

**East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee Annual Report  
2015/16****Report by: Alison White Head of Adult Social Care; Chief Social Work  
Officer****1 Purpose of Report**

This report is to introduce the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee annual report 2015/16 thereby informing Council of its progress in that time.

**2 Background**

- 2.1** The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee (EMPPC) is the key strategic group dealing with public protection matters across East Lothian and Midlothian and includes representatives from key partners (e.g. Social Work, Police Scotland, NHS Lothian, Education, Housing, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector etc). The committee reports to senior officers through the East Lothian and Midlothian Critical Services Oversight Group. It remains committed to an outcome focused approach to supporting and protecting adults and children who may be at risk of harm, based on an understanding of need gained from evaluation activity.
- 2.2** There are two sub-groups which support EMPPC with this approach, one of which focuses on Performance and Quality Improvement across all areas.
- 2.3** The Learning and Practice Development sub-group, oversees the development and delivery of the EMPPC Learning and Development Strategy. During 2015/16 we carried out a service review of the training and development function within the team and have introduced a new role of Public Protection Learning and Development Co-ordinator to lead the implementation of the Learning and Development strategy. Page 20-21 of the report details the training activity over the year 2015/16.
- 2.4** The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Team support the work of the EMPPC and is based in the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office (EMPPO) in the Brunton Hall, Musselburgh. It includes officers from adult support and protection, child protection and the domestic abuse service and is co-located with the local Police Scotland Public Protection Unit and Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership. The primary aim of the team is to work in a more integrated way to strengthen practice across the whole public protection arena.

### **3 Report Implications**

#### **3.1 Resource**

The key driver for the service continues to be ensuring sustainable services and streamlining future provision by sharing staff capacity and knowledge wherever possible. All posts in the team are joint posts across both council areas.

#### **3.2 Risk**

The Public Protection service contributes to addressing corporate risk that the councils and their partners would be unable to maintain or improve the quality and standard of public protection work due to increased complexities and depleting resources thus leaving service users in Midlothian at risk of harm.

#### **3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- x ☐ Community safety
- x ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- x ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- x ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

#### **3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

The EMPPC developed a Performance Framework which was implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, providing its reporting framework for self-evaluation, audit and scrutiny. This framework was reviewed in January 2016, and an amended version implemented for 2016/17. During this time, Lead Officers worked closely with operational teams to ensure the performance framework and improvement plans are embedded within practice.

#### **3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

It is increasingly clear that the reality for most of our service users is that their needs usually span more than one category of Public Protection i.e. many children on the child protection register have substance misusing parents or domestic abuse as a “cause for concern”. This evidence-led model links to the prevention aspect of single outcome agreements.

#### **3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee remains committed to involving communities and other stakeholders wherever possible, although this can prove a challenge in this area of work.

#### **3.7 Ensuring Equalities**

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not currently required as no policy or people changes have been identified. This will be undertaken in line with streamlining operational practice.

### **3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development**

Multi-agency staff are based in a co-located hub and opportunities are sought to streamline services with less meetings and consequently less travel between bases.

### **3.9 IT Issues**

This report does not highlight any IT issues.

## **4 Summary**

**4.1** This is the second annual report of the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee (EMPPC) and it provides an opportunity to reflect and take stock of our activities and our achievements within this complex area of service.

**4.2** People do not neatly fit into one category and issues like domestic abuse and substance misuse are common themes with many of the service users with whom we work. Bringing together the individual partnerships into one Public Protection Committee across two local authorities has streamlined processes considerably and now demonstrates a significant level of trust and integrity for example, senior officers chairing case reviews for the other local authority.

## **5 Recommendations**

Council is asked to:

- Note the report and the progress made by the East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee during 2015/16.

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### **Background Papers:**

**East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee Annual Report 2015/16**