

**REPORT TO:** Policy Performance Review Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 23 September 2014

**BY:** Acting Chief Social Work Officer and  
Heads of Adult and Children's Wellbeing

**SUBJECT:** Child and Adult Protection  
Reporting to Elected Members  
April 2013 to March 2014

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## **1 PURPOSE**

This report gives an overview of the statistical performance information for Child and Adult Protection for Quarter 4, 2013/14 and a summary report for the full year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:



- a) Note the contents of this report: and to,
- b) Consider how they would like this information reported in future; noting that the new Public Protection Office and Manager thereof will produce a Public Protection Annual Report for 2014 /2015 which will be available in June 2015 under the direction of the Joint Public Protection Committee.

## **3 INTRODUCTION**

3.1 Quarter 1 2013/14 was reported to PPRC in September 2013 and Quarters 2 and 3 2013/14 were reported in March 2014. This report therefore includes statistics for Quarter 4 2013/14 and summarises and comments on the main themes over the full year 01 April 2013 – 31 March 2014. The data are also set within a historical context showing annual trends since 2010/11.

## **4 EAST LOTHIAN CHILD PROTECTION SUMMARY**

#### 4.1 Trends and Patterns 2013/14

Measure	Short term trend	Long term trend	2010/2011/2012			Q1 2013/14	Q2 2013/14	Q3 2013/14	Q4 2013/14	Annual (average)
			11	12	/ 13					
No of children on Child Protection Register (CPR) in East Lothian			53	66	53	47	48	44	59	50

	Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun)	Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep)	Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec)	Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar)
No of children on CPR	47	48	44	59
No of families on the CPR	31	28	26	35
No of IRD's within quarter	105	110	77	113
No of children with repeat IRD's (within 15 months)	19 (18%)	30 (27%)	18 (23%)	34 (38%)
% Repeat registrations on CPR in quarter (within 12 months)	4	4	3	3
% of ICPC registered within quarter	64	60	70	77

4.2 Across the first 3 quarters 2013/14 the number of children on East Lothian's child protection register remained consistent. This followed the introduction of the Signs of Safety approach which has been used in relation to all initial child protection case conferences since April 2013. The reported figures are thought to reflect the positive strength based approach to assessing and planning for children and their families. Over Quarter 4, however, East Lothian reported a 32% increase in the number of children placed on the child protection register. The relatively small number of children on the Register means that this seemingly large percentage increase related to only 15 children which is not particularly significant in the context of child protection in East Lothian. Over the whole reporting period an average of 69% of children going to case conference were placed on the child protection register. This is consistent with the national picture demonstrating that the decision to convene a case conference was appropriate and the cases met the criteria set within the National Child Protection Guidance 2014 of children deemed to be at significant risk of harm.

4.3 National Child Protection statistics report that from August 2012 – July 2013 East Lothian undertook significantly more inter agency referral discussions that the national average whilst child protection case

conferences and child protection registrations sat just below the national average.

4.4 Historically there have always been peaks, both locally and nationally, in relation to child protection performance. Attempts have been made to understand the reasons for these peaks, however, there has been no specific local reason found. Child Protection data can change depending on a number of issues including the number of children within families, families moving across our authority border etc. An audit was conducted in early summer 2014, in partnership with the Public Protection Team, in relation to IRD and case conference thresholds, to assess and identify underpinning issues affecting the Quarter 4 peak activity referenced above. This audit evidenced that a number of cases could have been managed at a stage three intervention level and that a small number of cases had been considered within a Child Protection IRD prematurely. This audit of cases informed us of the need to undertake further work with practitioners in relation to IRD and case conference intervention thresholds focusing on the criteria of significant risk of harm and also the necessity to strengthen consideration being given to GIRFEC stage three intervention as a proportionate method of supporting and managing risk that falls below the agreed threshold for child protection.

4.5 The evaluation work undertaken highlighted themes around differing thresholds for IRDs; recording of IRDs and the development of interim safety plans and subsequently a number of proposals have been taken forward:

- An IRD and case conference threshold multi-agency intervention workshop has been delivered.
- A Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) stage 3 consultation episode will be developed within Framework-i to allow child protection concerns to be considered and recorded without necessitating progression to a child protection IRD.
- The current process for recording IRDs across the core agencies is being reviewed to reflect the criteria of significant risk of harm as set by the National Guidance for Child Protection 2014.
- A standard of practice checklist for interim safety plans has also been produced for use by multi-agency practitioners.

It is anticipated that once the above proposals are implemented there should be more consistency reached in thresholds for IRDs across core agencies. A further audit will be conducted in 6 months time to review this and this will be reported via the Joint Performance and Quality Improvement Sub Group to the Joint Public Protection Committee

4.6 Work has progressed in relation to shared/integrated chronologies and an agreement reached that all children on East Lothian's child protection register will have a shared/integrated chronology. This will be implemented across East Lothian by March 2015.

- 4.7 The National Guidance for child protection was updated earlier this year to reflect the requirements of Getting It Right For Every Child and the legal duties imposed by the Children and Young People's Act 2014. These changes relate mainly to the role and requirements of the Named Person, the child's plan and the shift in terminology from welfare to child's wellbeing. In addition, the guidance also makes reference in more detail to the important theme of child sexual exploitation and internet safety. The Lead Officers for child protection across Edinburgh and the Lothians are currently working on updating the Edinburgh and Lothian Child Protection Procedures to reflect these updates.
- 4.8 Following the community planning services for children inspection which report in April 2014, recommendations contained therein relating to child protection practice have been reviewed and necessary improvement actions have been incorporated into a refreshed East Lothian Multi-Agency Child Protection Improvement Plan 2014/15 (available on the Council website). This Plan was approved by the Joint Child Protection Committee and will be monitored by the Joint Performance & Quality Improvement Sub Group thereto.

## 5. EAST LoTHIAN ADULT PROTECTION SUMMARY

### 5.1 Trends and Patterns 2013/14

Measure	Short term trend	Long term trend	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Q1 2013 / 14	Q2 2013 / 14	Q3 2013 / 14	Q4 2013 / 14	Annual
Referrals	↓	↑	835	941	1065	293	311	283	257	1144
Duty to Inquire	↓	↓	143	307	363	78	74	64	55	271
IRD	↑	↓	58	145	132	27	40	16	19	102
Case Conferences*	↓	↓	36	95	141	20	16	16	12	64
Professionals meetings	↑	↓	-	-	40	4	5	4	8	21
No of open cases	↑	↓		56	48	34	39	46	68	47 (average)
Protection Orders	-	↓	8	5	11	3	1	0	0	4
No of Large Scale Investigations	↑	↓	2	7	6	1	0	0	1	2

- 5.2 There has been a marked change in the reported Adult Support and Protection activity from 1<sup>st</sup> April -2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. There has been a 7.4% increase in the number of referrals received to Adult

Wellbeing. This figure includes all police referrals only a small percentage of which are considered to be Adult at Risk of Harm referrals. Despite this 7.4% increase in referrals there has been a significant decrease in all other Adult Support and Protection reported activity as tabled although the number of open cases has remained the same. This is believed to be because Adult Support and Protection processes are now more embedded within practice and practitioners are more confident and less risk averse in their decision making. This will be evaluated within our Performance and Quality Improvement audit activity in the current year.

- 5.3 In 2013-14, the Scottish Government identified five National Priorities within Adult Support and Protection. One of the priorities was to develop and implement a National Data Set which provides a template that enables the consistent collection of data nationally. A collection table and guidance notes have been created to support Local Authorities in this regard and consultation took place to confirm that Local Authorities were able to report on the required data. This report has been piloted within Q1 of 2013/14 and will be reviewed in October 2014 for implementation moving forward.
- 5.4 Women were more notably subject to Adult Support and Protection than their male counterparts. Financial Harm is the main type of Harm being perpetrated across the year, very closely followed by psychological harm and self harm. The latter is reflective of the large number of police referrals that do not necessarily meet the criteria of and Adult at Risk of Harm but are considered to be “vulnerable” and require specialist supports, for example drug and alcohol services.
- 5.5 Financial Harm is one of the Scottish Government’s 5 priorities and in line with this, it is one of the themes highlighted by its prevalence across East Lothian. In 2013/14, following a raid in East Sussex, all local authorities received a “suckers List” from their trading standards office detailing the names of people resident in their area who were being targeted for scams. This information has been shared with the Public Protection Office and links are being made with Trading Standards and Operations to identify and support those adults considered to be at risk of financial harm. Multi-agency Financial Harm workshops are being held within East Lothian and links are being made with local banks to raise awareness of Financial Harm and how to make referrals.
- 5.4 East Lothian Council have investigated a number of nursing/care homes within the authority where an individual has been harmed and/or the quality of care has been poor enough to potentially place people at risk of harm. In 2013/14 there were 2 Large Scale Investigations, which is a decrease from 6 in 2012/13. One was a private Nursing Home and the other a Care at Home Service. Again this area of Adult Protection work is one of the Scottish Government’s 5 National Priorities and a considerable amount of work has been undertaken within East Lothian to support and protect adults at risk of harm in care. The Public Protection

Office has led on this nationally with the Quality in Care model which provides early indicators of harm, enabling a pro-active approach to reduce the risk of harm and improve the quality of care in care settings.

- 5.6 The East and Midlothian Adult Protection Committee (EMAPC) agreed in March 2013 to commission an independent person to undertake a multi-agency self-evaluation exercise of adult protection services in both council areas. A number of case files were audited and practitioners from various disciplines were interviewed. On the whole the outcomes were positive and it was viewed that adults were largely supported and protected. There were a number recommendations which have been included in the Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan. Similar to Child Protection, one of the key themes highlighted was the differences in thresholds for intervention in IRDs and Case Conferences. Service Users and carers were also contacted and their views obtained. On the whole, the majority who were interviewed reported that they generally felt safer as a result and that the intervention was necessary and proportionate.

## **6 PUBLIC PROTECTION OFFICE**

- 6.1 While structures in Public Protection have developed separately over time, the reality for most service users is that their needs often span more than one category, for example, many children or adults at risk of harm live in households where domestic violence is an issue. Whilst recognising important differences between the areas, as the public protection agenda has gathered momentum, partnership agendas reflected this common interest and showed significant overlaps. In view of this, East and Midlothian Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG), comprising Chief Officers of all constituent partner agencies, agreed to streamline our committee structures and establish a single Public Protection Committee.
- 6.2 East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee (EMPPC) was formally established in July 2014 and covers all functions and responsibilities of the Adult Protection Committee, the Child Protection Committee, the Offender Management Committee and the Violence Against Women Partnership, and maintains robust links with Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership. The chair of the new Committee is Anne Neilson; the Assistant Director for Public Protection for NHS Lothian. To date East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee has met twice.
- 6.3 The Public Protection Team is now co-located in the Brunton Hall, and has strategic responsibility for Child and Adult Protection and Violence Against Women. MELDAP staff are now co-located with the Public Protection Team, and the next phase will see the police Public Protection Unit co-located as well. Improvement Plans are currently being developed in each of these areas and are reported via the Performance and Quality sub group of the EMPPC.

- 6.4 Reports will go quarterly to EMPPC and CSOG (Critical Services Oversight Group) and it is planned to compile an annual report at the end of the year 2014-15 which will include all public protection workstreams. This report would be available for members of PPRC in June 2015. An interim update on the first six months can be provided in December 2014, if required.
- 6.5 Notwithstanding the improvement plans for individual workstreams, multi-agency public protection performance management priorities identified for 2014/15 are:
- Thresholds for IRD (inter-agency referral discussion) and case conferences
  - Multi-agency chronologies
  - Risk Assessment
  - Adult Support and Protection Plans / Children’s Safety Plan

**7 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required on the performance reporting aspect of this report, however an Equalities Impact Assessment will be required on the implementation of the Public Protection Team and will be completed in the next 3 months.

**8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Financial N/A
- 8.2 Personnel N/A
- 8.3 Other N/A

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