

## National Appropriate Adult Project – Update

### Summary and Recommendations

The National Appropriate Adult Project has been running since 2021. It has reached a point where a stocktake is useful, because of recent or anticipated staffing changes. This report has appended to it a draft Annual Report 2022/2023 which highlights developments including a National Event in Dundee in Nov 2023. It also lists the work that is needed to continue the project.

This paper invites members to:

- i. Note the contents of this report and the annex, which lists the achievements and gives the work to be pursued over the next year, providing comment
- ii. Agree to continue with the work for another two years.
- iii. Agree COSLA officials work jointly with Scottish Government officials to achieve this aim.

### References

Previous reports on Appropriate Adults:

- Update on Appropriate Adult Project October 2022
- Initial Annual report 2021/2022

Frances Donohoe  
Policy and Participation Officer (Appropriate Adults)  
[Frances@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:Frances@cosla.gov.uk)

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## **National Appropriate Adult Project – Update**

### **Purpose**

1. To raise awareness of the developments and achievements of the National Appropriate Adult Project and planned future work.

### **Current COSLA Position**

2. COSLA has hosted the project since 2021. Reports have been made to this board, although the Draft AA Annual Report is available and attached as an annex. Further work is underway to finalise this in collaboration with our AA partners. The section “The Journey Continues...” will look forward to the next year or so. Much of the content will flesh out the matters raised in 4) below.

### **What is changing?**

3. There is currently a vacancy for the National Appropriate Adult Coordinator since Dec 2023 and the secondment arrangements for the Policy and Participation officer come to an end on the 31st of March 2024. For the next 12 months the following have been highlighted as key matters to be progressed:
4. The listing of matters that will need to be progressed in the following year include:
  - Organising the next annual national event as a follow up to the one in November 2023)
  - Updating the mapping exercise to get a picture of where services are at in terms of establishing local governance structures, local oversight groups, number of AAs etc.
  - Assisting the SG decision on the minimum dataset they will likely need.
  - Supporting the National Oversight Group and considering whether a Joint Strategic Group could be needed or established in the future to incorporate political leadership
  - Training and development - developing the national offer around this. Discussion about what this would look like could cover central lists of accredited trainers, rolling programme of basic and refresher training.
  - Strengthening links with other policy work. This could include Adult Support and Protection, Equally Safe, Dementia strategy, Mental Health strategy, Scott review recommendation, and NCS.
  - Managing the updated Guidance – resolving whether specific guidance e.g. around 16-18 year olds would be covered
  - Roll out of the Quality Improvement Framework and its associated self-evaluation process. Decisions may be needed over how the rich data collected should be and how it will be used.
5. Business as usual in the following areas are also important:

- Organising and supporting the National Practitioners Forum – producing and circulating regular Appropriate Adults Newsletters
- Maintaining relationships with AA Partners, including regular meetings with Police Scotland, ASP links the Scottish Government and Care Inspectorate
- Awareness raising (ongoing) through training, speaking arrangements and targeted networking

### **Proposed COSLA Position**

6. COSLA officials have been working with their Scottish Government opposite numbers to continue the funding of the project with the current staffing levels. Given we are still in the budget setting period it has only been possible to make tentative progress.
7. Members support for this area of work would be welcomed and may assist COSLA in maintaining momentum over the next two years or so.

### **Next Steps**

8. COSLA officials will continue working with Scottish Government officials to make as much progress as can be, to avoid the loss in momentum.