



# **East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee**

## **Annual Report 2017-2018**

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## Foreword from the Chair

The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee (EMPPC) was formed in 2014; bringing together the Adult Protection Committee, Child Protection Committee, Offender Management Group and Violence Against Women Partnership.

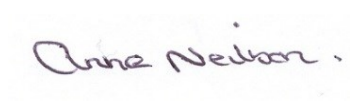
I am pleased to present the Committee's fourth annual report, which outlines some of the core work of the committee and achievements during the 2017-18 reporting year; as well as our identified areas of priority for the current year.

Public Protection includes the most high profile services for which the core agencies of Midlothian Council, East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian and Police Scotland have statutory responsibility. EMPPC was created in the knowledge that many forms of harm co-occur and cannot be tackled in isolation, for example, substance misuse and domestic abuse feature heavily as forms of harm to both children and adults and can lead to additional harm such as neglect.

Strong collaborative leadership and governance arrangements are in place through the East Lothian and Midlothian Critical Services Oversight Group, which incorporates the Chief Executives and Chief Officers from all partner agencies.

As a committee, EMPPC meet quarterly to fulfil its scrutiny role in overseeing the Public Protection performance framework and the revised Public Protection Improvement Plan; encompassing Adult Support and Protection, Child Protection, Offender Management and Violence Against Women and Girls.

Working in partnership is at the heart of all we do in Public Protection. I would like to thank all members of EMPPC, its sub groups and our operational staff, for their continued commitment and energy in working together to keep people at risk of harm in East Lothian and Midlothian safer.



Anne Neilson  
Director of Public Protection, NHS Lothian  
Chair, East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee

## Introduction

The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee is a strategic partnership, bringing together responsibility for our inter-agency approach to Adult Support and Protection; Child Protection; Violence Against Women and Girls; and Offender Management. The core functions of the committee are supported by five sub-groups:

- **Performance and Quality Improvement** sub-group, which is responsible for the oversight and governance of the performance framework and improvement plan.
- **Learning and Practice Development** sub-group, which oversees the development and delivery of the Learning and Development strategy.
- **Communications** sub-group, which has been re-established to fulfil the functions related to officer and public awareness as per the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 and the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014).
- **Violence Against Women** Delivery sub-group, which supports the delivery of services and preventative activities to address Violence Against Women and Girls.
- **Offender Management** Group, which ensures that the statutory responsibilities placed on local partner agencies for the assessment and management of risk posed by dangerous offenders are discharged effectively.

The Committee and sub-groups are supported by the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office (EMPPPO). The office is sited in the Brunton Hall, Musselburgh, with a Public Protection team comprising of a Team Manager, Business Support Staff, Learning and Development Co-ordinator, Lead Officer for Child Protection, Lead Officer for Adult Support and Protection; Violence Against Women Co-ordinator, MARAC Co-ordinator and Domestic Abuse Advisors. The Domestic Abuse Service is the operational component of the team, providing support and guidance to high-risk victims of gender-based violence.

The Public Protection team is colocated with the Police Scotland 'J division' Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit, other Police Public Protection Unit personnel and the Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP). Although not co-located with NHS personnel, there is a close interface with members of the NHS Lothian Public Protection Team and other NHS Lothian staff with a broader Public Protection remit.

## Adult Support and Protection

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 is in its tenth year following implementation. This was marked with the introduction of an annual National Adult Support and Protection Day on 20<sup>th</sup> February, which was supported by Social Work Scotland.

Adult Support and Protection has had its first thematic inspection led by the Care Inspectorate and in collaboration with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland. The thematic inspection focused on six partnership areas across Scotland. Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership were inspected as part of this thematic inspection and evaluated as follows:

- Outcomes for adults at risk of harm were **Good**
- Key Processes for adult support and protection were **Good**
- Leadership for adult support and protection was **Very Good**

A copy of the full inspection report can be accessed on the [Care Inspectorate website](#).

### Key Data

#### Referrals

East Lothian Health and Social Care partnership (ELHSCP) have reported a 49% (530 to 791) increase in the number of Adult Support and Protection referrals received at the end of the reporting year. The primary source of referrals to the partnership are logged as "other" having submitted 265 Adult Support and Protection referrals in 2017-18, an increase of 139% on the previous year (111).

Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership (MHSCP) have reported a 1% (681 to 690) increase in the number of Adult Support and Protection referrals received at the end of the reporting year. The primary source of referrals to the partnership is Police Scotland, with 201 Adult Support and Protection referrals submitted during 2017-2018; a reduction of 27% on the previous year (277).

#### Investigations

ELHSCP have reported a 24% (148 to 112) decrease in the number of investigations completed at the end of the fiscal year. The reported increase in the number of Adult Support and Protection referrals does not appear to have had any direct impact on the number of investigations undertaken.

East Lothian:

Measure	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Referrals	427	493	530	791
Investigations	125	69	148	112
Initial ASP Case Conferences	24	15	21	12
Protection orders	<10	<10	<10	<10
Number of Large Scale Investigations	<10	<10	<10	<10

Midlothian:

Measure	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Referrals	452	501	681	690
Investigations	94	129	82	87
Initial ASP Case Conferences	30	24	36	35
Protection orders	<10	<10	<10	<10
Number of Large Scale Investigations	<10	<10	<10	<10

## Current Themes

### Financial Harm

Financial Harm is the main type of principal harm investigated nationally and is defined as:

*“The risk of experiencing or the actual experiencing of financial or material abuse, including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property possessions or benefits”.*

(National Harm Prevention Group (Scotland), 2015)

The principal type of harm investigated in East Lothian is Financial Harm 28% (31/112). This type of harm takes many forms and includes a wide range of scams such as online scams, dating scams, fraud and bogus workmen.

Financial Harm is the second largest type of harm reported by MHSCP 2017-2018 with 21/87 (24%) of cases investigated by a Council Officer.

The investigation into Financial Harm involves sharing information with Health, Police and where relevant, Trading Standards depending on the type of Financial Harm experienced by the adult. Financial Harm is complex and diverse in nature and ranges from opportunistic Financial Harm to subtle, ongoing complex targeting and repeat victimisation. It is often associated with older adults, however Financial Harm is wide reaching and covers all client groups.

A number of national initiatives between Police Scotland, Trading Standards and the Banking Sector have been rolled out locally to raise awareness of Financial Harm within our communities. These events have been supported by EMPPC through the attendance of the Lead Officer at these events, defining the links between Financial Harm and Adult Support and Protection.

EMPPC are dedicated to reducing the risk of Financial Harm through awareness raising and have developed [Practitioners Guidance on Financial Harm](#), supported by a LearnPro module; both of which are available to multi-agency staff.

In response to the number of investigations into Financial Harm during 2017-18, EMPPC are hosting three public events across both local authority areas in February 2019 to coincide with the National Adult Support and Protection day. The aim of these events is to raise awareness of Financial Harm and of the wider Adult Support and Protection agenda with members of the public, as well as demonstrating a partnership response to the various types of harm experienced by adults.

### Physical Harm

MHSCP have reported a 6% (82/87) increase in the number of Investigations undertaken in 2017-2018. The main type of principle harm investigated is physical harm 26% (23/87).

In all investigations into physical harm information is shared with health and police through an Inter-agency Referral Discussion (IRD). This process determines, the lead agency, identifies the risk and what proportionate action should be taken relative to the risk and the adults level of vulnerability.

Where it is considered that there is a risk of serious harm, the local authority must consider the use of a Protection Order. Within the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, there are three Protection Orders: Assessment Order, Removal Order and a Banning Order; the latter can also have Powers of Arrest attached. Both local authorities have successfully applied for Banning Orders with Powers of Arrest during 2017-2018.

### Large Scale Investigations

EMPPC continue to support Care Homes and Care at Home providers contracted to deliver services to the most vulnerable people living within our communities and in partnership with the Care Inspectorate.

EMPPC have jointly delivered training on *Train the Trainers* to Care Home Managers and Care at Home Managers providing ongoing Adult Support and Protection training to their staff teams.

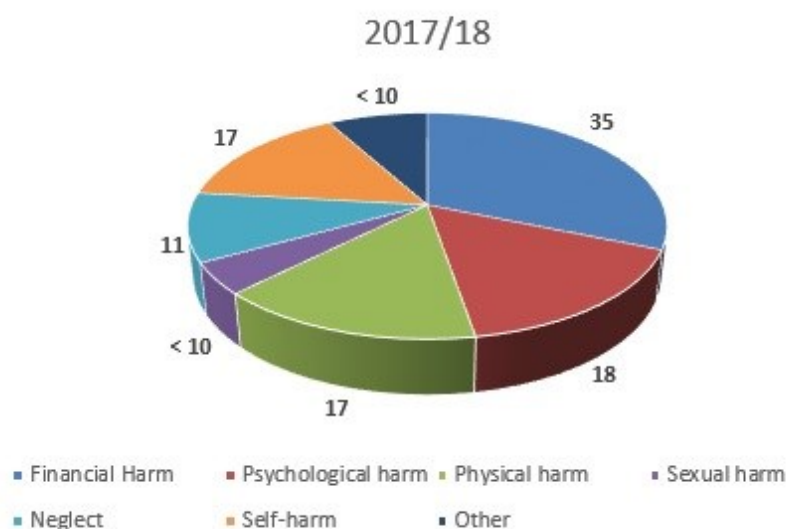
Within East Lothian and Midlothian there have been a small number of Large Scale Investigations into the quality of care delivered in nursing homes. These investigations have

been in response to unsatisfactory levels of care and/or low Care Inspectorate grades following inspection.

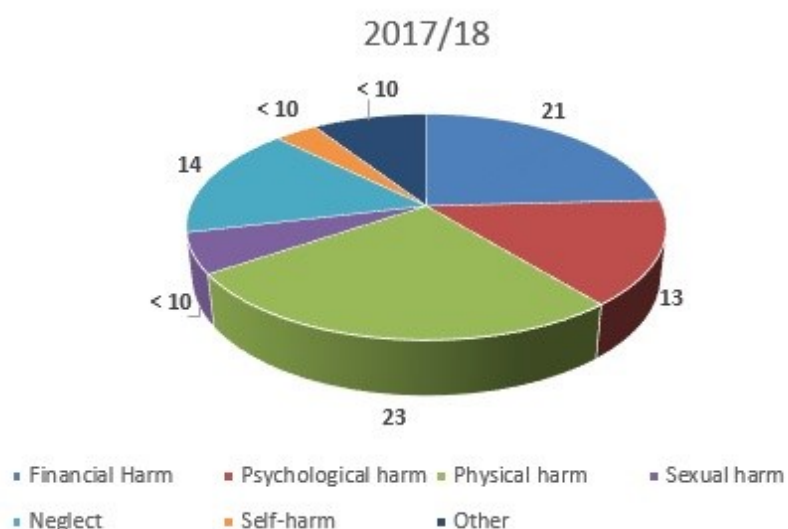
In addition to the delivery of training, EMPPC hold twice-monthly meetings of Care Homes and quarterly meetings of Care at Home services. These meetings are joint between East Lothian and Midlothian, enabling the sharing of information between agencies (Health, Social Work and Care Inspectorate). Focusing on the quality of care delivered, current staffing levels, number of complaints received, the number of adult support and protection referrals submitted, enables a multi-agency assessment of the quality of care being delivered and risk assessment of the care home/care at home service.

### Principal type of harm

East Lothian:



Midlothian:





## Learning from Initial Case Reviews

Initial Case Reviews carried out in the last year each presented with a range of complexities with crossovers into domestic abuse, learning disability, mental health, substance misuse and fire risks. The learning points from each case review highlighted the need for involvement of specialist roles in such circumstances where there is added complexity of risk.

EMPPC are committed to the ongoing development of staff working with adults at risk harm and of the wider public protection agenda. The learning from each of the case reviews has informed changes to current training to include the cross overs between Adult Support and Protection and Domestic Violence, focusing on the impact of trauma and how this can affect the adults' ability to keep themselves safe.

EMPPC have worked extensively with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to raise awareness of multi- agency staff, including third sector of fire risk within the home and to inform them of the free fire home safety visits accessible via SFRS website. EMPPC have developed a home fire safety visit referral pathway in conjunction with SFRS. This tool will be widely accessible to all agencies across East Lothian and Midlothian.

In their inspection report the Care Inspectorate noted that:

*“Adult Protection work is challenging. It is all about marginality and balance – The rights of adults at risk of harm to self-determine and choice must be balanced with the need to keep them safe and protect them from harm. Staff working in adult support and protection skilfully walk a tightrope between risk mitigation and positive risk enablement”* (page 16)

This statement reflects the work undertaken by all staff working in Adult Support and Protection across East Lothian and Midlothian. EMPPC are committed to supporting staff working with such complexities, through the continuous learning and development programmes.

## Improvement Plan

The Adult Support and Protection Improvement plan is informed by learning from case file audits, case reviews and the most recent Thematic Adult Support and Protection Inspection. EMPPC continue to drive forward improvements for adults at risk of harm through identified learning outcomes and monitoring progress quarterly at the Performance and Quality Improvement sub-group where the plan is reviewed and updated. Presently, all evaluations have been single agency, focusing on social work files. Moving forward, there is commitment from EMPPC to extend case file audits to include Police Scotland, NHS Lothian and relevant other agencies involved in Adult Support and Protection.

## Challenges and Priorities

### Priorities

The Care Inspectorate made two recommendations to MHSCP:

- The partnership should make sure that all adult support and protection referrals are processed timeously.
- The partnership should make sure that social workers prepare well-balanced, valid chronologies for all adults at risk of harm.

Audits have been undertaken in respect of both recommendations to identify areas of improvement going forward and have been added to the Adult Support and Protection Improvement plan. The progress of each recommendation will be monitored over the year by the Care Inspectorate and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland.

Additional Priorities include:

- **Multi-agency attendance at Initial Adult Support and Protection Case Conference.** This was identified by EMPPC through single agency case file audits and by the Care Inspectorate and has since been added as a Performance Indicator. A multi-agency group has been established to review and strengthen attendance and contribution to Adult Support and Protection Case Conferences. This will be subsequently monitored through the Performance and Quality Improvement sub-group.
- The completion of multi-agency risk assessment of all adults at risk of harm to measure effectiveness in the assessment and management of risk and in particular where there are added complexities such as domestic violence, mental health and fire risk.

### Challenges

EMPPC continually strive to evaluate Service Users experiences to inform service delivery. Presently, this is obtained through a self-evaluation questionnaire, specifically asking if the service user feels safer as a result of the intervention provided. This continues to be a challenge for various reasons, more often than not service users do not wish to provide feedback of their experiences. However, where the service user has attended their case conference and provided feedback all questionnaires received, reported that they feel safer as a result of the intervention provided.

*"I'm still here, because of Adult Support and Protection"*  
Service user, Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection in  
Midlothian

## Child Protection

### Key Data

East Lothian	15/ 16	16/ 17	17/ 18
Number of children on the Child Protection Register (per 1,000 of 0-15 population) as at 31 March.	30 (1.6)	40 (2.0)	62 (3.3)
CP02 – Number of repeat Child Protection Register registrations within a 24 month period	-	17 / 84 (20%)	<10 / 77

East Lothian has experienced an increase in the number of children placed on the child protection register. At the end of the reporting period 2017/18 there were 62 children on the child protection register, this is an average of 3.3 per 1,000 of 0-15 population (the national average is 3). There had been an increase in the number of pre-birth child protection referrals, which are more likely to be placed on the register, due to the vulnerability of new-borns. There had also been an increase in sibling groups being placed on the register, which, in a small local authority, can affect the average and lead to apparent spikes in registration numbers. Since the end of the reporting period, numbers have started to decrease as risk levels reduce.

Two children experienced repeat registrations during the reporting year, which is a reduction on the previous year. This suggests that once registered, risks are being reduced in a more sustainable way.

Midlothian	15/ 16	16/ 17	17/ 18
Number of children on the Child Protection Register (per 1,000 of 0-15 population) as at 31 March	40 (2.5)	54 (3.2)	36 (2.2)
CP02 – Number of repeat Child Protection Register registrations within a 24 month period	-	14 / 122 (11%)	<10 / 103

In contrast to East Lothian, Midlothian has experienced a decline of the number of children on the child protection register at the end of the reporting year at 36, this means that at 2.2 per 1,000 of 0-15 population, Midlothian is below the national average of 3 per 1,000 of 0-15 population. Data analysis tells us that over the past two quarters there has been a decline in larger sibling groups being referred and subsequently registered. As the second smallest local authority in Scotland, such small variances can impact upon the headline figures.

The volume repeat registrations within 24 months had reduced, which again may suggest effective and sustainable interventions are taking place.

## **Current Themes**

### Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation guidance and Child Protection Procedures are enacted once risk of Child Sexual Exploitation has been identified. Our partner agencies continue to ensure a coordinated approach to children identified to be at risk via strategy meetings chaired by Police Scotland.

The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Officer continues to take cognisance of learning from published Significant Case Reviews, inquiries and research, which is then translated into local training, guidance and awareness raising.

### Performance and Data

EMPPC has contributed to the consultation on Scotland's national data set for Child Protection Committees. EMPPC has refined its performance indicators and are set to revise our entire performance framework, informed by performance data, self-evaluation, quality assurance and findings from scrutiny.

### Child's Planning

EMPPC has developed a child's planning workshop, aimed at the multi-agency workforce to help improve the quality of our plans for our most vulnerable and at risk children.

East Lothian has undertaken a significant commitment to training our frontline workforce in the Signs of Safety Approach, specifically looking at safety focussed planning. Midlothian have been further embedding their Outcomes Focussed Approach by training frontline staff and running test cases in Outcome focussed Assessments in Permanence Planning.

During this reporting period, EMPPC have brought training in a child welfare approach towards Domestic Abuse known as Safe and Together to the area. Training is delivered on a multi-agency basis, with the aim of recognising the detrimental effects domestic abuse can have on families and improving responses to domestic abuse from a better informed and skilled workforce. The key principles have been integrated into both the Signs of Safety and Outcomes Focussed Approach. This is a new and innovative approach to tackling domestic abuse, moving blame away from the victim and keeping the perpetrator at the centre. The Critical Services Oversight Group have given a commitment to ensure sustainability in the model to support the required shift in our approach.

## **Learning from Initial and Significant Case Reviews**

Initial Case Reviews for children in the past year have identified learning points consistent with learning from other reviews. Information sharing across partner agencies remains an area for improvement. EMPPC are working to improve and help support processes that make this as simple, but effective, as possible. However, information sharing across

agencies presents challenges specifically in relation to part IV of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act, 2014 and the General Data Protection Regulations. Partner agencies continue to work closely together to ensure that vulnerable children's information is shared in a proportionate way. For example, the Critical Services Oversight Group have issued a letter of assurance to frontline staff in supporting proportionate and lawful sharing of information.

EMPPC are represented as part of the Lothian Multi Agency Chronology working group. This group is creating a template, guidance and training to support consistent practice across the Lothians and to make information sharing consistent across all areas and agencies. The importance of chronologies in identifying patterns of children at risk of harm is consistently identified in case reviews alongside the importance of Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART) planning. SMART planning is fundamental in getting it right for children, hence EMPPC's focus on improvements in SMART planning in all children's plans. It is a key priority that is addressed via training, regular evaluation activity and as part of our key performance indicators that are reported on quarterly.

Further learning from case reviews relates to issues of non-compliance and false compliance. All of EMPPC training consistently explains what non-compliance and false compliance is and highlights how workers can be aware and practice in a fashion that helps them maintain a degree of proportionate, yet professional curiosity to ensure vulnerable children are identified and helped. Senior Management Teams also promote awareness via their own agency support and supervision structures.

### Challenges and Priorities

During the course of this reporting period, we have identified a range of challenges, which will inform our ongoing improvement agenda. Although we have made some significant progress in our partnership and collaborative working arrangements, some areas remain where information sharing is not as timely or proportionate as it should have been. This is being addressed, with a clear statement from our Chief Officers regarding our duty to continue to share information effectively when the tests of *vital interests* or *public task* is met. This will be supported through our workforce communications and learning and development strategies.

The risk of online harm to children and adults continues to increase, as technology develops and becomes more accessible. We are engaging with the Scottish Government and the South West Grid for Learning to bring training and awareness raising to East Lothian and Midlothian.

## Priorities

Areas of priority are identified through a range of means, including legislative and policy developments, self-evaluation, quality assurance, feedback from external scrutiny and findings from initial and significant case reviews.

During the coming fiscal year, we will be further supporting the embedding of *Signs of Safety* in East Lothian and our Outcomes Focussed Approaches as our ongoing commitment to relationship based and systemic practices.

We will continue to implement the Safe and Together model and integrate the principles of Safe and Together into these approaches, to help us improve how we view the impact of domestic abuse and more effectively address it.

With the implementation of the National Missing Persons' Framework, along with community planning partners, we will continue to develop a coordinated response when our most vulnerable people go missing and the support they subsequently receive.

Involving children and their families in the planning and interventions which affect them remain an area for improvement, which we intent to build upon.

The Public Protection Office hold a large suite of policy, protocol and guidance documents. These will be streamlined and reviewed during the current fiscal year to ensure that they are relevant, meaningful and accessible to frontline practitioners.

# Violence Against Women and Girls

## Key Data

Measure		2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/18	% Change
Number of incidents of Domestic Abuse recorded by the Police	East	903	932	930	0%
	Mid	1,116	1,030	978	-5%
Number of victims referred to Domestic Abuse Service Pathway following a Police Incident	East	69	106	190	<b>+79%</b>
	Mid	127	113	237	<b>+110%</b>
Number of victims referred to MARAC	East	202	85	78	-8%
	Mid		111	75	<b>-32%</b>
Number of children involved in MARAC cases	East	-	120	110	-8%
	Mid		153	124	-18%
% of repeat MARAC cases within one year	East	-	25%	27%	NA
	Mid	-	41%	33%	NA
No of sexual crimes recorded by the Police	East		163	134	-18%
	Mid		159	179	<b>+13%</b>
Number of survivors of rape and sexual abuse referred to specialist support services in East Lothian and Midlothian	East	59	52	51	0%
	Mid	36	33	43	<b>+30%</b>

## Current Themes

The demand for support from specialist domestic abuse services after a police incident (referrals to the Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway) has risen exponentially by **79%** in East Lothian and by **110%** in Midlothian, whereas the number of incidents recorded by the police has remained stable.

The MARAC (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference) is for survivors of domestic abuse who are at high risk of serious harm or murder. Repeat MARAC referral rates are within the expected range. In both areas referrals are below the expected rate for our adult female populations (SafeLives, 2018). This year we focused on raising awareness of MARAC across partners from all sectors with emphasis on health visiting, midwifery, education, housing providers and third sector organisations and increasing staff confidence to refer to MARAC by providing specialist training. The significant number of children involved in MARAC cases underlines the importance of ensuring children and family services are able to identify domestic violence and take appropriate steps to improve the safety of children and the protective parent.

This year we introduced the Safe and Together model into our two existing children and families assessment frameworks, which is an important step in integrating a Violence Against Women and Girls analysis across children and adult services. This approach will

enable our services to actively partner with the non-offending parent, whilst holding the perpetrator to account for their behaviour as a parent. We anticipate that this will increase the early identification of domestic abuse and equip staff to intervene so that survivors and children are safer and so that perpetrators have the opportunity to change their behaviour. The training element with senior social workers and team leaders was completed from January to March 2018, implementation plans in each area are underway and we are embarking on a shared training for trainers programme in collaboration with other Scottish local authority areas, which will enable us to upskill staff across partner organisations.

We completed the Gender Based Violence policy for both Councils; Midlothian Council adopted the policy in May and implementation, which is led by a high-level management group, is focusing on culture change. In relation to this, Midlothian Council is one of four Councils participating in the pilot of Equally Safe at Work accreditation in 2018/19.

The VAWG coordinator post and the MARAC coordinator posts were established with staff confirmed in November 2017, which provides continuity and stability to this strand of public protection work. In addition, a three year contract for housing and support services for women and children affected by domestic abuse was awarded to Women's Aid East and Midlothian, which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017. In response to an improvement action to increase refuge provision in East Lothian, four new refuge units were brought on-stream bringing the total to 10 refuge units in East Lothian and 11 units in Midlothian.

The VAWG Services Review also identified key gaps, which we have been addressing. We have been working to ensure that our array of specialist services can be trauma informed, sustainable and able to meet rising demand; note the significant rise in victims of domestic abuse accepting specialist support and growing waiting lists for local sexual abuse services. Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership has been able to allocate service funding to increase the sexual abuse service to 20.5 hours (from 16.5 hours) in 2018/19; the service in East Lothian is for 25 hours. We hope to be in a position to ensure services can provide longer term trauma informed support based on stable funding.

*"I was asked to think about what was different about this support from all the support I had accessed before. I suppose she helped me through the swinging pendulum of dealing with the old trauma of childhood abuse, recent domestic abuse and substance misuse. It was the first time that someone saw me as a whole person, considered all my experiences in one. "*

*Service user, Women's Aid East and Midlothian*



The Domestic Abuse Service has continued to operate with two full time equivalent domestic abuse advisors. We have secured three year funding from the Scottish Government which partially funds one advisor (2017-21) and we are now entering the 5<sup>th</sup> and final year of the Big Lottery grant which covers our second domestic abuse advisor, two specialist women's aid staff, safety equipment and resources. Our expression of interest for a new Big Lottery grant was recently accepted, which if successful will bring on stream a third Domestic Abuse Advisor as well as retain specialist substance misuse workers.

*"I would not be where I am now if it had not been for you. You helped me to get good supports set up for where I am now (moved area). Even though he doesn't know where I am, I still feel anxious and still look over my shoulder but I'm getting better. I still have the leaflets you gave me about anxiety and sleep and I use the exercises to help me. I like to use the one on breathing. Women's Aid are helping now and I am going to be starting the Freedom and CEDAR groups. The children are getting support from them too. Thank you for all your help. "*

Service user, Domestic Abuse Service

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Total £</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>CPP (including Council, NHS and Police )</b>	<b>£ 420,511</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Scottish Government</b>	<b>£ 626,888</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Independent Funders</b>	<b>£ 316,045</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,363,444</b>	<b>100%</b>

As part of the pilot national Equally Safe Performance return we mapped local funding invested in preventing and eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls in 2017/18. Our area invested a total of **£1,363,444**, provided locally by Community Planning Partners and nationally by the Scottish Government and Independent Funders. See the table above.

The services funded include:

- The VAWG and MARAC coordinator posts and the Domestic Abuse Service (Public Protection Office)

- Community based domestic abuse services including substance and employability services and refuge and support services (Women's Aid East and Midlothian)
- Outreach Sexual Abuse Services across Midlothian and East Lothian (Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre)
- Spring and Connect programmes for vulnerable women and the Caledonian System for perpetrators and their families (Criminal Justice services, Health and Social Care Partnerships).

## **Improvement Plan**

The Violence Against Women and Girls Improvement Plan is structured around the four national Equally Safe priorities with specific actions arising from local processes and data. The Improvement Plan was updated following the VAWG Services Review to focus on the gap areas identified: sustainability of specialist services, particularly the sexual abuse service; an approach to prevention (involving women and men, key universal services such as education and communities) and developing services which work with perpetrators.

The Violence Against Women and Girls delivery sub-group is responsible for improving performance and delivering the Improvement Plan; to achieve this we have streamlined the plan into 5 key actions which relate to the new set of key performance indicators strengthened the functions of the delivery group. Moving forward, we will be carrying out an annual Equally Safe Quality Standards Assessment and Performance Framework return which will inform the improvement process.

Action to establish partnership working to integrate VAWG into school health and wellbeing strategies had stalled due to staff vacancies; however both Education lead officers are now in place and they are working with Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre's new full time sexual violence prevention worker for our areas.

## **Challenges and Priorities**

The increasing demand for specialist services, particularly for domestic abuse and sexual abuse, is likely to continue due to growing public debate on and rejection of gender based violence, as per the global Me Too movement, media coverage of systemic childhood sexual abuse and its impact on survivors and the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act which comes into force March 2019. In this rapidly changing context our challenges and priorities are to:

- Scope and secure sustainable funding to support our partnership services for domestic abuse and sexual abuse services.
- Fully embed Safe and Together into our practice with children and families, bringing on board all relevant services and ensuring they have the confidence and skills needed to identify domestic abuse and intervene at the earliest point possible.

- Develop our approach to working with perpetrators of domestic abuse more effectively – providing support services for those who wish to change their behaviour.
- Improve data on the level of need for all of our services, for example, currently we have police data on domestic abuse which needs to be complemented with data from community based services, principally from Women's Aid East and Midlothian and also from Shakti Women's Aid and Fearless for male survivors.
- Contribute to building a culture of gender equality and respect for human rights by setting out our approach to the prevention of violence against women and girls and supporting cultural change within our own organisations.

*What did you find most helpful?*

*"Probably the service being free. When you have no job or income and in a situation where everything costs money it's good to have access to a free service. I was given guidance and reassurance and you talked me you through situations and that means so much."*

Service user, Domestic Abuse Service

# Offender Management

## East Lothian

### Key Data

Offender Management key data has remained consistent throughout 2017/18 with minimum variation when compared with the previous year. At the end of 2017/18, there were 51 clients who were subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) within East Lothian – a drop of 3 on the previous year.

### Current Themes

At the start of 2018, protests started taking place in a number of areas within East Lothian. Criminal Justice, Housing and the Police worked closely together at this time to ensure we were working in a co-ordinated way to address these community concerns. After several months, these protests ceased with similar activities then breaking out in other area in Scotland. This appears to be a national issue.

### Learning from Case Reviews

No case reviews have occurred in East Lothian during the reporting year.

The MAPPA Operational Group, which meets quarterly, considers all Initial and Significant Case Reviews across the Lothian and Borders area. The Lothian and Borders Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) has final sign off for these recommendations.

Lothian and Borders made a decision that when a sexual offence has been committed:

- An Initial Case Review notification report is triggered
- This is reviewed by the SOG chair who states if this should progress to full ICR or not
- This is then sent out to all SOG members to ratify or challenge that decision

The above process is working well and is enabling us to focus on risk factors as they emerge.

### Improvement Plan

The East Lothian and Midlothian Offender Management Group Improvement Plan is currently subject to revision and will be reported to the Public Protection Committee in September 2018.

Minimum Practice Standards for MAPPA Level 1 was introduced throughout Scotland in April 2018. These standards are aimed at improving consistency of practice as well as ensuring that we have clear and robust monitoring arrangements in place for those being managed at Level 1. This process will be monitored closely during 2018/19 to ascertain any impact on practice.

## **Challenges and Priorities**

Visor Vetting continues to present issues on a national basis. Work is ongoing within East Lothian to help inform how best we address the current issue of mandatory vetting before access to Visor can be gained for those staff who are new to the system.

Having appropriate and suitable housing options does present challenges and something that the Housing Sexual Offences Liaison Officer (SOLO) works closely on.

The MAPPA process continues to work well with re-offending being kept to a minimum. Processes are well embedded with close and effective collaborative working taking place between all partner agencies.

## **Midlothian**

### **Key Data**

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 in Midlothian there were 55 clients who were subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

### **Current Themes**

#### Women's Group Work Service – Midlothian Spring Service

The Spring service is relevant to Public Protection due to the number of women attending the service who have experience of childhood abuse and domestic violence.

Spring has continued to develop and the number of women attending the service has steadily increased. We have now recruited an Occupational Therapist who works with the service to help women to move on from Spring. The Spring social worker undertook Mentalisation Based Therapy (MBT) training in London, to help her improve her skills in working with women who have experienced trauma. The staff group as a whole took part in a development day facilitated by staff from the Rivers Centre and Willow in Edinburgh; again, the theme was how to work effectively with trauma.

#### Midlothian Sexual Abuse Services

Criminal Justice social work funding has been used to increase the funding to extend the hours of this service which is provided by Edinburgh Rape Crisis. This has reduced the waiting times for Midlothian women, from six to three months.

## **Learning from Case Reviews**

### MAPPA Operational Group (MOG)

The MAPPA Operational Group, which meets quarterly, considers all Initial and Significant Case Reviews across the Lothian and Borders area. The Lothian and Borders Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) has final sign off for these recommendations.

There were no ICRs or SCRs on Midlothian Criminal Justice social work MAPPA cases in 2017-18.

### **Improvement Plan**

The East Lothian and Midlothian Offender Management Group Improvement Plan is currently subject to revision and will be reported to the Public Protection Committee in September 2018.

### Joint Thematic Review

The Action Plan from the review included the requirement that Criminal Justice social work staff working with sex offenders undergo the RMA (Risk Management Authority) Risk Practice training. All relevant workers in Midlothian have now been through the training.

### ViSOR

At the end of the financial year 2017-18 the Head of Service and Chief Social Work Officer wrote to all relevant Criminal Justice staff explaining there was a requirement to undertake vetting for Visor. One of the Team Leaders has been vetted to Level 3 so that she can be the Single Point of Contact. We are currently waiting for two admin workers to be vetted so that we have a local administrator for Visor and a backup. New members of CJ staff will be required to undergo Visor vetting successfully and will therefore be subject to a six-month probationary period.

## **Challenges and Priorities**

### New Structure for Community Justice in Scotland

The structure was up and running from the start of 2017-18 and the Community Safety and Justice Board met quarterly throughout the year. The Community Justice Working Group initially met every six weeks and then moved to quarterly. The emphasis of Community Justice Scotland has been on alternatives to custody, a reduction in the use of remand and alternatives to prosecution, such as Diversion. The focus has therefore not been on public protection or high-risk offenders.

## MAPPA Operations

The MAPPA Operational Group continues to meet quarterly at Fettes Police Station. This group reviews all ICRs, as does the Offender Management Group.

At the February meeting of the East Lothian and Midlothian Offender Management Group it was agreed that both areas would adopt the new national minimum practice standards for MAPPA Level 1 cases and the new national template for Environmental Risk Assessments (ERAs). We agreed that we were already meeting the minimum practice standards for Level 1 cases and the only real change was in the management of cases post-conviction but prior to sentence, when sentence was delayed beyond the usual timescales.

There is now a shorter timescale for ERAs but again this was not seen as problematic as it is already met in most cases.

## Learning and Development

### Key Data

During the 2017/18 fiscal year, the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office provided 65 training events, with a total of 1,452 training places allocated, to ensure the aims of the learning and development strategy are implemented.

The 2015-2018 strategy promoted:

- A range and variety of approaches: recognising the need to be inclusive and to recognise different systems, styles and staffing requirements;
- A pragmatic approach where the required knowledge is accessed via learning that is relevant, meaningful and accessible, and the content is proportionate to the requirements of the workforce;
- Empowerment: participants will be provided with information, guidance and support to meet their own identified learning and development needs;
- Sharing good practice and establishing a common language; and
- Quality assurance processes to identify the impact of learning and development and the overall effectiveness of the learning on outcomes for children, adults and their families.

The 2018-2021 learning and development strategy has now been implemented. The learning and development improvement plan is aligned with our identified areas of priority.

*"I found this by far the best Adult support training I've attended, really useful and it was great having the additional speakers from fire service, police etc.*

Participant, Adult Support and Protection Level 2 Training

### Current Themes

Training for all public protection sectors will continue to be delivered widely across agencies and revised as necessary giving due consideration to participant feedback, operational managers, the learning from SCRs/ICRs and national developments;



As well training attendees being asked to indicate their level of knowledge and the impact from attending training events via evaluation sheets. EMPPC agreed quarterly reports from 2018 will report on 7 primary performance indicators.

There has been a focus on implementing the Safe and Together approach to domestic abuse. 39 practitioners across agencies have received 4-days core practice training and 27 Team Leaders across children services, criminal justice and health have received 3-days Safe and Together Supervisory Skills Training to help embed the approach into front line practice and making the links to existing frameworks.

### **Learning from Case Reviews**

In partnership with Police Scotland, 'J' Division, we have delivered multi-agency training on the learning from an SCR (Adult Support & Protection). The learning from an SCR (Child Protection) has been embedded into Working with Non-engaging and Evasive Families training. The learning from the Newcastle Child Sexual Exploitation SCR (Child Protection) has been embedded into Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness training.

*“Trainer very knowledgeable and really enjoyed having the Service User input – very powerful”*

Participant, CAPSM Training

### **Improvement Plan**

There was no specific Learning and Development Improvement Plan until April 2018; the relevant improvement actions having been subsumed into other plans. A Learning and Development Improvement Plan is now in place. The plan reflects the priorities in the new East Lothian and Midlothian Learning and Practice Development Multi-agency Workforce Strategy 2018-2021.

### **Challenges and Priorities**

- Streamlining of the training courses offered to meet identified areas of priority and operational demand.
- To ensure thematic refresher training is available through LearnPro modules and those who require refresher training complete these.
- Develop and embed Safe and Together into existing frameworks.
- Train more frontline practitioners at a multi-agency level in Safe & Together Core Practice.

- Support the implementation of Safe & Together briefings to other Council services, and agencies.
- Establish Public Protection Awareness training to cover core aspects of Child Protection, Adult Support and Protection, Offender Management and Gender-Based Violence; and
- Establish the basic Public Protection module for all employees across the two local authority areas as part of their induction and as essential training for existing employees.

*"I really enjoyed the training and found the information very helpful"*

Participant, Harmful Practices Training

## Appendix A: East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee membership

Anne Neilson	Director of Public Protection, NHS Lothian (Chair)
Matt Paden	Detective Chief Inspector, 'J' Division, Police Scotland (Vice Chair)
Alison Macdonald	Head of Older People & Access, East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership
Alison White	Head of Adults / CSWO, Midlothian Health & Social Care Partnership
Andrew Sheridan	Schools Group Manager (ASN), Education, Midlothian Council
Caroline Myles	Chief Nurse (Midlothian), Midlothian Health & Social Care Partnership
Charlotte Kirk	Consultant Paediatrician, NHS Lothian
David Girrity	Prevention and Protection Group Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Fiona Duncan	Group Service Manager – Statutory Services (Adults) / CSWO, East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership
Fiona Robertson	Head of Education, East Lothian Council
Joan Tranent	Head of Children's Services, Midlothian Council
Judith Tait	Head of Children & Adult Services, East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership
Julie Watson	Operations Manager, Women's Aid East and Midlothian
Kevin Anderson	Head of Customer & Housing Services, Midlothian Council
Lesley Siewert	Locality Reporter Manager, SCRA (Mid lead)
Paul Mulvanny	Locality Reporter Manager, SCRA (East lead)
Sean Byrne	Public Protection Team Manager, EMPPO
Sharon Saunders	Head of Communities and Partnerships, East Lothian Council
Trish Leddy	Group Service Manager – Rehabilitation & Access, Adult Services, East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership

### **Ex-officio members**

Denice Lilley	Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer, EMPPO
Veronica Campanile	Interim Violence Against Women and Girls Co-ordinator, EMPPO
Leigh Taylor	Child Protection Lead Officer, EMPPO

## Appendix B: East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Team Contact Details

### East Lothian & Midlothian Public Protection Office

Room F28, Brunton Hall, Ladywell Way, Musselburgh, EH21 6AF

0131 653 5150 [emppo@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:emppo@eastlothian.gov.uk) [www.emppc.org.uk](http://www.emppc.org.uk)

Name	Title	Email	Work Telephone No.
Sean Byrne	Public Protection Team Manager	<a href="mailto:sbyrne1@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk">sbyrne1@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5151
Denice Lilley	Adult Support & Protection Lead Officer	<a href="mailto:dlilley@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk">dlilley@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5158
Leigh Taylor	Child Protection Lead Officer	<a href="mailto:ltaylor2@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk">ltaylor2@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5155
Veronica Campanile	Violence Against Women Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:vcampanile@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk">vcampanile@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 7475
Neil Whettam	Learning & Development Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:nwhettam1@eastlothian.gov.uk">nwhettam1@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5154
Alison Porter	Domestic Abuse Advisor	<a href="mailto:aporter@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk">aporter@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5153
Caroline Hall	Domestic Abuse Advisor	<a href="mailto:chall3@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk">chall3@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5159
Lisa Dowie	Domestic Abuse Advisor	<a href="mailto:ldowie@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk">ldowie@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5164
Mandy Rudden	MARAC Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:arudden@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk">arudden@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5156
Andrew Main	Senior Business Support Administrator	<a href="mailto:amain@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk">amain@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk</a>	01875 824 093
Bernadette Stein	Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:bstein@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk">bstein@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5152