

September 2026 Committee Update

Working together to prevent harm, improve lives and support recovery

This public update highlights key decisions, partnership progress and priorities discussed at the Aberdeenshire ADP Committee meeting in September 2026. It is a summary, not formal minutes.

WHAT THE COMMITTEE AGREED

Revised Partnership Agreement

The Committee approved the revised Partnership Agreement, including new sections on local transparency, scrutiny and assurance in line with the Scottish Government's Partnership Delivery Framework.

Local Early Warning Systems (LEWS)

The Committee agreed that the Harms Subgroup should progress to provide the function of Aberdeenshire's local early warning system. Following a presentation from the Public Health RADAR lead, the Committee endorsed RADAR as Aberdeenshire's primary reporting tool for harms.

Funding for recovery and peer support

The Committee agreed to a funding round for up to 10k for small scale projects that support ADP priorities. It also agreed that a further participatory budgeting round could be run, with award decisions delegated to the ADP Panels and governance provided by the Resources and Governance Subgroup, to increase peer support and recovery initiatives.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan

The Strategic Outcomes and Performance Subgroup presented an initial draft Strategic Plan. A final draft is due at the December 2026 Committee, ahead of public consultation planned for January 2027. Five Delivery Plan development sessions have taken place, involving a range of partners including people with lived experience. The draft Delivery Plan is also due at the December Committee. The Committee approved the annual survey.

Audit and accountability

The Resources and Governance Subgroup reported that the ADP had been audited. The Action Plan from the audit will come to the December 2026 Committee.

FUNDING MAKING A DIFFERENCE

£30,000 to tackle poverty and inequalities

The Committee heard a funding proposal focused on wider support and agreed to contribute £30,000 to the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Winter Fund.

Updates on awards from the previous funding round included support for:

- Children's Services to commission a research provider to better understand young people's experiences of drugs and alcohol and support in Aberdeenshire
- A community alcohol liaison nurse
- An assertive outreach nurse
- A young people's service in several Aberdeenshire academies

People, recovery and new developments

Progress across the ADP reflects the importance of lived experience, joined-up support and reducing barriers to recovery.

LIVED EXPERIENCE AT THE HEART OF OUR WORK

The Experiential Subgroup reviewed evidence from people with lived and living experience of the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards. The evidence was thematically analysed, and action planning took place with services and people with lived experience. The resulting actions have been included in the developing Delivery Plan.

Positive Achievements

- Two panel members have moved into paid employment.
- Two panel members are finalists for Aberdeenshire Star Awards.

Recovery priorities

Challenging stigma, making recovery visible and increasing peer capacity have been identified as priorities. A Recovery Coordinator post within the ADP support team is due to be advertised in October 2026.

WORKING TOGETHER TO RESPOND TO HOARDING

Adult Support and Protection delivered a presentation on hoarding. Relevant partners came prepared to explain how their services respond and what support they can offer. Partnership discussions are continuing around Getting It Right for Everyone (GIRFE) approaches to strengthen joined-up, person-centred support.

DIGITAL LIFELINES SCOTLAND

Funding secured to reduce digital exclusion

Aberdeenshire ADP has been successful in securing funding from Digital Lifelines Scotland. The project will provide devices, connectivity and capacity-building opportunities to reduce digital inequalities for people affected by substance use, using a neurodiversity-informed and trauma-informed approach.

Pathway providers

• Upside through-care provider • ADA Family Support Service • Aberdeenshire Council Housing • HMP Grampian • HSCP drug and alcohol services • Talking Point Community Recovery Group

Project progress

Digital Lifelines Scotland has facilitated two in-person sessions. During the second session, Mhor Collective delivered training to staff and volunteers to build capacity to deliver the project. The first device orders have been placed, and referral pathways are being developed and will be available soon.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14 DECEMBER 2026