**National Appropriate Adult Oversight Group**

**22 September 2020 10:30am**

***Virtual meeting – Microsoft Teams***

***Attendees:***

Sandy Riddell, Mental Welfare Commission *(chair)*

Jo Savege, National Appropriate Adult Coordinator

Lucy Lawson, Scottish Government

Zak Tuck, Scottish Government

Stacey Reid, Scottish Government

Jane Kelly, Care Inspectorate

Kirsty Naysmith, Scottish Appropriate Adult Network (SAAN)

Suzie Moran, Police Scotland

Franck David, SOLD Network

Tony Bowman, SOLD Network

Frances Simpson, Support in Mind Scotland

Jana De Villiers, Forensic Network

Gillian Mawdsley, Law Society of Scotland

Mike Callaghan, COSLA

Alison Atkins, COPFS

Jane Kellock, Social Work Scotland

Apologies

Karen Donoghue, SAAN

Anil Gupta, COSLA

Jan Green, Royal Collage of Speech and Language Therapists

James McNabb, SOLD Network

1. **Welcome**

Sandy welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the group and advised the main aim of the meeting was to ensure we have the right people involved and the role of the Oversight Group. All attendees introduced themselves and outlined their interest / involvement in Appropriate Adult provision.

1. **Updates on statutory service / current situation**

Scottish Government

Regulations to establish the Appropriate Adult provision came into force in January, but it is acknowledged that Covid-19 will have had an impact both on the implementation of this and on services at an operational level.

The guidance for local authorities, which was developed in conjunction with the working group (which has effectively become the oversight group) was also published in January. This is a live document and can be updated as things move forward.

Work is ongoing in relation to training and it is intended that Jo, in her role as National Coordinator, will lead on this work. A meeting will be held with the chair of the stakeholder training group to discuss how this will progress.

There is a funding commitment to assist local authorities in relation to the delivery of services and for the Care Inspectorate to undertake it’s quality assessment function, as well as funding available to help develop the national training framework. It had been hoped to undertake a review of funding for local authorities based on a more robust evidence base that wasn’t available when the funding was originally agreed, but this will likely be affected by the impact of Covid-19 on provision. Further consideration will need to be given to such a review.

SAAN

Services across the country were keen to get new structures put in place in relation to the statutory provisions, but this was impacted by Covid-19. Services reported lower levels of activity for a while because of Covid-19, but there were no major issues in provision with services working together to ensure support could still be provided when required. At the most recent SAAN meeting in August, most areas reported requests have increased and also that they are starting to look again at any changes which are required in response to the statutory service.

There was an Appropriate Adults event held in Edinburgh in March 2020. The plan is to have an event every 6 months to interact with others and open up discussions between Appropriate Adults across the country. Due to Covid-19 a virtual training event is planned for 15 October and information about this will be circulated to the group.

Police Scotland

A forum for Appropriate Adult single points of contact (SPOCs) has been set up to ensure that local issues are dealt with effectively. Again, Covid-19 has meant that assessment of the impact of the regulations hasn’t been carried out but no significant concerns have been reported. General view at the moment is that it is back to business as usual.

A suspect interview working group was set up in May to consider how to best deal with the issues on police interviews caused by Covid-19 public health restrictions (physical distancing etc) in terms of the accused’s access to lawyers, Appropriate Adults and interpreters. The Law Society, SAAN and Scottish Government are all represented on the group. The Law Society highlighted that there is a perceived lack of progress in relation to some of the actions in that group. The next meeting is scheduled for 1 October, where this can be considered.

Care Inspectorate

The team was established in February / March but were then redirected to Covid-19 work until last week. As well as Jane Kelly, there are a further two members of the team – Jane Brown and Lee Kelso – and the team straddles Justice, Adult Protection and Strategic Improvement. There is a meeting between the Care Inspectorate and National Coordinator scheduled for this week, and the team are also looking forward to meeting with local authorities and other stakeholders as work on the development of the evaluation framework progresses.

National Coordinator

Jo started in this role at the beginning of September and has spent the last few weeks trying to get an idea about the Appropriate Adult landscape, by undertaking desk research and speaking to stakeholders. This role will focus on the main guidance, training and quality assessment so will involve a lot of interaction with members of this group.

1. **Terms of reference**

Remit

No issues were raised with the remit other than Sandy suggesting a change in wording at point 5 as follows:

*National Appropriate Adult Oversight group brings together key stakeholders from sectors and organisations with an involvement or interest in Appropriate Adult provision in order to promote ~~ensure~~ a coordinated approach to the implementation and development of the statutory service.*

This change was suggested as the group does not have any powers to ensure this, but can make recommendations to help promote such an approach.

No objections were raised in relation to this, though clarification was sought in relation to the governance of the statutory service and how the oversight group fits in to this. Scottish Government explained that the aim of the oversight group is to bring together all the various organisations / sectors with an interest in Appropriate Adults in an advisory role. In particular, the regulations state that local authorities, in their role as service delivery provider, must have regard to the guidance which is published and the oversight group can inform this guidance.

Membership

No concerns were raised in relation to membership, though it was noted that other groups / organisations / individuals could be approached and asked for contributions on specific issues as and when required.

Frequency of meetings

It was agreed that meetings should be quarterly in the first instance and it would be helpful for the meetings to be held in fairly close proximity to SAAN meetings to ensure a joined-up approach between the groups. Jo and Kirsty will liaise in respect of this and provisional dates for next year will be issued in due course.

1. **AOB**
2. **Date of next meeting**

TBC – see ‘Frequency of meetings” section, above.