



Dumfries and Galloway

Public Protection Partnership

Strategic Plan 2024 - 2027

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Foreword | 3 |
| Vision | 4 |
| Strategic Aims | 4 |
| Core Pillars of Public Protection | 5 |
| Priority Areas of Focus | 6 |
| Priority 1: Lived / Living Experience | 7 |
| We will work together with those with lived / living experience to co-produce and improve services. | |
| Priority 2: Self-Neglect | 8 |
| We will address and reduce the negative impact of self-neglect. | |
| Priority 3. Sexual Harm | 9 |
| We will maximise efforts to effectively prevent, identify and support those experiencing sexual harm. | |
| Priority 4: Multi-Agency Chronologies and Information Sharing | 10 |
| We will focus on our approach to implementing and effectively using joint chronologies for protection cases and information sharing. | |
| Appendix 1 | 11 |



Foreword

As chief officers, we are delighted to introduce our Public Protection Strategy 2024-27. This is the first strategy in this format and sets out our ambitions for the next three years. It follows a robust process of consultation, self-assessment, analysis, data and intelligence gathering across our three core pillars of Child Protection, Adult Support and Protection and Violence against Women and Girls.

We commend the process and thank all those who have been involved across our partnership and partners from front line staff, public protection teams, Public Protection committee and subcommittee members. We are proud of the dedication and commitment shown to help the most vulnerable in our region. This strategy is testament of our pledge to positively support and reduce harm to those at risk and really listen to the lived experience of those we strive to support and protect.

The four priorities illustrate significant and challenging issues that we want to give specific and targeted focus. There are no easy wins in this strategy! We recognise the significant work required to address these and welcome the development of individual dedicated delivery plans, targeted to achieve our aims as a partnership.

We understand progressing this strategy will be challenging but we are fully committed to it and are proud to take ownership of such a creative and forward-thinking approach to reduce the risk of harm to everyone living in Dumfries and Galloway. We will continue to lead and strengthen our Public Protection Partnership and oversee the work required to move forward towards our ambitions, alongside our many Public Protection colleagues.

The priorities within our Public Protection Strategy 2024-27 are wider than public protection structures, and our ambition will ensure we work across all our partners, sectors and with wider partnerships to achieve a Dumfries and Galloway where those at risk within our communities will feel safe and be safer from harm.



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Vision

The Public Protection Partnership (PPP) Strategic Plan 2024-2027 sets out the Partnership's vision:

“to work together to protect Dumfries and Galloway’s most vulnerable people”

The aim of the Public Protection Partnership is to:

- Develop public protection activity by working effectively together and making planning processes easier to navigate.
- Make sure there is robust support, review, and monitoring of public protection arrangements.
- Take responsibility for the strategic development and delivery of services to those who are experiencing or at risk of significant harm.

Strategic Aims

Dumfries and Galloway Public Protection Partnership – Strategic Aims 2024-2027

1. Identify all those at risk through increased understanding, training and awareness raising.
2. Protect and support those experiencing or at risk of harm.
3. Fully utilise multi agency collaborations, opportunities, and resources to continuously improve services and practice.
4. Work across partnerships and partners to achieve priorities and shared outcomes.
5. Continue to develop robust assurance pathways across the Public Protection Partnership.



“to work together to protect Dumfries and Galloway’s most vulnerable people”

Core Pillars of Public Protection

The Partnership, directed by Chief Officers Group (COG) has a dedicated and specific remit on protection issues and overview of all protection work; assuming responsibility for the strategic development and delivery of services to the most vulnerable people who are at risk of significant harm.

The Public Protection Committee (PPC) will continue to have underpinning responsibilities and oversight on the key multi agency functions of public protection:

- Adult Support and Protection
- Child Protection
- Violence Against Women and Girls

The committee is constituted in terms of the provisions described within the following:

- [Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#)
- [Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer Responsibilities \(Scottish Government, 2019\)](#)
- [Equally Safe 2023 – Scotland’s strategy for preventing and eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls \(Scottish Government 2023\).](#)

Its primary aim is to shape the effective discharge and review of public protection activity through strategic oversight and performance review of the arrangements.

In line with statutory responsibilities, there is a particular focus on high-risk groups and ensuring effective arrangements are in place to manage areas of overlap between groups.

Core functions of the committee include ensuring:

- appropriate planning and management,
- oversight of performance,
- focus on the identification and management of risk,
- operational activities are timely, proportionate, and targeted.

Performance will be managed through the new Performance and Quality Assurance Framework (PQAF) 2024-2027.

Performance Indicators outlined in the PQAF will form the core data included in the aligned Public Protection Committee Dashboards.



Priority Areas of Focus

The Strategic Plan has four priority areas of focus that sit across the key pillars of public protection activity; these are critical aspects of public protection activity for high-risk groups, that will be addressed through multi agency activity. These priorities set out what the Public Protection Partnership want to achieve in partnership with all agencies over the next three years.

In delivering the Strategic Plan, associated SMART annual workplans will be developed. The process will be dynamic in nature to ensure capture of emerging challenges and will be updated through the lifespan of the plan.

The four priority areas are:



Lived / Living Experience



Self Neglect



Sexual Harm



Multi-Agency Chronologies and Information Sharing

The responsibility for implementing this plan sits across the partnership and is also passed to partners in the sub-committees and standing committees who will report progress back to the PPC, according to their terms of reference.

1

Priority 1: Lived / Living Experience



What we want to achieve:

We will respect and value people's lived experience. We will create, develop, change and evaluate services to ensure they are provided based on appreciation and understanding of the views and requirements of those who use our services.

What we will do:

We will work together with those with lived / living experience to co-produce and improve services.

What good looks like:

- Services, policies and procedures are improved by listening, learning and collaborating with the people who use them and the people that deliver them.
- Involving individuals with lived experiences to codesign policies, procedures and services.
- Recognise engagement skills across the partnership and ensure a coordinated approach.
- As a partnership we are open to making changes to how we work based on feedback from those with lived and living experiences (you said, we did).
- Future communication will be informed by our understanding of those with lived and living experience.

How does this Priority align to the partnership's strategic aims?

This priority supports the involvement of those with lived/living experience of support and protection processes. This will enable partners, including frontline staff, to improve both services and outcomes for people who may be at risk.

Links to Strategic Aim 3 and 4.

The high-level activity within this priority area is based on a partnership approach and will include:

- Ensure all people have an opportunity to share their voices and experiences.
- Evidence we are involving those with lived and living experience of protection to codesign and improve how we work together to keep those most at risk in our communities safe.
- Evidence of continued improvement on keeping people safe.
- Evidence we are keeping people informed on changes through a range of communications relevant to the audience.

Existing strategic documents which relate include:

- [D&G PPP Communication Strategy 2023-2025](#)
- [D&G PPP Engagement Strategy 2023-2025](#)

2

Priority 2: Self-Neglect

What we want to achieve:

We will reduce the impact of self-neglect for the person and the wider community and work with partnerships and partners to address the causes and facilitate positive outcomes. People who have or are at risk of self-neglect will have improved health and well-being and access to support.

What we will do:

We will address and reduce the impact of self-neglect.

What good looks like:

- Staff will recognise strands of self-neglect including hoarding, stigma, mental health and capacity.
- Staff will recognise self-neglect at an earlier stage and be confident to address this.
- We will have a reviewed approach in D&G including how we review and restructure services to support people.
- We will provide successful interventions to help people who self-neglect and reduce risks.
- Process Map for Self-Neglect is consistently applied.

How does this Priority align to the partnership's strategic aims?

This priority supports staff across the partnership to identify and support people affected by self-neglect and address the impact this has on adults, their families and the wider communities. Links to Strategic Aim 1, 2, 5.



The high-level activity within this priority area is based on a partnership approach and will include:

- Staff are able to identify self-neglect at an earlier stage and use referral pathways consistently.
- Improve community and individual awareness of self-neglect, the signs to look out for and what to do if identified.
- We will work with wider partnerships and partners to address the causes of self-neglect.
- Deliver multi-agency training to ensure staff know and understand all the strands of self-neglect and support people to address it.

Existing strategic documents which relate include:

- [D&G Self Neglect and Hoarding Strategy](#)
- [Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007: Code of Practice - updated 2022](#)
- [National Triennial review of initial case reviews and significant case reviews for adults \(2019-2022\)](#)

3

Priority 3. Sexual Harm

What we want to achieve:

We will reduce and prevent sexual harm and provide an early response to support victims and survivors and protect them from further violence, harm and related trauma. We will work with partners to address and challenge societal attitudes, values and structures that underpin sexual harm.

What we will do:

We will maximise efforts to effectively prevent, identify and support adults and children experiencing sexual harm.

What good looks like:

- D&G will have an overarching strategy to bring together different strands of sexual harm including sexual abuse and exploitation (including commercial), online safety/harm, sexting, underage sex and peer harm.
- Prevention through recognition and challenge of attitudes that underpin sexual harm.
- There will be a consistent approach to recognition and assessment of sexual harm including trauma.
- We will adopt a wider contextual safeguarding approach through working closely with other partners to identify harm and reduce risk.
- Our Sexual Harm Strategy will include how we address perpetrator behaviour.

How does this Priority align to the partnership's strategic aims?

This priority supports staff across the partnership to identify and support people and their families who have experienced sexual harm. Links to Strategic Aim 1, 2, 5.

The high-level activity within this priority area is based on a partnership approach and will include:

- Supporting local partners to raise awareness and identify sexual harm.
- To develop a framework to ensure that all agencies work collaboratively to reduce the risk of harm.
- Work with partners to ensure strategic approaches to support perpetrators to change their behaviour.
- Agree a joint strategic approach to the way partners work together to identify, investigate, and support individuals and their families.
- Improve community awareness to support reporting of sexual harm and access to services.
- Staff are able to identify sexual harm at an earlier stage and provide support to prevent escalation or repeated abuse.

Existing strategic documents which relate include:

- [Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007: Code of Practice - updated 2022](#)
- [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 – updated 2023](#)
- [Equally Safe 2023 – \(Scottish Government 2023\)](#)
- [Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#)

4

Priority 4: Multi-Agency Chronologies and Information Sharing



What we want to achieve:

We will work together to ensure we have the appropriate information available, at the right times, to understand and continuously support and protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

What we will do:

We will focus on our approach to implementing and effectively using joint chronologies for protection cases and information sharing.

What good looks like:

- People work together by successfully sharing information, working with people who use services to celebrate successes and minimise risk.
- Clear leadership across the partnership to promote consistent use of multi-agency / operational guidance.
- The partnership invests time and resources into the delivery of training and staff development.
- There is an Integrated multi-agency chronology in one place (shared).
- People work together to develop successful information sharing through a Multi-Agency Implementation Plan.
- The workforce feels confident and understand the importance of this approach.
- Staff access and maximise the use multi-agency chronologies to support improvements in practice that protects and enhances the lives of vulnerable people.

How does this Priority align to the partnership's strategic aims?

This priority supports staff across the partnership to share relevant information to identify significant events in an individual's life. This will enable joint assessments of risk and supporting of people to feel safe from harm. Links to Strategic Aim 1 and 3.

The high-level activity within this priority area is based on a partnership approach and will include:

- Implement joint chronologies for protection cases by bringing together relevant information to support people to be safe.
- Develop clear multi-agency chronology guidance to inform risk assessment and planning.
- Improve use of multi-agency chronologies through effective processes, systems and delivery of multi-agency training.

Existing strategic documents which relate include:

- [Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007: Code of Practice - updated 2022](#)
- [Chronologies in Adult Support and Protection: moving from current to best, IRISS June 2023](#)
- [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 – updated 2023](#)
- D&G Multi-Agency Child Protection Self Evaluation, 2023

Dumfries and Galloway Public Protection Partnership
Strategic Plan 2024-27 on a page

Dumfries and Galloway Public Protection Partnership

Vision



Strategic Aims

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|---|--|--|--|---|
| Identify all those at risk through increased understanding, training and awareness raising. | Protect and support those experiencing or at risk of harm. | Fully utilise multi agency collaborations, opportunities, and resources to continuously improve services and practice. | Work across partnerships and partners to achieve priorities and shared outcomes. | Continue to develop robust assurance pathways across the Public Protection Partnership. |
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Priority Areas of Focus and Description

| Lived / Living Experience | Self-Neglect | Sexual Harm | Multi-Agency Chronologies and Information Sharing |
|---|--|---|--|
| We will work together with those with lived / living experience to co-produce and improve services. | We will address and reduce the impact of self-neglect. | We will maximise efforts to effectively prevent, identify and support those experiencing sexual harm. | We will focus on our approach to implementing and effectively using joint chronologies for protection cases and information sharing. |