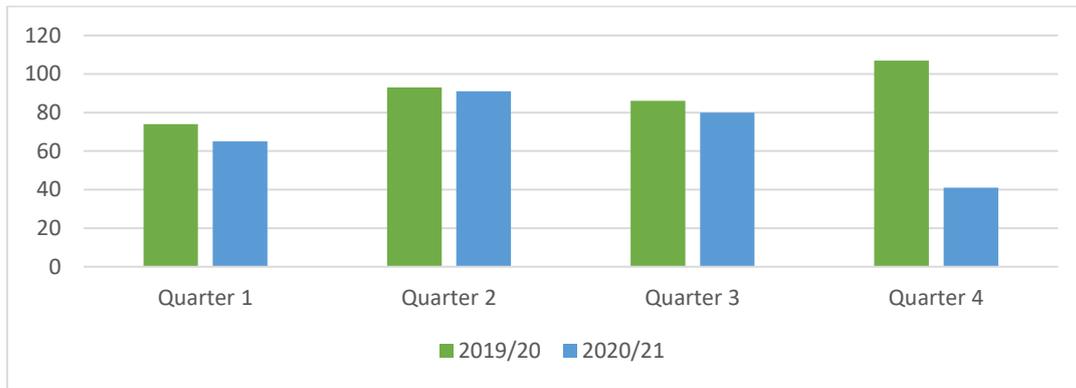
	Q1 19/20	Q1 20/21	Q2 19/20	Q2 20/21
Active cases in service	276	375	270	408
New referrals to service	51	52	68	61
Living in refuge	16 women 17 children / young people	19 women 17 children / young people	18 women 12 children / young people	21 women 16 children / young people

- 3.13 Renfrewshire Women’s Aid suspended in person support and reverted to telephone calls due to Renfrewshire’s Tier 4 status in October 2020. The drop-in service was suspended and in person support appointments offered for crisis support only (e.g. admission to refuge). The service continues to be able to provide crisis and therapeutic support via telephone at point of first contact. Support to women living in refuge is provided by telephone where possible and strict adherence to COVID-19 safe practice guidelines for in person refuge support. Funding was secured to upgrade Wi-Fi in all refuge accommodations and provide devices where required. Support to children and young people in refuge and outreach is delivered via video calls.
- 3.14 The number of domestic abuse incidents reported to Police Scotland reduced by 8% in 2020/21 compared to the previous year.

Period	Number of IVPD’s concern reports raised for Domestic Abuse
1 st April 2019 – 31 st March 2020	2281
1 st April 2020 – 31 st March 2021	2080

Referrals to Women and Children First:

- 3.15 The graph below provides a breakdown of the number of referrals to Women and Children First during 2019/20 and 2020/21.



- 3.16 The reduction in referrals to Women and Children First in 2020/21 quarter four is linked to joint work with partner agencies in relation to appropriate referrals and signposting to other services when domestic abuse is not the current, presenting concern. The direct work usually provided by the Reconnections service in terms of individual work with children and group work with women and children has been impacted upon by restrictions during the pandemic which has restricted the availability of appropriate safe spaces to carry this out.

Serious Organised Crime

- 3.17 Targeting serious and organised crime continues to be a priority for the division. One serious organised crime group (SOCG) which primarily impact on Renfrewshire is currently being managed by the Division. The SOCG is predominantly involved in drug supply. Drug supply detections have increased by 30% on the previous year, to a total of 143.

Missing Persons

- 3.18 Police Scotland reported that there have been 364 missing person incidents in Renfrewshire, compared to 391 in the previous year. 77% of incidents involved people aged under 19 years, and a third of all incidents originating from Young Persons Units. Repeat missing persons continue to be an issue, with the top five individuals accounting for 13% of all missing persons incidents.

Cyber Crime

- 3.19 There continues to be indications of an increasing trend in relation to cybercrime, with recent analysis undertaken within Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division highlighting that recorded cybercrime increased by 65% in the 2020 calendar year (as compared to the previous calendar year). This included an increase in financially motivated cybercrime, cyber-enabled threats and harassment, and also cyber-enabled.

Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour

- 3.20 Between 1 April 2020 and February 2021 there were 242 Group 1 Crimes of Violence – a decrease of 11.4% on the previous year, equating to 31 fewer victims. Almost 58% of Group 1 crimes occurred in private spaces, compared to just under 44% in 2019/20.

1,425 common assaults have been recorded, compared to 1,676 in the previous year (15%). 229 assaults targeted emergency workers (17 fewer than the previous year), with all but 12 crimes targeting police officers. The Royal Alexandra Hospital continues to be the primary location for assaults on emergency workers.

101 serious assaults were recorded (26 fewer), with a detection rate of 81.2%, compared to 74.8% in the previous year. 57 robberies were recorded (16 fewer), with a detection rate of 80.7%, compared to 71.2% in the previous year. 42% of serious assaults, and 64% of robberies, occurred in private dwellings.

Sexual Crime

- 3.21 Recorded sexual crime is now following a decreasing trend, with 65 less crime reports in 2019/20 when compared to the previous year. During the current year 36.2% of sexual offences related to non-recent offences.
- 3.22 The detection rate for sexual crime in 2019/20 was 56.9% compared to the 65.0% recorded the year before. The 4.8% decrease in non-recent sexual reports is the main contributory factor in the overall reduction in sexual crimes such as rape, indecent assaults and lewd and libidinous practices. Renfrewshire's 2019/20 detection rate for rape and sexual offences was above that for the Force during the same period.

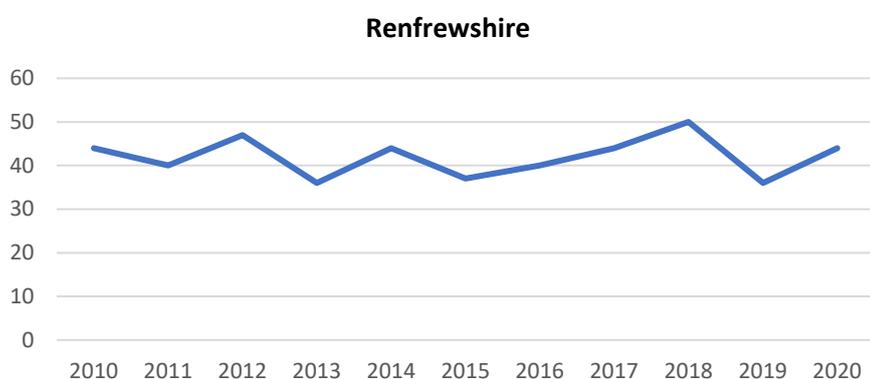
Fire and Rescue

- 3.23 The table below highlights the provisional data provided by Scottish Fire and Rescue in relation to the six areas of key demand reduction for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021.

	Accidental Dwelling Fires	Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties	Unintentional Injury and Harm	Deliberate Fire Setting	Non-Domestic Fire Safety	Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank	2	0	4	7	1	16
Erskine and Inchinnan	2	0	2	12	0	30
Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	3	0	0	17	2	9
Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood, Lochwinnoch	4	0	1	7	1	9
Johnstone South and Elderslie	1	0	1	11	0	13
Paisley East and Central	3	1	2	9	3	19
Paisley Northeast and Ralston	2	0	0	2	0	4
Paisley Northwest	8	0	2	29	7	32
Paisley Southeast	3	0	0	6	0	9
Paisley Southwest	2	0	0	6	0	4
Renfrew North and Braehead	3	0	3	11	1	12
Renfrew South and Gallowhill	0	0	2	6	1	27
Total Incidents	33	1	17	123	16	184
Year on Year Change	● -18%	● -50%	● -11%	◆ 45%	● -36%	◆ 5%
3 Year Average Change	● -14%	● -45%	● -27%	◆ 21%	◆ 10%	● -6%

Alcohol and Drugs

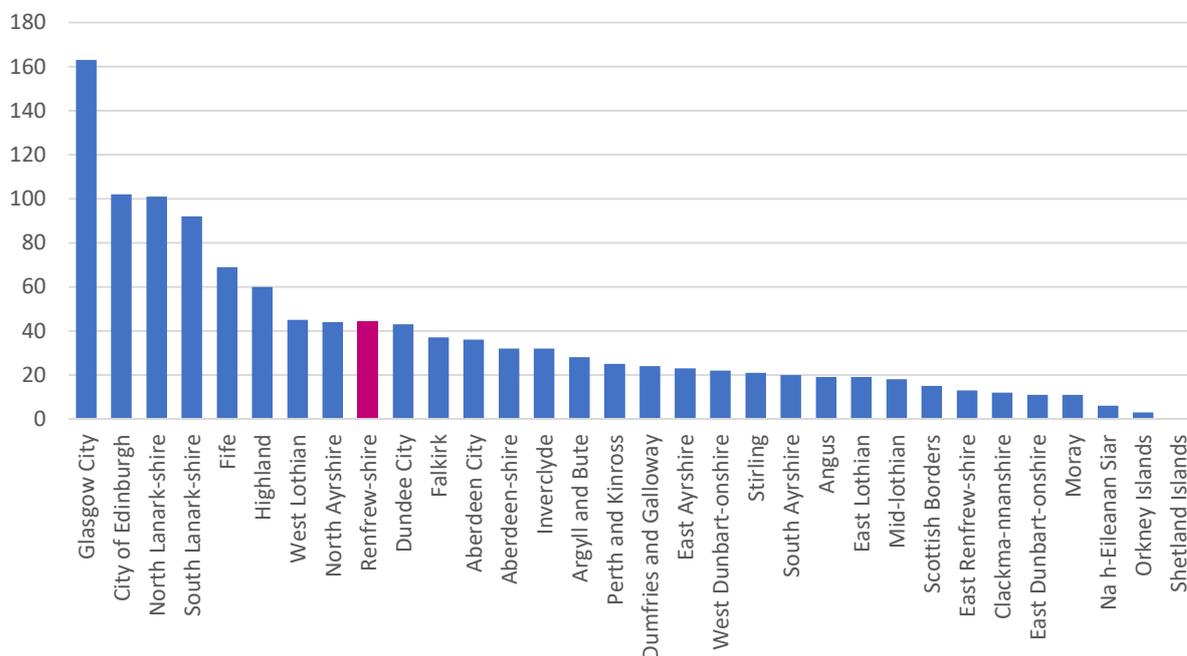
- 3.24 There were 44 alcohol-specific deaths registered in Renfrewshire in 2020. This was an increase of 22% from 36 in 2019. This represents a rate of 23.6 per 100,000 population in Renfrewshire.



2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
44	40	47	36	44	37	40	44	50	36	44

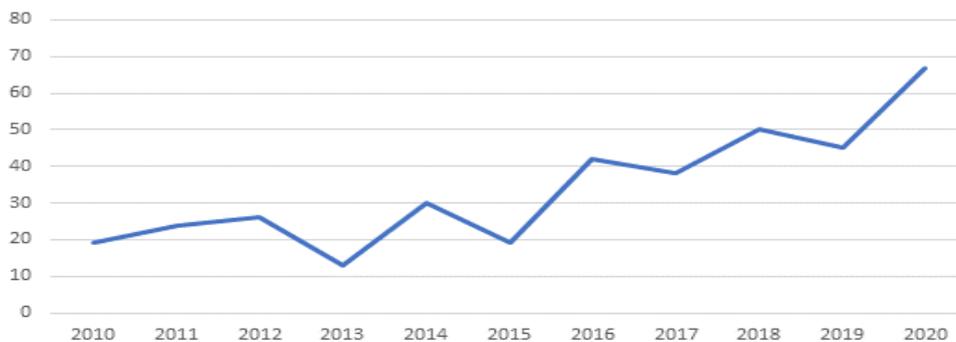
3.25 The highest numbers of alcohol-specific deaths recorded in 2020 were in Glasgow City (163), City of Edinburgh (102), North Lanarkshire (101), South Lanarkshire (92) and Fife (69).

Single year figures for alcohol-specific deaths and age-standardised rate by current Local Authority area, 2020



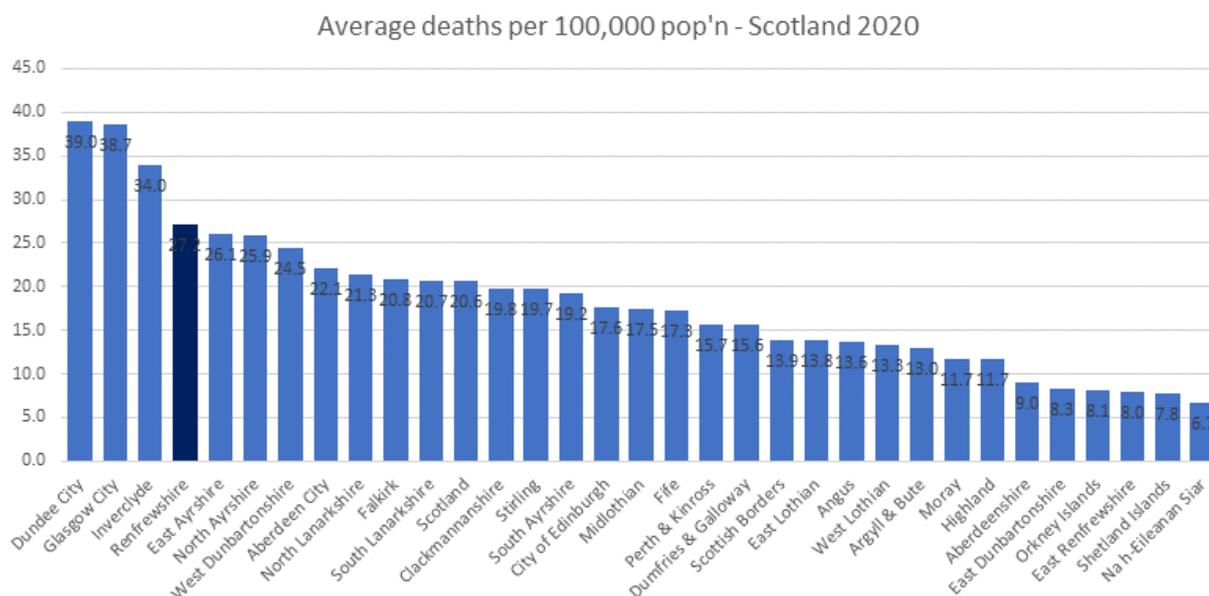
3.26 In Renfrewshire, there were 67 drug-related deaths in 2020 which represents a significant increase of 49% from 45 in 2019 and is the highest in the last decade.

Renfrewshire



2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
19	24	26	13	30	19	42	38	50	45	67

Renfrewshire had the fourth highest rate of deaths per 100,000 population and is above the Scottish average of 20.6.



3.27 Quick access to services is important in engaging individuals in treatment and recovery, enabling them to improve their overall health and wellbeing. In Renfrewshire, services have consistently achieved the referral to treatment waiting times' target of 91.5% since July 2019. Performance as at March 2021 shows that 99.6% of individuals waited no longer than the three week target. Waiting times have been maintained during the pandemic using telephone and Near Me video consultation assessments, with face to face support provided when appropriate.

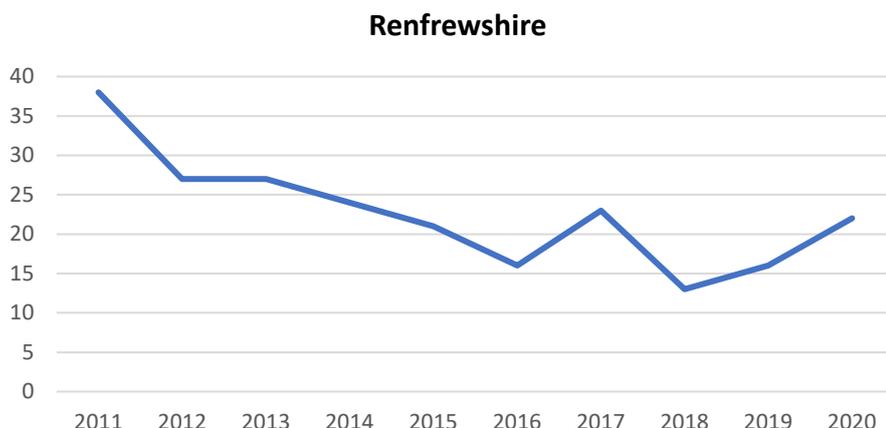
3.28 The rate per 100,000 population of drug related hospital stays (combined general acute and psychiatric hospitals) in Renfrewshire was 153.4 in 2015/16 rising to 180.0 in 2016/17 and showing a decrease in 2017/18 to 156.1. The most recent data is for the period 2018/19 and shows an increase in rate to 219.8. This was higher than the Scottish rate of 195.3 and lower than the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde rate of 251.4. Heroin use was responsible for the majority of drug related general acute hospital stays within Renfrewshire in 2018/19.

Drug Related Hospital Stays in Renfrewshire per 100,000 population

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Renfrewshire	153.4	180.0	156.1	219.8
GGC	197.3	238.1	241.6	251.4
Scotland	144.7	162.4	179.3	195.3

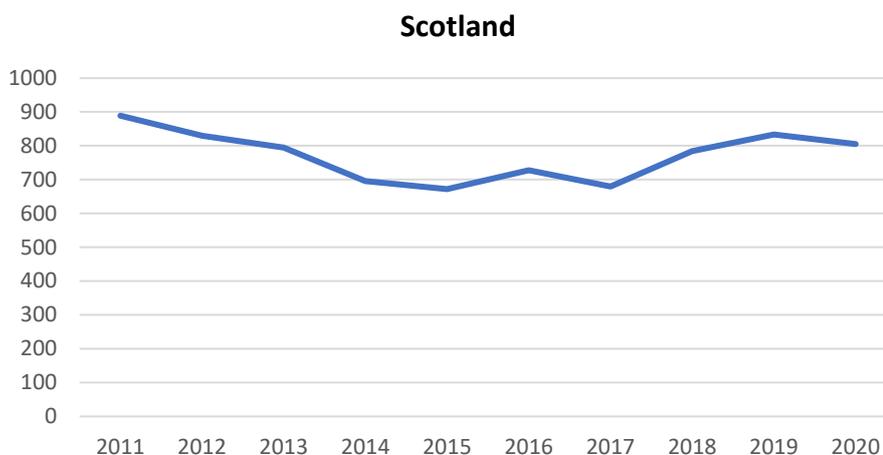
(Source: Information and Statistics Division)

3.29 There were 22 probable suicides registered in Renfrewshire in 2020, up from 16 in 2019. The overall rate for 2016-2020 is 9.9 deaths per 100,000 people - the second lowest of all 32 council areas. The Scotland-wide average is 14.1 per 100,000 people.



2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
38	27	27	24	21	16	23	13	16	22

3.30 There were 805 probable suicides registered in Scotland in 2020. This is a decrease of 28 (3%) since 2019. Suicides decreased between 2011 and 2014 but have generally risen again since then.



2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
889	830	795	696	672	728	680	784	833	805

The rate of suicides in the population had been falling between 2011 and 2015 (from 16.6 down to 12.6 suicide deaths per 100,000 people) but is now at a level similar to 2013 at 14.8 suicide deaths per 100,000 people.

- 4.1 Renfrewshire Chief Officers Group (COG) was established to provide leadership, governance, direction and oversight to ensure local accountability for all aspects of public protection. Chief officers are responsible for ensuring that their respective agencies, individually and collectively reflect national guidance, which directs local services to work in partnership to achieve public protection measures. These arrangements are comparable to chief officer group arrangements in other local authority areas throughout Scotland and have been subject to an independent review.
- 4.2 The key areas that are overseen by the Renfrewshire COG are:
- child protection;
 - adult protection;
 - offender management (MAPPA processes for sexual and violent offenders);
 - community protection;
 - Alcohol and Drug Partnership; and
 - Gender Based Violence Strategy Group.
- 4.3 It is recognised that these areas of protection are often inter-linked and can impact on each other. The COG aims to provide demonstrable consistency and coherence in terms of leadership and direction in all these areas. The COG also combines efforts in individual areas to ensure that decisions taken in one area have a positive impact on public protection and are not counter-productive to any other high risk area of business.
- 4.4 The COG takes an over-view approach to ensure that the needs of vulnerable people at risk are being met and that services are improving outcomes for vulnerable people in both the short and longer term. During the pandemic there has been greater flexibility with the COG, particularly in relation to the enhanced scrutiny arrangements for clinical and care governance of care homes and to consider a number of Large Scale Investigations and Initial Case Reviews etc.
- 4.5 The remit of the COG is to provide strategic leadership and oversight, and to scrutinise the work of the protection business areas on behalf of their respective agencies; to identify successes and areas for improvement, and in doing so learn from experience, monitor trends and examine local and national comparisons and take appropriate action in response to unsatisfactory performance.
- 4.6 The core membership of the Renfrewshire Chief Officers Group comprises of the following:
- Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council or appropriate senior named depute;
 - Chief Executive of NHS or appropriate senior named depute; and
 - Chief Constable Police Scotland or appropriate senior named depute (note in practice this will be the Chief Superintendent Divisional Commander for Renfrewshire).
- 4.7 Those who will be in attendance includes:
- Chief Social Work Officer, Renfrewshire Council or appropriate senior nominee;
 - Chief Officer of the Integration Joint Board or the appropriate senior nominee;
 - Independent Chair of Renfrewshire Child and Adult Protection Committees;
 - Child Protection Committee lead officer
 - Adult Protection Committee lead officer
 - Head of Policy and Commission
 - NSCJA SOG or appropriate senior nominee.
 - Head of Public Protection or Director of Communities and Housing
 - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
 - Chair of the Gender Based Violence Strategy Group or appropriate senior nominee; and
 - Chair of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership or senior nominee.

5. Member Officer Group

5.1 The purpose of the Member Officer Group is to provide senior elected members with the opportunity to formally and regularly discharge their strategic independent scrutiny and assurance role in relation to key activity and significant developments which have implications for public protection matters in Renfrewshire as they relate to:

- Adult Protection;
- Child Protection;
- MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements); and
- Wider Community Safety and Public Protection matters including the Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Gender Based Violence Strategy Group.

5.2 The group is comprised of elected members on a cross party basis and key officers of the council as follows.

- Three senior members of the administration
- Two members of the main opposition group
- One other opposition member
- Director of Children's Services
- Chief Social Work Officer
- Director of Communities and Housing
- Chief Officer, Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership
- Health and Social Care Partnership (operational head of service)
- Head of Child Care and Criminal Justice
- Head of Communities and Public Protection
- Child Protection Lead Officer
- Adult Support and Protection Officer
- Head of Policy and Commissioning, Chief Executive's Service
- Service Planning and Policy Development Manager, Chief Executive's Service

5.3 Also in attendance as required:

- Independent Chair of the Child Protection and Adult Protection Committees
- Divisional Commander, Police Scotland or appropriate senior nominee

5.4 The group will also invite the participation of other key individuals or agencies involved in the areas of concern of the Member Officer Group as required.

6. Strategic Partnership Activities

6.1 Child Protection

6.1.1 RCPC activity during Pandemic

The initial focus of RCPC activity at the beginning of the pandemic was to support services. Regular core meetings took place out with the scheduled committee cycle to establish the impact of the pandemic on service delivery had been. The information gathered was regular updated to the Chief Officers Group / Scottish Government, identifying the main areas of risk. However, as the situation continued, a decision was taken to return to 'business as usual' therefore sub groups and committees resumed on a virtual platform. RCPC interaction with national groups such as CPC Scotland and the West of Scotland Consortium has also continued in this way.

This new mode of working has been advantageous – in the sense that meetings are often better attended in the virtual world as travelling time and the availability of suitable meeting rooms is no longer a factor. However, it is also acknowledged that it is considerably more

challenging to hold some meetings virtually – for example, when dealing with sensitive issues such as case reviews.

Most recently, a virtual development session was held for RCPC members to help shape the RCPC Business Plan. This will focus on priorities such as: improving dialogue with stakeholders, children and families; making better use of data to shape planning; updating our policies and procedures in line with revised national guidance; and mitigating the effects of the pandemic.

6.1.2 Initial and Significant Case Reviews

During 2019-2020, RCPC received notification for 9 Initial Case Reviews (ICRs). This unprecedented number follows a period of several years where no reviews were required. The cases were drawn from a range of ages and circumstances and 2 have gone on to become Significant Case Reviews (SCRs).

There have been a number of lessons arising from both the individual cases and also in how ICRs are taken forward in Renfrewshire. Conducting ICRs during the pandemic has posed a significant challenge, as some agencies were unable to readily access files whilst working from home when these were held in paper form only. Furthermore, the unusually high volume of ICRs meant that the same group of people were often considering more than one case at the same time. These factors coupled with the challenges of people taking part in sensitive meetings remotely from home should not be underestimated. Additionally, obtaining post-mortem results is often a lengthy process and often the ICR or SCR is underway before the cause of death is known (where applicable).

The Scottish Government launched a consultation regarding the adoption of a new tiered approach to ICRs and SCRs, based upon the Child Practice Review model used in Wales. RCPC members responded positively to the proposals which would lead to guidance that reflects the learning culture we are trying to achieve, noting that a review is not about the apportionment of blame, but to support professional and organisational learning and to promote improvement. Once published, the new Learning Review Model will help inform the development of a revised local procedure for dealing with future cases. In the meantime, work is underway locally to streamline the length of taken to complete investigations.

6.1.3 Revised Child Protection Guidance

The consultation for the revised Child Protection Guidance opened on 21 October 2020 with the deadline being extended to 31 January 2021. A robust response was submitted by RCPC, which combined responses from all of the single agencies represented at committee. The revised guidance is expected to be published in the summer of 2021. This will have significant implications in terms of refreshing local procedures and updating and training staff accordingly. It will be a key focus of RCPC during the coming months.

6.1.4 Training

Training has been delivered online during the pandemic and its likely this will be the default position for several months to come. Core courses continue to be delivered virtually, supported by ilearn modules. A learning needs analysis was created and completed between November and December 2020, with a view to obtaining a measure of how the partnership workforce view the current provision of training, learning and development and future needs. 237 staff completed the survey. Key points included:

- people seemed confident in their own roles;
- 29% of respondents attended RCPC biennial conference;
- poor take up / awareness of job shadowing opportunities;

- key areas of Child Protection awareness, C.A.P.A.D.U, C.S.E and neglect continue to be very relevant to practice; and
- staff are less confident in identifying specific areas of concern such as forced marriage, FGM, honour based violence & trafficking.

Planning is now underway for the biennial RCPC Conference in the spring of 2022. It is likely to be an on-line event given ongoing restrictions on large gatherings.

6.1.5 Statistical Information

Child protection work, as a critical function, continued throughout the periods of lockdown and restriction. Activity levels remained broadly static, with a slight drop-off in activity during July and August when schools were closed, and a subsequent increase in September.

6.2 Trauma informed and responsive Renfrewshire

6.2.1 The COG recognises that trauma can affect any one of us at any time, but the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly increased and exacerbated both the risk and the impact of trauma, particularly for people already affected by inequalities and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

6.2.2 Renfrewshire Council has appointed a Trauma Informed Champion and work is underway with the Improvement Service to support Renfrewshire to become trauma informed and responsive.

6.3 Adult Support and Protection (ASP)

6.3.1 Impact of COVID

In our response to the potential impact of COVID-19 on adults at risk of harm in Renfrewshire, local ASP arrangements during the pandemic included:

- The development of local operational ASP guidance in light of COVID-19. This supplemented existent local Inter-agency ASP Guidance and Procedures and complemented national guidance from Scottish Government for Chief Officer Groups and Adult Protection Committees. There was an emphasis on continued commitment to meeting statutory responsibilities, while reflecting the need for flexibility in some circumstances, including where face-to-face interviews or meetings could not occur;
- Continuing to meet ASP statutory requirements to respond to referrals for adults at risk of harm by undertaking Section 4 inquiries;
- Fortnightly – then monthly – Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee (RAPC) subgroup meetings were commenced in April 2020 and continued until August 2020 to ensure sufficient strategic and operational oversight of ASP activity across Renfrewshire. These subgroup meetings were arranged with key members of RAPC or delegated representatives in attendance. This group had greater operational remit than is typical of RAPC; it included inter-agency discussion with key partners to identify areas of risk from their service's perspective, in addition to mitigating factors; and
- The RAPC Lead Officer contributed to the HSCP's COVID Mobilisation Plan to ensure that statutory ASP protection duties continued

6.3.2 Due to the resource demands associated with the response to COVID-19 throughout 2020, delivering staff training became a challenge. However, webinars and e-learning were developed to cover some topics, particularly to ensure relevant training was available for those frontline practitioners undertaking ASP activity.

6.3.3 The repercussions of the virus on all levels continue to be felt and are acutely aware of the changes, locally and nationally, to: how we identify and respond to adults at risk of harm;

how we train a confident and competent workforce; how we raise awareness of adult protection across our communities; and how we collaborate across partners. The Adult Protection Committee's aims for the coming year, with the help of its partners, include recognition of new ways of working, supplemented by lessons learned and good practice evidence gathered during the pandemic.

Adults with Incapacity (AWI)

- 6.3.4 In 2020-2021 Renfrewshire received 176 requests for AWI mental health officer reports. It is worth noting that 65% of all new orders granted are time-limited, which brings additional work pressure in respect of renewal reports required. Often such requests arrive with less than 4 weeks until the expiry of the existing order, putting pressure on the service.
- 6.3.5 During the 2020/21 financial year, pandemic response measures included court closures and AWI work was paused' for a period. The impact of this was felt on MHO services when courts resumed AWI work, with increased pressure on the service.

Welfare Guardianships

- 6.3.6 Orders where the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) is appointed Welfare Guardian rose in recent years, from 79 in March 2015 to 116 in 2020; on 31 March 2021 there were 108 such orders existent in Renfrewshire. Each order requires a qualified social worker to act as the "nominated officer" on behalf of the CSWO for day to day management of the case. In addition, there are in excess of approximately 435 private welfare guardianship orders running throughout Renfrewshire. These require a minimum of one statutory visit by a guardianship supervisor after being granted.

Large Scale Investigations

- 6.3.7 Three Large-Scale Investigation (LSI) were initiated in 2020. These LSIs involved two independent sector care homes for older people and an independent sector home for adults with learning disabilities. Contributions to these LSIs during the reporting period came from colleagues across the health service; Police Scotland; the Care Inspectorate; Scottish Fire and Rescue Services; commissioning staff; social work services and the third sector, leading to holistic assessment of risks and strengths within these care settings. The coordinated response to shared concerns enhanced the efficiency and efficacy of safeguarding measures undertaken.

Adult Protection National Significant Case Review (SCR) Framework

- 6.3.8 The Scottish Government formally launched the Adult Protection National Significant Case Review (SCR) Framework on 5th November 2019. The purpose of the framework is to provide a consistent approach to conducting Adult Protection Significant Case Reviews and to improve the dissemination and application of learning both locally and nationally. Renfrewshire's own SCR Guidance and Procedures update, building on the national framework, was due in 2020; this work was postponed due to the pandemic. The Renfrewshire guidance was completed in early 2021 and is now out for consultation amongst stakeholders. Local guidance includes recognition of governance arrangements for significant case reviews within Renfrewshire, including the role of Chief Officers.

Financial Harm

- 6.3.9 In order to provide the most thorough and effective response to new and emerging financial harm concerns, including bogus callers, rogue traders and Covid-related scams, steps have been taken to transfer The Renfrewshire Financial Harm Subgroup's chairing and governance arrangements to the Renfrewshire Public Protection Steering Group. This decision reflects the far-reaching scope of financial harm across the partnership area including, but not limited to, financial harm that meets the criteria for intervention under Adult Support and Protection legislation. A representative from RAPC will continue to contribute to the subgroup to ensure that adult protection-related concerns remain on the

financial harm agenda. The group will meet monthly and assume greater operational and strategic oversight of financial harm activity across the partnership area to promote collaboration and minimise duplication of efforts. The group is currently amending its Terms of Reference to take account of these changes and will continue to progress with its ambitious financial harm strategy and action plan for Renfrewshire.

ASP Continuous Improvement

- 6.3.10 The Continuous Improvement Subcommittee was established, which ensures fulfilment of RAPC's functions relating to quality assurance and self-evaluation activity. The subcommittee prompts single and inter-agency evaluation of adult protection activity via monthly small-scale audits based on themes arising through quarterly ASP data; topics raised by frontline staff and managers; and any concerns raised by senior managers across the partnership that warrant additional scrutiny. Audit themes have also arisen based on feedback provided by the Care Inspectorate following the ASP Joint Inspection 2020. This subcommittee will also oversee a biennial programme of larger-scale, multi-agency self-evaluation activity; the next larger-scale multi-agency self-evaluation will be undertaken in 2021.

Adults at risk of going missing

- 6.3.11 Throughout 2020/21, Renfrewshire participated in the National Missing Persons Framework Implementation Project, receiving support from Missing People that was tailored to our current processes and specific local needs. The aim was to develop good practice relating to people at risk of going missing. The project involved collaboration of several partners, including the Renfrewshire HSCP; Renfrewshire Communities, Housing and Planning (Public Protection); Renfrewshire Children's Services; the Community Safety Partnership; and K-Division of Police Scotland.
- 6.3.12 Following receipt of this direct support from Missing People, we have developed draft Renfrewshire Missing Persons Guidance and Procedures, which is inclusive of the response for adults who have experienced a missing episode. The development of this guidance demonstrates our commitment to embedding best practice around Return Discussions, aligned with the National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland. As soon as the procedures are finalised (anticipated in 2021), relevant frontline professionals working in this field will receive training sessions developed by Missing People. Missing People has also shared with us their Good Practice Toolkit for professionals to use day-to-day, and we will continue to build awareness of support services available from Missing People, which will allow our staff and partners to focus resources on the operational response to missing persons.

Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection

- 6.3.13 In January 2020, Renfrewshire was subject to the Joint ASP Inspection, which was undertaken by The Care Inspectorate, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS). The inspection is part of a national programme of scrutiny and assurance activity as requested by Scottish Ministers.
- 6.3.14 The focus of the joint inspection was to provide:
- Independent scrutiny and assurance of how partnerships ensure adults at risk of harm are kept safe, protected, and supported
 - Assurance to Scottish Ministers about how effectively Partnerships have implemented the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007
 - An opportunity to identify good practice and support improvement more broadly across Scotland.
- 6.3.15 Due to COVID-19, the onsite phase of the inspection was paused and as a result not all inspection activities were completed. However, enough evidence was gathered by the Inspection Team to enable the Care Inspectorate to provide feedback on their findings.

The feedback highlighted key strengths and areas for improvement which have formed the basis of an Improvement Plan, this was subsequently amalgamated into an enhanced, overarching ASP Improvement Plan which is monitored and reviewed by the Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee. The Improvement Plan reflects the collaborative approach being taken to improving outcomes for adults at risk of harm across the partnership.

6.4 Oversight of Care Homes and Care at Home Services

- 6.4.1 COVID-19 has had a significant impact on care homes and their residents. On 17 May 2020, the Scottish Government published national statutory COVID-19 guidance to provide granular scrutiny, support and oversight of care home and care at home services. The guidance required that from 18 May 2020, clinical and care professionals at NHS boards and local authorities will have a leading role in the oversight for care homes in their area.
- 6.4.2 This resulted in the following governance arrangements being introduced to strengthen clinical and care oversight of care homes across Renfrewshire:
- Daily Huddle (more recently moved to twice weekly): the huddle is 'responsible and accountable' for providing oversight, analysis and response to emerging issues; infection prevention and control; and for the clinical and care support provided to service users including testing and vaccinations.
 - Renfrewshire Clinical and Care Oversight Group weekly multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meeting: the group is responsible for analysing all aspects of COVID-19, infection control, testing, training and support; classifying each care home using the Scottish Government agreed rating and completing the local return to the Director of Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. There is also a requirement for the MDT to escalate issues via the Chief Officer / Director Nursing to the Chief Executives of the Council and NHS respectively.
 - Fortnightly Care Home Peer Support Meeting (initially held weekly): this meeting provides a forum for clinical and care advice and support to all registered homes in Renfrewshire. This meeting is well attended by all care homes and has been so successful that it is intended this meeting is continued beyond the pandemic.
- 6.4.3 Local strategic oversight of these arrangements continues to be provided by the COG who regular monitored performance, scrutinised reports and established special meetings of the grouped as and when required.
- 6.4.4 In addition, a Greater Glasgow and Clyde Care Home Assurance and Governance Group has been established and meets weekly to provide strategic oversight of support, testing, vaccination; infection control, staffing and care standards for care homes within the wider Health Board area. The group is led by the Directors of Nursing and Public Health and includes representation from the Care Inspectorate, Scottish Care, CSWO, Clinical Directors and HSCP commissioning managers and service managers.

6.5 Gender Based Violence

- 6.5.1 Equally Safe, is Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls, the aim of the strategy is to ensure partnership working across the public, private and third sector in order to create a 'strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and protected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse – and the attitudes which perpetuate them.'
- 6.5.2 The implementation of Equally Safe is the responsibility of local Violence Against Women Partnerships. In Renfrewshire the local multi-agency Gender Based Violence (GBV) Strategy Group, jointly chaired by the Head of Child Care and Criminal Justice, Renfrewshire Council (Chief Social Work Officer) and the Head of Health and Social Care,

Renfrewshire HSCP. An annual assessment against the Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework is submitted to the Scottish Government.

- 6.5.3 Significant progress against the strategic action plan and some key achievements included: the provision of robust MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference) and MATAC (multi-agency tasking and co-ordination); implementation of sensitive routine enquiry (SRE) and referral to MARAC in the HSCP Mental Health, Alcohol and Drugs Recovery Service and Children's Services.
- 6.5.4 In communities across Scotland, women, children and young people experiencing gender-based violence are at significant increased risk of harm during the COVID-19 pandemic. International evidence reviews highlight that increased levels of domestic abuse during lockdown phases of the pandemic have been reported in China, Italy, Spain, France and Australia, with evidence from other epidemics and disasters suggesting that the risk of harm from all forms of gender based violence will continue to increase post-disaster. This includes domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), trafficking, forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).
- 6.5.5 The restrictions on movement in communities across Scotland created new risks to those suffering or recovering from domestic abuse and other forms of gender-based violence. These include: perception that statutory services, such as Police and homelessness services are not operating as normal; lack of physical access to routine social networks such as friends and extended family; reduced reach of interventions such as specialist and universal support services; sickness of frontline specialist service providers; barriers caused through increased use of digital or telephone enabled services; and financial dependencies and increased access by perpetrators to women, children and young people because of social distancing and lockdown measures.
- 6.5.6 The Renfrewshire MARAC moved to virtual meetings during 2020 due to the pandemic. and there were no gaps during this time. Partner agencies were asked to follow normal data protection procedures. If representatives were home working, agencies should follow their own organisational protocols/advice around confidentiality.
- 6.5.7 The delays in the court process due to the pandemic have brought additional challenges from both the perspective of support to victims and in progressing work with perpetrators. Women and children in refuge accommodation are experiencing longer than usual waits for housing provision due to the pandemic. The GBV Strategy Group will continue to work with key stakeholders to prepare a post COVID-19 plan to address some of these challenges.

16 Days of Action 2020

- 6.5.8 A number of local campaigns take place throughout the year to raise awareness of GBV related issues. The 16 Days of Action campaign – which runs from 25th of November to 10th of December – is a local version of the United Nations' campaign which promotes the elimination of GBV. Due to the pandemic, the 16 Days of Action in 2020 had to be adapted with the annual Reclaim the Night March unable to take place in its usual format. The Provost took part in the annual laying of the wreath service in Dunn Square with a small number of socially distanced participants. This was captured on video and released on social media channels along with information, statistics and sound bites aimed at raising awareness of GBV.

Safe Spaces Initiative and Code Word Scheme

- 6.5.9 There have been two community based responses which have been gathering some profile over the period of restrictions relating to COVID-19. These are the Safe Spaces Initiative and the Code Word Scheme. Safe Spaces enables victims of domestic abuse to access information on specialist services in a quiet, private space within pharmacies. This

is currently operational in Scotland and other parts of the UK. Safe Spaces is a scheme which is being achieved through the campaign UK Says No More, and the main charity contact is through Hestia. It is being run in Boots, Superdrug Pharmacy, Morrison's Pharmacy and some independent pharmacies.

- 6.5.10 The Code Word Scheme – which is named Ask Ani (Action Needed Immediately) – launched on 14th January 2021. It also operates in pharmacies and has a similar function in supporting people to access support but there is an emergency response attached if requested. The code word scheme operates by allowing someone to access a consultation room or private space. The pharmacy personnel will ask if they are in danger or in need of immediate help and want the police to be called. If yes, they will call 999 and inform the call handler that a codeword 'ANI' response is required. If no, they will share helpline details, offer a private space and a phone for the person to make calls as required themselves.

Equally Safe in Practice

- 6.5.11 The national Equally Safe in Practice project team at Scottish Women's Aid, in partnership with the Engender and Improvement Service, are developing a national framework to strengthen violence against women training and workforce development approaches. Particularly in the current context, it is more critical than ever that workforces are equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skill to address gender inequality, and to provide an informed, consistent response to women, children and young people experiencing violence and abuse. The project is working to ensure that the development of a workforce development framework initial learning approaches reflect the practice needs of workers across sectors, recognising that local authorities across Scotland are central to a response at local level.
- 6.5.12 The Equally Safe in Practice team are planning to test and evaluate new learning modules with a cross-section of the council workforce. In the coming months the team hope to work closely with a small number of councils to explore how existing workforce development approaches can be strengthened and, particularly in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, consider how this learning can be tested in ways that add value to and support local best practice. Renfrewshire GBV Strategy Group put forward a note of interest and have now been accepted as a pilot area to participate in this testing, which will both support existing training approaches, and contribute to ongoing the development of an Equally Safe aligned framework.

6.6 Community Safety and Public Protection

- 6.6.1 The main focus in 2020/21 related to assisting with the response to COVID-19. Staff from Communities and Public Protection were seconded onto NHS Test and Protect, and the creation of Local Assistance Teams for support including providing isolation calls for schools and welfare assistance.
- 6.6.2 Many staff continued to deliver front-line services to assist vulnerable residents throughout the pandemic including CCTV Operators monitoring public space CCTV, Renfrewshire Wardens dealing with anti-social behaviour, Pest Control Operatives tackling emergency calls (rodents in properties) and EHOs/TSOs liaising and working with businesses to ensure they were COVID compliant.
- 6.6.3 In particular, Environmental Health and Trading Standards spent most the year working on COVID related work including assisting businesses to comply with the ever-changing landscape of legislation and guidance. Alongside Police Scotland, they followed the 4 E's strategy (Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce). This also led to numerous proactive e-mails to assist. Renfrewshire is currently believed to one of only a few local authorities to assist businesses in this way.

- 6.6.4 Environmental Health worked closely with the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board to try and prevent transmission of the virus. This included chairing every Confirmed Case Assessment (CCA) within an educational establishment. By doing this, staff and pupils were isolated quickly to prevent onward spread of the virus. Daily/Weekly meetings for different topics (Clusters/Contact Tracing/Community Testing) were established and are still currently attended to minimise the spread of Covid-19.

Community Safety Partnership Hub

- 6.6.5 Over the COVID -19 lockdown period significant reductions in anti-social behaviour were identified, driven by the closure of the night-time economy in particular. Most instances of anti-social behaviour were identified within domestic environments during this period and a significant proportion related to non-compliance with COVID legislation and guidance. Over time patterns of behaviour returned to a more normal profile - albeit the ongoing restrictions in hospitality and night-time economy continue to have an impact throughout the period of this annual report.
- 6.6.6 Many operations on the hub continued to operate and migrated to online remote working where possible – Daily Tasking was supported by the introduction of monthly tasking meetings to tackle specific repeat cases and issues and fire safety assumed an increased prominence at these meetings to respond to patterns of fire incidents as anti-social behaviour began to return to more normal levels. MARAC continued to operate throughout the pandemic and unlike other areas saw a relatively consistent level of caseload which increased confidence in the work done prior to the pandemic to ensure that the relevant cases were being identified and brought forward for consideration through this process. CCTV cameras were in operation and additional cameras were brought online in key hotspot areas – including Robertson Park, Renfrew. The structural review of Community Protection was paused but has since recommenced and been progressed with Unions.

Daily Tasking

- 6.6.7 To ensure early intervention with regards to Community Protection, Daily Tasking moved on-line with partners to ensure that all issues from the previous 24/48 hours were still being discussed/raised/disposed. Partners met virtually at 9.30am (Mon – Fri) to allow discussion and action to be taken.
- 6.6.8 In January 2021, 2 fully trained Community Safety Nurses were recruited by the HSCP to work predominantly in response to Daily Tasking referrals. In particular, their expertise in mental health allowed repeat offenders or those with particular vulnerabilities to be assisted. This is a massive improvement in delivering a wrap-around service for the residents of Renfrewshire.

CONTEST

- 6.6.9 Work in relation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent continued throughout the COVID -19 period with the launch of a revised annual overview product replacing the previous ERTLTP product. This has now been updated and presented at the meeting of the Divisional CONTEST / SOC Group for the second time. Over the period of this report additional guidance in relation to Prevent was also issued and brings with it additional expectations of local authorities – including the requirement to identify a single chair for PMAP (Prevent Multi Agency Panel) case conferences and a nominated depute – both required to attend mandatory Home Office Training. Renfrewshire continues to be fully compliant with the updated guidance. Consultation on the possible introduction of a Protect Duty is also currently ongoing and the Council response to this consultation was returned in line with the timescale.

SOC and Counter Fraud

- 6.6.10 Over the period of the lockdown Police Scotland saw indications of greater threats from cybercrime in particular the targeting of ransomware demands at smaller businesses with an increasingly disruptive impact on the local economy. Some major organisations including Councils and SEPA were also victims of cyber-attacks. Working from home has in some instances contributed to the success of these attacks with insecure connections being used to gain backdoor access to otherwise secure corporate systems.

Shut Out Scammers

- 6.6.11 Joint work has been undertaken by Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Council (Trading Standards) to try to raise awareness and tackle scams and bogus callers. In addition, the Community Safety Partnership has issued a leaflet on scams/Bogus Callers and Domestic Abuse to every household in Renfrewshire when people were engaged about Council tax. This partnership working is key in tackling vulnerabilities and ensuring people are aware of issues and signposting.

Regulatory Services

- 6.6.12 The impact of COVID-19 has had a significant bearing on the work of Regulatory Services – Environmental Health, Trading Standards with the development of significant new areas of work of regulatory governance and compliance that has required to be undertaken throughout the pandemic period to protect public health. As a consequence, a number of areas of work were deferred by national organisations and will require a recovery plan. Food Safety Inspection being a significant example. As the pandemic and associated levels restrictions have gone on there has been evidence of “compliance fatigue” amongst businesses – linked to a greater awareness of the distinction between legislative requirements and guidance – leading to a more significant number of businesses opting not to strictly follow areas of guidance. This has required ongoing partnership working with Police around enforcement expectations and consistency of approach.

COP 26

- 6.6.13 COP 26 was deferred during the COVID-19 pandemic and is now planned to take place in 2021. The scale of this event has still to be fully determined, however all indications are that there is now an intention to hold a very significant in person face to face element that is much closer to the original format than was initially thought likely at the point the date was revised. In these circumstances there will be significant deployment issues for Police Scotland and a knock-on impact for the Greater Glasgow City region, in particular Renfrewshire, with the airport as a key entry point for the event as well as a likely operational staging post for organisations supporting the delivery of the event.

Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

- 6.6.14 The strategic arrangements in relation to MAPPA continue to be overseen by the MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group, which exists across the six local authorities, previously under North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority. Information in relation to the workings of MAPPA, statistics, annual aims and objectives and work undertaken are included in the MAPPA Annual report. The most recent report covers 2019/20 and can be found on the Renfrewshire criminal justice website.
- 6.6.15 Additional funding provided to MAPPA in 2020/21 has resulted in an additional part-time MAPPA co-ordinator being added to the team, and a decision to appoint an Independent Chair to lead the MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group. The recruitment process has commenced for implementation in 2021/22.
- 6.6.16 Operationally Moving Forward Making Changes, the national intervention to address the behaviours of those who commit sexual offences has continued throughout the pandemic.

This occurred technologically where safe to do so, and face to face and within small groups as offices were able to reopen and assessments dictated that this could be carried out safely.

6.7 Community Justice

6.7.1 Responding to the pandemic has meant that some planned actions within the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan 2018-21 have been delayed, with focus diverting to maintaining services, and adapting to national changes. The Renfrewshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2018-2021 was due to be updated by 1 April 2021, however in recognition of the impact of the pandemic on taking forward actions, it was agreed by Community Justice Scotland (CJS) that these could continue until 31 December 2021.

6.7.2 In May 2021, the Scottish Government and CJS issued a joint statement in relation to the review of the National Strategy for Community Justice and Review of the Outcomes, Performance, and Improvement Framework. This is planned for March 2022. Given that local authorities must review their Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan after the publication, they have advised that it is pragmatic for local authorities in this position to delay publication.

Early Prisoner Release:

6.7.3 Renfrewshire signed up to a national Information Sharing Protocol with the Scottish Prison Service on 1 April 2020. This enabled a multi-agency group to be established and a process established, led by justice social work, to liaise with/offer and where agreed, provide support to the small number of individuals being released early.

Extension to Just Recovery

6.7.4 Invest in Renfrewshire provided continued funding for this initiative. This ensures specific support is in place for individuals with convictions in overcoming specific barriers to education, employment and training. During this year we also ensured that staff working in this area were provided with training as to the changes to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act to assist service users with appropriate disclosure. We also ensured that wider partners were made aware of the changes arising from the new legislation through the provision of staff events. Renfrewshire Community Justice remain active partners in the Renfrewshire Local employability Partnership.

Development of Pathways/processes for justice service users with addiction issues

6.7.5 The Scottish Government's Challenge Fund, managed by the CORRA Foundation, was made resources available to support activities that tackle harmful alcohol and drug use. Community Justice Renfrewshire was awarded £35,000 from the "Getting ready for Change" category, following the proposal of a project, Just Recovery, to carry out a mapping review of pathways into addiction services for people involved in the criminal justice system living in or returning to Renfrewshire. This includes young people and those who have committed serious and high risk offences.

6.8 Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP)

6.8.1 Renfrewshire ADP is a multi-agency strategic partnership, including membership from Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), Renfrewshire Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Prison Service and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The ADP is tasked with implementing the national strategic frameworks ensuring that we improve the health of our local population and to prevent and reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs. Key priority areas for action have included:

- 6.8.2 Services have carried out significant work to ensure that individuals affected by alcohol and drugs continue to be supported during the pandemic. Although face to face contact has been reduced, a range of alternative measures have been implemented. Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service (ADRS) has continued to provide opiate replacement therapy (ORT) assessments and blood borne virus (BBV) testing with an emergency triage system in place to ensure individuals who use services have access to essential support, direction and harm reduction guidance. This has also included ADRS specifically targeting Renfrewshire's most vulnerable and high-risk service users by providing relevant treatment and support.

Drug Related Deaths

- 6.8.3 As part of the ADP's Drug Deaths Prevention Action Plan, there is a range of work currently underway with partners to prevent and reduce drug related deaths in Renfrewshire. This includes the provision of timely, evidence-based treatment and support to individuals attending ADRS and key third sector providers; the distribution of Naloxone (a drug that can reverse the effects of an overdose caused by opioids such as heroin or methadone) targeting individuals at risk of an opiate overdose, and their families and will continue to be driven through ADRS, needle exchanges and local pharmacists. In addition to this, the distribution of Naloxone has been extended as a result of the pandemic to include non-drug treatment services and enhanced recovery opportunities will continue to be provided with the establishment of a Recovery Hub which is planned to be opened in the summer of 2021. A Peer Support Network has also been created as a result of a successful funding application made to the Scottish Drug Deaths Task Force. This has led to the recruitment of additional peer support workers who have a unique role in engaging with hard to reach populations and connecting them with local services.

Medication Assisted Treatment Standards

- 6.8.4 Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards were published in November 2020 and have been developed to address issues related to treatment access, retention and quality of services across Scotland. There are ten standards in total which aim to address change in the service delivery landscape and the culture of services, both over the short and longer term. The Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service (ADRS) is currently implementing the MAT Standards with a focus on introducing same day prescribing and choice of treatment. Progress around the success of the MAT Standards will continue to be monitored by the ADP.

Residential Rehabilitation

- 6.8.5 In response to Scotland's drug deaths crisis, a key priority for the Scottish Government was to provide increased access to residential rehabilitation. In Renfrewshire, this was also echoed in the outcome of the Whole Systems Review and the findings from the Alcohol and Drug Commission. Residential rehabilitation is defined as providing support to individuals to 'attain an alcohol or drug free lifestyle and be re-integrated into society, and which provide intensive psycho-social support and a structured programme of daily activities which individuals are required to attend over a fixed period of time.' As a result of additional funding provided by the Scottish Government a Residential Rehabilitation Strategy is currently being developed in Renfrewshire. This will include not only the use of a residential placement for the purpose of abstinence-based treatment options but also for the purposes of crisis intervention and stabilisation.

Lived and Living Experience

- 6.8.6 The ADP has further embedded and strengthened their commitment to involving individuals with lived and living experience. Individuals with lived and living experience have been involved in key aspects of service planning and delivery including

representation on interview panels for recent management roles, representation on the Recovery Taskforce, and an enhanced Peer Support Network with the recruitment of additional Peer Support Workers. This will be enhanced further as a result of additional funding allocated through Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Change Programme with plans to increase this further, including the recruitment of a Peer Support Coordinator. ADRS also secured 60 tablet devices from Scottish Government Connecting Scotland Fund to provide to individuals who use our services who do not have the IT kit to get online. This has provided options for video consultations and access to online recovery support and activities.

Harm Reduction

- 6.8.7 Plans are underway to develop a Mobile Harm Reduction Unit. The Unit will target areas in Renfrewshire to make it as easy as possible to engage with difficult to reach communities. This will provide crucial healthcare and harm reduction services – such as injecting equipment to reduce the incidence of blood-borne viruses (BBV), as well as testing of BBV in the community. In addition to this, the Mobile Unit will distribute Naloxone with the aim of engaging with individuals who wouldn't normally access support and care services into treatment.
- 6.8.8 Due to COVID restrictions Blood Borne Virus testing has been limited across Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Whilst ADRS proactive approach in Renfrewshire was commended by Public Health Scotland the Service will be participating in a dry blood spot self-testing pilot. The aim is to educate and normalise frequent testing across Renfrewshire by using a postal service to support the existing process.
- 6.8.9 The Naloxone programme is well established in Renfrewshire. Naloxone is a drug that temporarily reverses the effect of opiates, allowing time for someone to seek emergency help. Individuals who use drugs, their families, friends/carers are trained before being supplied with a Naloxone kit. As a result of the statement issued by the Lord Advocate, non-drug treatment services can provide Naloxone supply on a temporary basis during the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of Naloxone kits distributed in Renfrewshire as at March 2021 was 876; 7% above the target of 820.

6.9 Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission

- 6.9.1 In late 2018, Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group agreed to establish an independent Commission to consider the true impact of alcohol and drug use across Renfrewshire's communities.

The Commission was supported by officers within Renfrewshire Council, who worked to establish the Commission and to recruit a number of local and national experts and professionals. The Commission was chaired by Councillor Jacqueline Cameron.

- 6.9.2 It was originally anticipated that the Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Commission would meet and conclude its findings over a period of 12 months, with the first meeting of the Commission taking place on 19 March 2019. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 caused the Commission to pause its work, however this resumed in September 2020, with the final meeting held on 5 November 2020.
- 6.9.3 Following initial discussion, Commission members agreed a programme of work based around 3 key pillars or themes, which would ensure the Commission was able to come forward with recommendations which community planning partners would have the levers and resources to address:
- Supporting those with the highest need.
 - Early intervention and prevention.
 - Recovery.

- 6.9.4 The Commission undertook an extensive programme of engagement and evidence gathering to ensure that the impact of alcohol and drug use was considered as broadly as possible, rather than focusing solely on services which support treatment. Over 330 people were involved in the engagement programme itself.
- 6.9.5 In December 2020, the Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission published its final report. The report sets out the Commission's main findings and provides 27 recommendations to guide the local response. Priority actions were identified in terms of:
- Urgently addressing issues in relation to mental health service provision, including provision for young people.
 - Considering trauma as part of everything that partners do in Renfrewshire – this is fundamental to reducing or preventing problems with alcohol and drug use and supporting recovery.
 - Introducing a whole system approach to supporting people with their alcohol and drug use.
 - Increasing the reach and capacity across the whole system of support for people using alcohol and drugs.
 - Making urgent changes to the buildings from which services are provided. • Reviewing the support that is available to families impacted by drug and alcohol use – at all stages of life.
 - Partners providing leadership around alcohol supply, promotion and availability.
 - Valuing lived experience as part of the approach to recover in Renfrewshire: - developing meaningful relationships with recovery organisations and building strong partnership peer support models.
 - Tackling stigma around alcohol and drug use and supporting opportunities for social connection across Renfrewshire to support recovery.
- 6.9.6 The report and its recommendations were endorsed by Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board and Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group, with full support gained to respond to these recommendations on a collective basis.
- 6.9.7 On 9 March 2020, Renfrewshire Council allocated £2m of funding to support the emerging recommendations of the Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission. Given both the impact that the pandemic has had on local people and communities and the urgent nature of some of recommendations identified within the Commission's report, officers worked with partners to bring forward an initial tranche of funding proposals which would target the priorities identified as being most urgent by the Commission.
- Renfrewshire Council agreed to allocate £1.34m of the £2m allocated funding to support a range of projects which will aim to pilot new ways of working across the community planning partnership, with the opportunity to use this learning to transform the way in which people receive support across Renfrewshire in the medium to longer term.
- 6.9.8 As a result, the multi-agency Alcohol and Drugs Change Programme Board was established to drive forward the implementation of the response to the recommendations of the Commission. The recommendations provide clear direction to community planning partners on the action that must be taken to fundamentally address the impact of alcohol and drug use in Renfrewshire. They are bold and ambitious and focus on what needs to change to support:
- People who use alcohol and drugs
 - Families impacted by alcohol and drug use
 - Young people experiencing issues in relation to alcohol and drug use and mental health issues, and
 - Local communities that are impacted by alcohol and drug use.

The role and remit of the programme board is to:

- Ensure ongoing oversight of the Alcohol and Drugs Change Programme and Action Plan which is being developed to respond to the Commission's findings.
- Review and agree all activities and funding proposals identified to support the implementation of the Change Programme and Action Plan.
- Ensure ongoing updates are provided on all related activities through appropriate governance structures with 6 monthly updates provided to the Leadership Board on progress achieved.
- Ensure that there continues to be meaningful engagement with local people and families with lived experience, as planned projects and initiatives are developed.

The Programme Board recognises the range of ongoing work to mitigate the impact of alcohol and drugs in Renfrewshire and across Scotland – including the whole system review, the national Drug Deaths Taskforce and Scottish Government funded activities – and will ensure activities are aligned across all of these areas.

6.9.9 The voice of individuals with lived/living experience was central to the recommendations of the Commission. Work is underway to ensure that those with lived/living experience of the impact of alcohol and/or drug use are meaningfully involved in the work of the programme board and that lived experience is at the heart of the Alcohol and Drugs Change Programme.

The projects outlined below have been approved by the programme board and are currently underway.

<p>Assertive Outreach: An Outreach Crisis Response Team will be commissioned for Renfrewshire. This will involve the service providing short, focused periods of support, maintaining contact through various means including telephone and digital as well as face to face engagement. The primary purpose of the service will be to provide an out of hours response (evening and weekends) with some overlap to facilitate follow up engagement and referrals to mainstream services.</p>
<p>Significantly Expand and Develop a Peer Support Model in Renfrewshire: The aim will be to build on the work already underway by recruiting additional peer workers and a Peer Co-ordinator to oversee the project. This will provide an enhanced service to connect with individuals within their own homes and communities to empower individuals to achieve their goals and aspirations by connecting them with their personal recovery journey.</p>
<p>Crisis Based Mental Health Service: The aim of the project will be to commission a crisis-based mental health service as a test of change for a period of 18 months, with a view to considering opportunities to provide support through mainstream support services if issues such as barriers to access and stigma can be addressed successfully.</p>
<p>Independent Research into Hidden Harm: Commission independent research into the hidden harm of alcohol and drugs in Renfrewshire and following this undertake a robust joint assessment of the level and nature of harm and how this is changing over time which will be used to inform the development of services at a local level.</p>
<p>Recovery Change Fund: Proposals are currently being developed to launch a Recovery Change Fund which will support innovative community based responses to the gaps identified by the Commission.</p>
<p>Whole Family Review of Support: An independent review of existing family support provision Renfrewshire will be commissioned, in order to inform and shape a new family support model for Renfrewshire which addressed the Commission's key recommendations and findings.</p>
<p>Revised Policies and Practices: A targeted programme of work with community planning partners will be undertaken, gaining commitment from partners to demonstrate leadership and to introduce revised policies and practices which</p>

recognise the impact of alcohol promotion and supply across communities and workplaces.

Partners will work through the programme board to develop further proposals in relation to the £0.6m balance of funding that is available to support actions against all remaining recommendations.

6.10 Suicide Prevention

6.10.1 Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the implementation of Renfrewshire's suicide prevention action plan has continued. The action plan focuses on:

- developing a wide range of services and practical support;
- raising awareness; and
- undertaking research to improve knowledge about suicide.

6.10.2 As part of this, suicide prevention training has continued to be rolled out to significant numbers. Renfrewshire's Choose Life Service Coordinator has developed a suite of "A Conversation About" sessions which are delivered remotely online via MS Teams. This has enabled training to be delivered despite the current pause on face to face in person training. Topics covered within the workshops include Mental Health, Anxiety, Depression, Psychosis, Suicide & Staying Safe, Self-Harm and ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training). Demand has resulted in additional sessions being added to the programme. There have been over 300 applications for the courses since the programme was launched last year. A third cycle of the programme is expected to be rolled out over the summer months.

Mental Health Services during COVID-19

6.10.3 In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health services have been categorised as critical and have continued to deliver services throughout. However increased demand for clinical and statutory services during the pandemic has meant that teams have had to reconsider and review care needs-based on level of risk. There were significant pressures on in-patient services due to the need to prevent outbreaks and there was a shift in care towards community services, this has partly been achieved by the introduction of the Action 15 posts.

Teams have adapted quickly to deliver services in different ways. Patients have been risk assessed to identify the level of risk and need involved and to ensure the most appropriate method of support and treatment is provided. Face to face provision has remained available to those most at risk. NHS Near Me (Attend Anywhere) has been implemented, providing a platform for video calling between patient and staff. This has proven to be an essential means of communication which will continue to be used post pandemic. In April 2021, over 500 patient consultations took place on the platform in Renfrewshire.

6.11 Collaborative Leadership Programme

6.11.1 To enhance the provision of leadership programmes available across the partnership, the Collaborative Leadership Programme was launched in 2019 and was aimed at first and second line managers who had been identified as having potential for advancement. During the initial pilot programme 17 participants from multiple agencies within Renfrewshire took part with the purpose of enhancing collaborative working and learning.

6.11.2 During 2020/21, the programme was independently evaluated by Renfrewshire Council's Organisational Development team who had no prior input or knowledge of the programme.

- 6.11.3 Participants and their line managers were surveyed following completion of the programme. The evaluation highlighted the following key benefits to participation in the programme:
- Provided an alternative leadership and management development opportunity.
 - Provided opportunities to network, share experience, gain alternative perspectives and peer mentor with managers from an alternative organisational setting.
 - Enhanced the confidence and abilities of our leaders and managers to meet the organisational challenges ahead, in particular, areas of change and strategic leadership in a community setting.
 - Supported talent planning and future succession planning and identifying career pathways.
 - Shift in appreciation for collaboration with levels of collaboration having increased
 - Positive shift in leadership skills and style.
 - Learning has been successfully implemented into participants' day-to-day working lives
 - Shift in leadership behaviours in key areas such as:
 - decision making
 - service and organisational boundaries being removed
 - increase in personal growth and confidence
 - increased and adapted communications both across boundaries and internally
 - mutual support increased
 - resilience and motivation improved
 - cascade of learning and behaviours.

6.12 Independent Review of the Chief Officers Group

- 6.12.1 The COG commissioned an independent review of the oversight and governance arrangements for public protection which was undertaken between January 2020 and July 2020. The key recommendations from the review included updating the terms of reference and membership (including deputed) of COG and adult and child protection committees; develop local procedures for conducting both initial and significant case reviews in child protection; consider including non-executive directors from NHS in the Member Officer Group; include a term of office for the independent chair of Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee. The review also suggested that COG should discuss reporting arrangements for the ADP and give consideration to the suggestion that the ADP could report to COG on an exception basis.
- 6.12.2 In January 2020, the Chief Officer Group agreed an action plan to support the implementation of the recommendations. Work to progress the action plan is well underway and will be completed by September 2021.

7. Strategic Focus

- 7.1 Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group is responsible for leadership, strategic oversight and scrutiny in relation to multi-agency public protection activity and practice in Renfrewshire. During the pandemic, it has had an enhanced role in terms of the scrutiny of care homes and ensuring our most vulnerable citizens are cared for and protected. This will continue as we move forward and plan for recovery and renewal.
- 7.2 COG will continue to regularly scrutinise and monitor performance across all areas of community protection activity, focusing in on areas where there are ratings are poor, there's changes in referrals, incidents or concerns reported, or where national research or legislation suggests improvements or change to practice or multi agency working.
- 7.3 The Chief Officers Group will seek to ensure that performance and practice are scrutinised at a strategic level, to identify what works well, to highlight any areas for improvement, and

to consider where further opportunities for early intervention and prevention activity would achieve improved outcomes for local people.

7.4 The strategic focus for the Chief Officers Group and the Member Officers Group for 2021/22 will be discussed and agreed at this meeting of COG, however the following areas are recommended:

- Collectively monitor the impact of COVID-19 on those most vulnerable across communities, including the impact of demand pressures being experienced by all local partners, and considering opportunities for joint working in relation to any new areas of concern or harm identified.
- Continue to provide scrutiny, support and oversight of activity in relation to care homes, with a particular focus on the safety and wellbeing of residents and staff;
- Robustly respond to increasing levels of alcohol and drug related harm in Renfrewshire, providing strategic leadership and support for the local response to the recent findings of Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Commission.
- Provide leadership to support the implementation of trauma informed and responsive practice across all services and partners in Renfrewshire;
- Promote learning and improvements to practice identified through initial and significant case reviews undertaken within Renfrewshire and from other areas;
- Review cyber crime activity across Renfrewshire, identifying joint action which can be taken to reduce or prevent levels of crime and harm.
- Support positive mental health and wellbeing with a focus on suicide prevention and people presenting to agencies in distress; and
- Have oversight of the Care Inspectorate Thematic review of Justice Social Work Throughcare arrangements in Renfrewshire and implement any findings from inspection activity.