

**REPORT TO:** Policy and Performance Review Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 9 November 2016

**BY:** Chief Social Work Officer

**SUBJECT:** East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Annual Report – April 2015 to March 2016

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## **1 PURPOSE**

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

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) Note the contents of the attached East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Annual Report 2015/16.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 This report is the second annual report of the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee and it includes statistics for the reporting year 2015/16. The report summarises and comments on the main themes arising in each of the areas of Public Protection over this time period;
- 3.2 Adult Protection – East Lothian Adult Protection data is available on page 6 of this report with commentary on pages 6-10;
- 3.3 Child Protection – East Lothian Child Protection data is presented on page 13 of this report with commentary on pages 11-14;
- 3.4 Violence Against Women and Girls – East Lothian data is presented on pages 15-17 of this report;
- 3.5 Offender Management Group – Information from the offender management group is presented on pages 18-19 of this report;

3.6 Training – Information on all Public Protection training is presented on page 20 of this report with data presented in appendix 3 (page 25-27).

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 N/A

#### **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Financial – N/A

6.2 Personnel – N/A

6.3 Other – N/A

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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

## **Annual Report 2015/16**

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# 1) Introduction

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.

East Lothian and Midlothian's Public Protection structure allows for close collaboration across all sectors of the protection agenda and we recognise the importance of successful partnership working for the individuals and communities we serve. We remain focussed on continuous improvement across all agencies.

The EMPPC, chaired by Anne Neilson (Director of Public Protection, NHS Lothian) meets quarterly to fulfil its scrutiny role in overseeing the four improvement plans – Adult Support and Protection, Child Protection, Offender Management and Violence Against Women and Girls.

It is 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.

The 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. Our core values of respect, integrity and commitment underpin our work towards supporting and protecting all people who may be at risk of harm in our communities. All public protection activity takes place within two axes:

- Preventative ↔ Reactive;
- Individual ↔ Community engagement.

There are two sub-groups which support EMPPC with this approach, one of which focuses on Performance and Quality Improvement across all areas, which was chaired by Sharon Saunders (Head of Children and Adult Services, ELHSCP) in 2015/16. This sub-group led the development of the EMPPC Performance Framework which was implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, providing our framework for self-evaluation, audit and scrutiny. This was reviewed in January 2016, and the 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.

The Learning and Practice Development sub-group, chaired by Alison White (Head of Adults, Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership) meets quarterly to oversee the development and delivery of the EMPPC Learning and Development Strategy. During this year we carried out a service review of the training and development function within the team and are very pleased to welcome Neil Whettam to the new role of Public Protection Learning and Development Co-ordinator. Neil's role will be to lead the implementation of the Learning and Development strategy.

The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Team support the work of the EMPPC in carrying out such activity and is based in the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office (EMPPPO) 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.

Activities which are supported by East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Team include community and agency staff awareness raising, education and risk management initiatives and specific initiatives to address identified harm to groups for example financial harm, sexual exploitation and investigation and protection planning.

There are strong and positive working relationships and links established with the NHS Lothian Public Protection Team and the development of the EMPPC office 'hub' has provided valuable opportunities to further promote and raise awareness of the NHS Lothian roles of Adult Support and Protection Advisor and MAPPA Health Liaison Officer. The role and function of the Child Protection Advisors while already well established, has also been enhanced. These key health roles all make a significant contribution to operational working, helping to build effective communication and liaison across the core agencies and support timely information sharing.

The NHS Lothian learning and development leads actively collaborate in the development and delivery of a broad range of training opportunities to promote best practice and encourage learning.

The EMPPC is well placed at the hub in the centre of the spectrum of activity, both having an overview and offering support and guidance to operational staff across all agencies, working towards a more holistic approach.

Some of the main benefits and impacts which have been identified are:

- Taking a "Lifespan" approach by considering support and protection issues at all ages and stages of life;
- Putting the person at the centre of the process and looking at the situation with a wider lens;
- Sharing staff capacity and knowledge, resulting in a broader more flexible base;
- Less duplication of effort;
- More effective and efficient processes.

A reduction in overall costs is indicated and our first year's budget can be found in [appendix 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.

Some of the lessons we have learned in the process include recognising the shared aims of all key partner agencies which are: to keep people safe and the importance of shared learning across all disciplines. Barriers to information sharing and confidentiality have lessened as relationships have developed and trust has grown, and we believe collaborative leadership has enabled public protection to become more holistic, both for the service user and organisationally.

## Prevent

In 2015/16 EMPPC has been involved in supporting East Lothian and Midlothian councils to fulfil their responsibilities under the Prevent strategy. Prevent is one strand of the UK Counter-terrorism strategy, known as Contest, and aims to stop people being drawn into, or supporting terrorist behaviour. Single Points of Contact have been appointed in both councils and NHS Lothian, and they have the lead in developing and delivering the strategy locally. Local authorities have a key role in the delivery of Prevent, ensuring that relevant staff are trained in WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) and coordinating Prevent Professional Concerns Case Conferences where necessary.

Prevent is very much about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism and promotes the same partnership approach as in other areas of Public Protection, therefore EMPPC are in an ideal position to support this process.

## 2) Adult Support and Protection

### Introduction

EMPPC is committed to delivering on the development of the national work stream and will work alongside practitioners to raise awareness and share information of all national developments in relation to the support and protection of adults at risk of harm.

This annual report for adult support and protection continues to reflect the implementation of the Scottish Government's national data set which was introduced in April 2014 and this continues to be a focus of the current national work stream. The EMPPC has fully supported the implementation of the national data set and continue to work with Scottish Government in relation to it.

The implementation of the national data set led to a review of the adult support and protection procedures with a focus on section 4 *Duty to Inquire* and section 7 *Duty to Investigate*. This was also an area that the Care Inspectorate considered during their recent inspection of older peoples' services in East Lothian. A number of briefing sessions were delivered to all council officers across East Lothian and Midlothian in respect of the changes and planned implementation from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

### National Data Set

There has been a small increase in the number of adult support and protection referrals in both East Lothian and Midlothian in 2015/16 when compared to 2014/15. Midlothian have received 501 referrals in 2015/16, an increase of 11% from 452 in 2014/15. East Lothian Council have received 493 referrals in 2015/16, an increase of 15% from 427 in 2014/15. Police Scotland continues to be the main referrer to both Councils. This is reflective of the data collated by Scottish Government (2014/15) with Police Scotland being the biggest referrer to local authorities (53%).

East Lothian:

Measure	2014/ 15	2015/ 16
Referrals	427	493
Investigations	125	69
Protection orders	3	3
Number of Large Scale Investigations	3	2

Midlothian:

Measure	2014/ 15	2015/ 16
Referrals	452	501
Investigations	94	129
Protection orders	1	1
Number of Large Scale Investigations	2	2

Given the volume of police referrals submitted to East Lothian and Midlothian Councils an adult concern form consultation process was piloted from July 2015. The purpose of the consultation process was: to share information between core agencies (Police, Health and Social Work) enabling



shared and informed decision making; the early identification of risk and whether the adult met the criteria of an adult at risk of harm; timely intervention where necessary; and identifying the most appropriate route for information sharing and referral. The adult concern form consultation process reduced the number of adult concern forms submitted to social work by 50% in both authorities. The consultation evaluated positively by the staff involved and was considered a good practice example during the Joint Inspection of Adult Health and Social Care Services for Older People in East Lothian. The pilot was discontinued however, due to difficulty in identifying a single point of contact within NHS Lothian and the implementation of the Police Scotland risk and concern project proof of concept within 'J' Division. This meant that the pilot proved too resource intensive on a permanent basis.

### Financial Harm

Financial harm continues to be reported as a principal source of harm in both Council's and correlates with the national picture identified via the national data set. An outcome of the national priority for financial harm is the development of a national financial harm prevention group which includes banks and building societies. The national group have provided a definition of financial harm: *"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 Financial Harm Working Group). The national group have also developed a universal template in response to some of the challenges experienced by local authorities when requesting information under section 10 of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act – the examination of records including financial records).

Using funding received from Scottish Government the EMPPC, in conjunction with Midlothian Council, funded a *No Cold Calling Zone*. Trading standards subsequently reported that the number of complaints received in relation to bogus workmen and scammers in this zone had reduced significantly. EMPPC have also supported local advertising on buses using the materials from the national adult support and protection campaign in order to raise awareness of financial harm amongst members of the public.

The financial harm training was reviewed and updated in 2015/16 and is delivered on an inter-agency basis. The training provides information on the roles and responsibilities of each agency in response to the disparate range of financial harm.

The following is an example of where the training has been effective and illustrates a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities:

*"An occupational therapist (OT) was visiting a family with a disabled child. The family had been approached by a local company who were persuading the mother to buy a specialist bed at an astronomical cost. The mother felt considerable pressure from the company to buy the bed for her son which was well out of her budget and was not necessary. The OT shared her concerns with trading standards who were aware of the company, which had previously operated under a different name and were known for their rogue practices. A joint visit to the family was undertaken to inform the mother of the information known to trading standards. The circumstances became a criminal matter and were subsequently investigated by Police".*

## Large Scale Investigations

Large scale investigations continue to feature in the landscape of Adult Support and Protection work. EMPPC have reviewed and amended the large scale investigation protocol which provides guidance to inter-agency staff in the investigation of harm within care homes and care at home services.

In 2015/16 both East Lothian and Midlothian Councils have experienced two large scale investigations each with three of these being specific to care at home services. This picture appears to be changing as previously large scale investigations were more prevalent to care homes although not exclusively.

The inter-agency quality in care meetings continue to meet every 2 months in relation to care homes and quarterly for care at home services. This provides a forum for agencies (NHS Lothian, Social Work and the Care Inspectorate) to share information and discuss any concerns in relation to the quality of care delivered to residents within care homes and adults supported at home.

A train the trainers pack on adult support and protection has been developed and delivered to care home managers. This training has also been adapted and delivered to care at home service managers who are contracted with the Council.

An example of where the training has been effective:

*“Thank you for the train the trainers course, it was an enjoyable and informative course and I cannot wait to start the training”*

Quote from attendee at train the trainers course

*“I actually can’t wait to deliver it to our staff and volunteers. I see this as a great way forward for managers. Ensuring their staff have instant training at induction and not having to wait months to get a place on level 1 ASAP. This is very vital training and this awareness makes such a difference to protecting our vulnerable adults”*

## Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan

The EMPPC Performance and Quality Improvement sub-group continue to develop and monitor the progress of the Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan. The initial focus of the plan was informed by the Scottish Governments national priorities: national data set, financial harm, care homes and independent hospitals and service user and carer involvement, and aspects of these areas continue to feature within the plan. The Adult Support and Protection plan also focuses on key areas of practice development highlighted through multi-agency case reviews and single agency case file audits which have identified areas of practice development through relevant training and guidance documents.

A single agency case file audit identified a gap in the recording of chronologies and the benefits of a chronology in the assessment and management of risk. A case file audit was undertaken and practitioners were consulted via an online questionnaire of their understanding of the purpose of a chronology in the support and protection of adults at risk of harm. The outcomes of the combined process identified the need for practice development for staff and this was delivered through workshops and supported by the development of a guidance document for practitioners. The

continued improvement of chronologies in adult support and protection is monitored through the performance framework indicators and reported through the Performance and Quality Improvement sub-group.

## Challenges and Priorities

### Service Users and Carers Involvement

The evaluation of service user and carer feedback is essential to the development of all Adult Support and Protection practice across East Lothian and Midlothian. This area of practice is monitored as part of the performance framework indicators (ASP11 and ASP12), which record whether adults attend their own adult support and protection case conferences and whether or not they feel safer as a result of the intervention.

The validity of the data reported to the EMPPC has been questioned and in light of the discussions a more robust approach was taken in an attempt to capture more qualitative data. It was thought that the most effective way to do this was to interview adults who have experienced the adult support and protection process whilst being mindful not to revisit the actual harm experienced.

*“As a family we were very apprehensive at being made a ‘case’. However the meeting was extremely well chaired and did not get sidetracked from the main issues. The plan put in place is an undoubted improvement”*

Adult Support and Protection Case Conference  
service user feedback

Some of the difficulties experienced locally in engaging and capturing service user feedback in a timely manner are also reflected nationally. This area of practice continues to present challenges and further discussion is necessary to develop more robust and effective ways of engaging and obtaining the views and experiences of service users and their carers within the adult support and protection process.

### Learning from Case Reviews

EMPPC support and facilitate learning informed by practice through recommendations and outcomes of Initial / Significant Case Reviews. Within this reporting period (2015/16) there have been three initial case reviews. Although independent of each other there were similar themes of self-neglect, non-engagement with services and the assumption of capacity without fuller investigation. The combined set of circumstances present agencies with a number of challenges specifically to information sharing, when and how to intervene without the adults consent and the clear comprehensive assessment of risk. This is an area for practice development across all agencies in future.

### Self-evaluation

The last multi-agency self evaluation concluded in December 2013 under the previous East Lothian and Midlothian Adult Protection Committee and the recommendations are embedded within the current adult support and protection improvement plan (2015-18). Since the implementation of the EMPPC a number of single agency (social work) audits have been undertaken with a specific focus on information sharing and the assessment and management of risk. Areas for practice development

have been included within the improvement plan and operational staff are working hard to improve specific areas of practice (e.g. chronologies and risk assessments). Their achievements are reflected in the performance framework indicators for quarter 1 of 2016/17. To ensure the quality of the support and protection of adults at risk of harm future audits must focus on the multi-agency arrangements of information sharing and the assessment and management of risk through multi-agency case file audits.

### 3) Child Protection

EMPPC is committed to providing collaborative leadership for all child protection services across our two local authority areas and to full align our multi-agency practice with the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014).

#### National Child Protection Improvement Plan

With the Scottish Government announcing a programme of review and improvement around policy, practice, services and structures within child protection, 2016 is set to be a significant year of development for those involved with the local or national agenda. The review will focus on Child Protection Committees, Initial / Significant Case Reviews and the Child Protection Register as well as greater scrutiny through a revised inspection programme. Addressing the impact of neglect on children will be promoted through strengthening leadership and the impact of changes to legislation and practice within the Children's Hearing System will also be explored.

The chair of the EMPPC and Lead Officer for Child Protection will keep Chief Officers and members apprised of any developments and will seek to ensure practitioners are aware of the process and kept updated with relevant information. We will also ensure opportunities to be involved in the review are taken wherever possible.

With Scotland, the national resource to improve outcomes for children at risk of harm has now closed and the Centre of Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS) will become the central point of support and improvement for child protection with confirmed funding from Scottish Government, COSLA and NHS.

The EMPPC recognise the importance of keeping our frontline practitioners informed of national discussions and actions, and will continue to communicate via our regular newsletters and through Lead Officer attendance at Team and Management meetings.

#### Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

In March 2016, the national inquiry into non recent abuse of children in care in Scotland, launched a call for evidence. Despite significant changes within the inquiry panel, the work of the inquiry remains unchanged and none of the evidence heard to date will need to be repeated. EMPPC are committed to supporting the inquiry and both Local Authority areas have identified and contacted current and previous care providers to ensure that documents are retained for production if necessary.

#### Child Sexual Exploitation

In line with Scotland's National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation, the EMPPC have worked alongside Edinburgh Child Protection Committee and Barnardo's Scotland to produce and implement Inter-agency Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation. The guidance is intended to support local agencies in applying getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) effectively in relation to child sexual exploitation and will help local agencies to:

- Identify those at risk of being sexually exploited;

- Take action to protect and promote the wellbeing of particular children and young people who are being or are at risk of being sexually exploited;
- Take action against those who are intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people in this way.

In 2015/16 we delivered the pilot of our inter-agency training to a group of key frontline practitioners and we have also delivered bespoke training to 25 residential staff within our Young People's Units across East Lothian and Midlothian. Level two training is in development which will focus on applying the risk assessment framework and engaging with vulnerable young people once exploitation has been identified.

*"This training was very relevant to my job and reinforces that CSE is a child protection issue"*

Quote from attendee at CSE training

### Vulnerable Young People Protocol

In February 2016, EMPPC implemented the Vulnerable Young Person's protocol for people under the age of 21 who are at risk of causing significant harm to themselves or others. Piloted in Midlothian, the protocol offers a structured framework around the multi-agency assessment, planning and decision making around a specific group of young people who are not supported via another process or procedures.

Our task for 2016/17 is to embed this protocol in local practice and increase agency understanding of the criteria and process.

### Visually Recorded Interviews (VRI)

The joint interviewing of children and young people continues to be a crucial part of the investigative child protection process. As part of EMPPC's commitment to ensure front line Police and Social Work practitioners remain competent and confident in carrying out this role, an evaluation programme has been rolled out across both Local Authority areas. The evaluation provides practitioners with an opportunity to observe one of their interviews on DVD alongside one of the multi-agency VRI evaluation team. The interview is jointly critiqued against the VRI practice model and the practitioner is offered constructive feedback whilst any areas of development are identified. Feedback from practitioners has been positive and they have benefited from the opportunity to consider their own practice in a supportive space.

Nationally, we are moving towards accreditation for VRI workers and the evaluation process is an introduction to external scrutiny of practice and ensuring that practitioners carrying out interviews are suitably skilled and qualified.

### Unexplained bruising in non-mobile babies

NHS Lothian has introduced a child protection protocol for the management of unexplained bruising in non-mobile babies. Unexplained injuries are one of the most complicated categories of child protection investigations and in non mobile babies, it is vital that we respond quickly and consider all cases within an Inter-agency Referral Discussion. The protocol is designed to ensure a consistent approach is adopted and that robust safety plans are implemented no matter how minor the

bruising. As part of our evaluation calendar, we will review cases where non mobile babies have presented with bruising to ensure that the protocol is being used effectively.

### Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRD's)

Authority area	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16
East Lothian	487	410	406	280	218
Midlothian	593	578	606	418	367

For 2015/16 the number of IRD's undertaken within East Lothian and Midlothian has reduced by 22% and 12% respectively, in comparison with the previous financial year. As the principles of GIRFEC continue to be embedded in local practice, it is likely that the multi-agency identification of wellbeing concerns has resulted in earlier intervention to avoid children reaching the threshold for child protection involvement.

Within the EMPPC Performance Framework, the number of children who are subject to a repeat IRD are recorded and if a child is subject to three IRD's in a 12 month period we explore these circumstances further.

The child protection business meeting was introduced in February 2016 to provide IRD practitioners with a forum to discuss and progress all ongoing child protection work and to make multi-agency decisions about whether an IRD is ready to be signed off. This has significantly improved the quality of IRD's coming to the IRD Overview Group and the IRD practitioners have benefited from having time to discuss and make decisions on a face to face basis.

NHS Lothian operates a child protection hub where different members of staff are available each day to conduct and progress IRD's. The child protection hub is currently developing processes to ensure that the same health practitioner is available throughout the course of particularly complex IRD's, including those surrounding unexplained injuries. This will offer a consistent health contact and reduce the chance of discrepancy or miscommunication.

### Child Protection Registration

Authority area	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16
East Lothian (as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March)	66	53	59	31	30
Midlothian (as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March)	95	49	79	21	40

In East Lothian and Midlothian, the number of children on the Child Protection Register during 2015/16 was below the national average.

Throughout quarter two and three of 2015/16, East Lothian had 20 children on their Child Protection Register but this figure had risen to 30 by the end of the year. With lower numbers, any degree of movement around registration figures can significantly affect statistics. Looking at individual cases within East Lothian, it is evident that the increase included a number of children who were transferred onto the East Lothian Child Protection Register from other local authorities and the rise is not of concern given the uncharacteristically low base.

Midlothian registration figures are more often affected by large sibling groups and the end of 2015/16 saw the removal of one sibling group of five which resulted in an 11% reduction.

### Child Protection Improvement Plans

The Child Protection Improvement Plans for East Lothian and Midlothian focus on key areas of improvement that have been identified from Children's Services Inspections or local audit and evaluation. The plans are overseen by the Performance and Quality Improvement sub-group to ensure that actions are implemented and progress is consistent. Alongside the improvement plan there is an evaluation calendar which schedules the audit and review work in line with local priorities.

In 2015/16, the fortnightly Inter-agency Referral Discussion Overview Group reviewed and discussed all IRD's being carried out in East Lothian and Midlothian. This process identified some re-occurring issues with the flow of information throughout the IRD process and the consistency of Interim Safety Plans. As a result of this, we have implemented a quarterly IRD practice meeting for senior managers from each IRD agency and a weekly IRD business meeting for IRD practitioners to discuss and progress all ongoing child protection work. We have also developed Interim Safety Plan Guidance for practitioners which will be used to ensure our plans are meeting the expected standard. This will be reported on a quarterly basis via the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Performance Framework.

Evaluation planned for 2016/17 includes six monthly audits of integrated chronologies, regular audits of child's plans to ensure they are SMART, a review of the National Risk Assessment Framework in Midlothian and an audit of risk assessments for children who have been on the Child Protection Register for over 9 months.

EMPPC are committed to our programme of improvement and will continue to work alongside local practitioners to develop practice and improve outcomes for children at risk of harm.



## 4) Violence Against Women and Girls

In 2015/16 there has been a four month vacancy from June to October 2015 in the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy co-ordinator post, which has understandably had an impact on the consistent delivery of the service. During this time the Domestic Abuse Team, comprising the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Co-ordinator and two Domestic Abuse Advisors worked well to ease the strain on the operational service and keep core business running. Our third sector partner Women's Aid East and Midlothian (WAEML) were also an active support during this time.

The Domestic Abuse Service (DAS) has continued to consolidate and to develop close working relationships with partners and despite staffing challenges we remain positive about the progress made over the period. DAS benefits from close links with child protection and adult support and protection within the Public Protection Office. Co-location with Police Scotland has allowed DAS to work closely to streamline support and reduce duplication. We could not have envisaged how

important and beneficial this would be for the women with whom we work, however, our intention to provide a single point of contact for women coming through the pathway has not always been possible. Despite good information sharing some women still need to have contact with several agencies as DAS cannot replicate the specialist services of the Police or the Court.

A core area of our work is through the domestic abuse service pathway (DASP), which aims to support people experiencing domestic abuse to feel safer in their own homes, be better supported and have greater access to a wider range of services. The pathway is a multi-agency initiative bringing together the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office Domestic Abuse Service, Women's Aid East and Midlothian, Police Scotland and Edinburgh District Abuse Court Service (EDDACs). In 2015/16 the DASP provided support to 181 people: of these 174 (96%) were women and 7 were men<sup>1</sup>.

As part of this service, Women's Aid East and Midlothian provide help, support and temporary accommodation to women and their children who are assessed at 0-9 on the risk indicator checklist. This year they supported 98 women or 54% of the referrals received through the Pathway.

The Domestic Abuse Service provides short to medium term support for high and very high risk victims of domestic abuse – those assessed as 10 or above using the risk indicator checklist. In 2015/16, 87 people received DAS support (84 women and 3 men) or 48% of referrals received through the Pathway<sup>2</sup>. In addition, DAS supported a further 98 people (93 women and 5 men) who were referred through the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) process. DAS workers also provided service user views at the MARAC. In total, the DAS supported 185 victims of domestic abuse during this period.

*"It was awful saying the words out loud but my worker made it feel safe and I never felt judged"*  
Service User Feedback

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<sup>1</sup> Four of the seven men were provided with contact details for Abuse Men in Scotland (AMIS).

<sup>2</sup> In addition one woman victim was passed to the Caledonian Programme as the perpetrator was on a Caledonian order.

We aim for 75% of people receiving support from DAS via MARAC to report feeling safer at their three month review. Of the 98 victims supported, 27 (28%) completed exit questionnaires – of these 23 (85%) reported an overall improvement in feeling safer. We have learned that we do not get the best evaluative data if we approach women for feedback after they have exited the service as it is not unusual for them to disengage once their circumstances have changed. Consequently, we now ask for feedback at an earlier stage.

We have continued to hold four weekly MARACs which share information and creatively increase safety for very high risk victims of domestic abuse. This year MARAC referrals have steadily increased – there were 202 referrals to MARAC either via the DASP or directly from a range of services (e.g. NHS Lothian, Community Safety, Police Scotland, EDDACS). As a result we have had to extend the time allocated to MARAC meetings. We are pleased to note that MARAC membership has grown and now has representation from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service who regularly perform home safety checks for women as part of our safety planning.

We are confident that service users who are discussed at MARAC are safer as a result of the safety actions undertaken. Of the 202 referrals to MARAC, 62 (31%) were repeat referrals within a 12 month period, which is slightly below the 35% average for an established MARAC according to Safe Lives. A formal evaluation of East Lothian MARAC by Safe Lives is planned in 2016/17.

East Lothian and Midlothian Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Delivery Group takes a co-ordinated, multi-agency strategic approach to help improve, develop and deliver services and preventative activities in order to effectively address VAWG across East Lothian and Midlothian, which includes work on domestic abuse.

Its work and aims are directed by the VAWG Improvement Plan 2015-18, which is based on the strategic outcomes of Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls. The Delivery Group's work will be informed by the Scottish Government / COSLA Guidance for Violence Against Women and Girls Partnerships (August 2016) and forthcoming Equally Safe Performance Management Framework.

### Future development

Having acknowledged the scale of domestic abuse across East Lothian and Midlothian, the estimated cost to the public purse and the related impacts on other services, as well as the expansion of violence against women services in a context of unstable and insufficient funding, the East Lothian and Midlothian Critical Services Oversight Group (comprising the Chief Officers of all partner agencies) requested a review of violence against women services. The review, which is underway and due to conclude by March 2017 is working to the following aims for the redesigned service and successful implementation:

- 1) A VAWG service with the people we work with at the heart of what we do, driving a focus towards preventative interventions and ensuring equality of access and experience;

*"I am not sure where I would be without my Domestic Abuse Advisor's support. It just made everything feel safer, not just for me but for the kids too"*

Service User Feedback

- 2) A fit for purpose remit and structure for the VAWG service, supported by clear outcomes, targets and measures of success which reflect the National Framework;
- 3) Confidence that the total funding allocated is supporting an efficient, effective and sustainable service going forward and which provides best value;
- 4) A VAWG strategy and plan with clear and visible links of the wider planning framework / structure of the Single Outcome Agreements, Community Planning Partnerships and Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plans as well as readily demonstrating delivery on the Equally Safe Strategy;
- 5) A transparent, cohesive and robust partnership framework with roles and responsibilities clearly identified and demonstrated. The framework should also ensure ease of access and contribution from a multi-agency perspective such as Education.

*"I feel very lucky to have worked with my Domestic Abuse Advisor. They managed to help me with all areas of the situation but I never felt like I wasn't in control"*

Service User Feedback

We are encouraged by this development and anticipate that the Services Review will result in a strategic and sustainable approach to this area of work.

## 5) Offender Management

### Improvement Plan

An improvement plan for Offender Management has been agreed and signed off at the Offender Management Group. The measures in the plan are also being reported to the Public Protection Performance and Quality Improvement sub-group.

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

The Spring service continues to expand in Midlothian and is now based in Dalkeith Arts Centre. The service is facilitated by a number of agencies working in partnership, including Midlothian Council social workers and occupational therapists, NHS Lothian, the Community Health Improvement Team and Women's Aid. We now have a full time social worker and a part time team leader dedicated to the service and that has led to a greater sense of stability and sustainability.

### Women's Group Work Service – East Lothian Connect Service

The Connect group is based in Prestonpans. Referrals come from a variety of sources including Criminal Justice, Adult Wellbeing, Children's Services, Substance Misuse Services, MELD, STRiVE and Venture Trust. Workers use the Stepping Stones group work which is cognitive behavioural therapy based, and looks at topics such as understanding our emotions, the impact of offending, solving problems, assertiveness and communication. Afternoon sessions are now being developed which will link in with a number of community resources such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Rangers Service, Art Therapy and Prestonpans Library. It is hoped in the forthcoming months to work on ensuring the group's sustainability and its reach to women with complex needs who may come into contact with criminal justice agencies due to their behaviour.

With regard to the closure of Cornton Vale Prison and subsequent redesign of the custodial estate for female prisoners, the Scottish Government has announced that none of the planned small custodial units will be located in East Lothian or Midlothian.

### New Structure for Community Justice in Scotland

Both East Lothian and Midlothian have provided a Community Justice Transition Plan to the Scottish Government and established Community Justice Partnerships.

In Midlothian, the Community Safety and Justice Partnerships meet quarterly and a Community Justice Working Group has been established. A Midlothian profile has been created for the 8 key issues identified as being most closely related to offending and reoffending and a gap analysis has taken place. There has been considerable progress in all services recognising the role they can play in reducing reoffending.

Within East Lothian, the Reducing Reoffending Board sits alongside the Safe and Vibrant Communities Partnership. To date it has met on 2 occasions. The Reducing Reoffending Group has met monthly since the start of 2016 with numerous partner agencies being members of this group. This group is helping to identify offender profiles as well as mapping services to needs analysis. All of this work is now being linked to the Scottish Government National Outcomes.

The official launch of the Community Justice Strategy is planned for November 2016.

### Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Extension

The MAPPA process was extended to violent offenders in March 2016. So far no violent offenders have been managed under the MAPPA extension in East Lothian or Midlothian.

Access to Visor for Criminal Justice social work remains an ongoing issue with most local authorities, including East Lothian and Midlothian, not being willing to insist that staff undergo the police vetting procedures now required for Visor access.

Offender Management police officers and Criminal Justice social workers have a strong working relationship in both areas and are confident that information sharing is robust and that Visor use is not required for it to be effective.

### MAPPA Thematic Review

Feedback from the MAPPA Thematic Review was published in December 2015. The feedback was generally positive, particularly in relation to partnership working. The review team did not identify any areas for improvement specific to East Lothian and Midlothian.

### MAPPA Operation

The two Criminal Justice Service Managers and the Offender Management Unit Detective Inspector are members of the MAPPA Strategic Officers Group that was established at the end of 2014. This Lothian and Borders wide group reports to the ELBEG Strategic Officers Group.

The MAPPA Operational Group has produced an overarching Communication Strategy. Communication around MAPPA remains a challenging issue with the tabloid press and social media continuing to focus on the resettlement of high profile sex offenders, often resulting in fear and alarm in local communities. This has proved particularly problematic for a number of registered sex offenders residing in the community who have been 'outed' on social media.

### MAPPA Statistics

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, there were 55 registered sex offenders in the community in East Lothian, and 58 in Midlothian. During 2015/16 no registered sex offenders were charged with any further level 1 or 2 (violent or sexual) offences.

## 6) Training

For the year 2015/16 the Public Protection Office has organised / co-delivered a total of 43 training events across child protection, violence against women and girls and adult support and protection to ensure the aims of the learning and development strategy is implemented.

The strategy aims to promote:

- 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;
- To encourage sharing good practice and establishing a common language;
- 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 facilitator was excellent – great knowledge and understanding of the subject”*

Training attendee feedback

Please refer to [appendix 3](#) for a training breakdown.

### Future developments

The EMPPC will host a one day multi-agency conference to share and explore local learning from Initial / Significant Case Reviews across child protection and adult support and protection. There are a number of new training packages in development including a module on harmful practices and level 2 child sexual exploitation training which will equip frontline practitioners with the skills and knowledge required to complete the sexual exploitation risk assessment framework (SERAF) tool.

There will be a pilot of the three acts training for adult support and protection and this will include an input on risk assessment. Training for all public protection sectors will continue to be delivered widely across agencies and revised as necessary in consideration of participant feedback and national developments. As of May 2016 the Public Protection Office will ask training attendees to indicate their knowledge before and after training events via evaluation sheets.

*“It was very good, the best training I have been on recently. The facilitators delivered it so well and made it very interesting”*

Training attendee feedback

A policy paper is in development to explore how the EMPPC can deliver public protection awareness raising for all employees across the two local authority areas. There are numerous delivery methods to consider including staff induction, e-learning modules or training for trainers to allow individual departments to co-ordinate and deliver the material. EMPPC will collate the details of those who have completed the training to ensure it is being accessed widely, to seek relevant feedback and to identify any gaps in provision.

## Appendix 1

### East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee membership

- Anne Neilson (**Chair**) – Director of Public Protection, NHS Lothian;
- John Peaston (vice-chair) – Detective Chief Inspector, ‘J’ Division, Police Scotland;
- Alison Macdonald – Head of Older People and Access, East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership;
- Alison White – Head of Adults, Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership;
- Allister Short – Head of Health, Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership;
- Andrew Sheridan – Schools Group Manager (ASN), Education, Midlothian Council;
- Fiona Duncan – Service Manager, Criminal Justice, East Lothian Council (CSWO);
- Fiona Robertson – Head of Education, East Lothian Council;
- Joan Tranent – Head of Children’s Services, Midlothian Council;
- Julie Watson – Operations Manager, Women’s Aid East and Midlothian;
- Kevin Anderson – Head of Customer and Housing Services, Midlothian Council;
- Lesley Siewert – Locality Reporter Manager, Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration;
- Lindsay Logie – Consultant and Lead Paediatrician for Child Protection, NHS Lothian;
- Sharon Saunders – Head of Children and Adult Services, East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership;
- Steve Gourlay – Prevention and Protection Manager (East, Mid and Scottish Borders), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;
- Tom Shearer – Head of Communities and Partnerships, East Lothian Council;
- Trish Leddy – Operational Service Manager, Adult Wellbeing, East Lothian Council;
- Anne Thompson – Team Manager, East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office (ex-officio);



- Denice Lilley – Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer, East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office (ex-officio);
- Lindsey Byrne – Child Protection Lead Officer, East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office (ex-officio);
- Veronica Campanile – Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Co-ordinator, East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office (ex-officio).

## Appendix 2

### Financial Year End Budget Report 2015/16

<u>Staff costs</u>	Projected 2015/16 costs	Actual 2015/16	Projected 2016/17
Public Protection Team Manager	£58,235	£60,696.13	£61,320
Child Protection Lead Officer	£50,249	£45,809.94	£59,187
Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer	£54,734	£55,357.18	£57,794
Learning and Development Co-ordinator	£45,638	£49,603	£46,089
Senior Business Support Administrator	£29,800	£29,891.94	£31,705
Business Support Administrator	£29,718	£30,501.20	£30,636
Travel expenses	£5,000	-	-
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£273,374</b>	<b>£271,859.39</b>	<b>£286,731</b>

<u>Training</u>	Projected 2015/16 costs	Actual 2015/16	Projected 2016/17
Public Protection training	£5,000	£2,973.96	£10,000
Child Protection training	£2,500	-	-
Adult Support and Protection training	£2,500	£2,519.20	-
Catering	£250	£92.75	£250
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£10,250</b>	<b>£5,585.91</b>	<b>£10,250</b>

<u>Office running costs</u>	Projected 2015/16 costs	Actual 2015/16	Projected 2016/17
Stationery (including print costs)	£1,500	£968.32	£1,500
Public Protection website	£250	£202.59	£250
Communications	£1,000	£879.45	£1,000
Shred-it / Confidential waste	£400	£455.40	£400
IT equipment and running costs	£2,000	£466.29	£2,000
Publications (journals etc)	£500	£1,576.38	£1,000
Franking	-	£136.56	-
Central support costs	£2,500	£3,583.44	£3,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£8,150</b>	<b>£8,268.43</b>	<b>£9,150</b>

<b>Total</b>	<b>£291,774</b>	<b>£285,713.73</b>	<b>£306,131</b>
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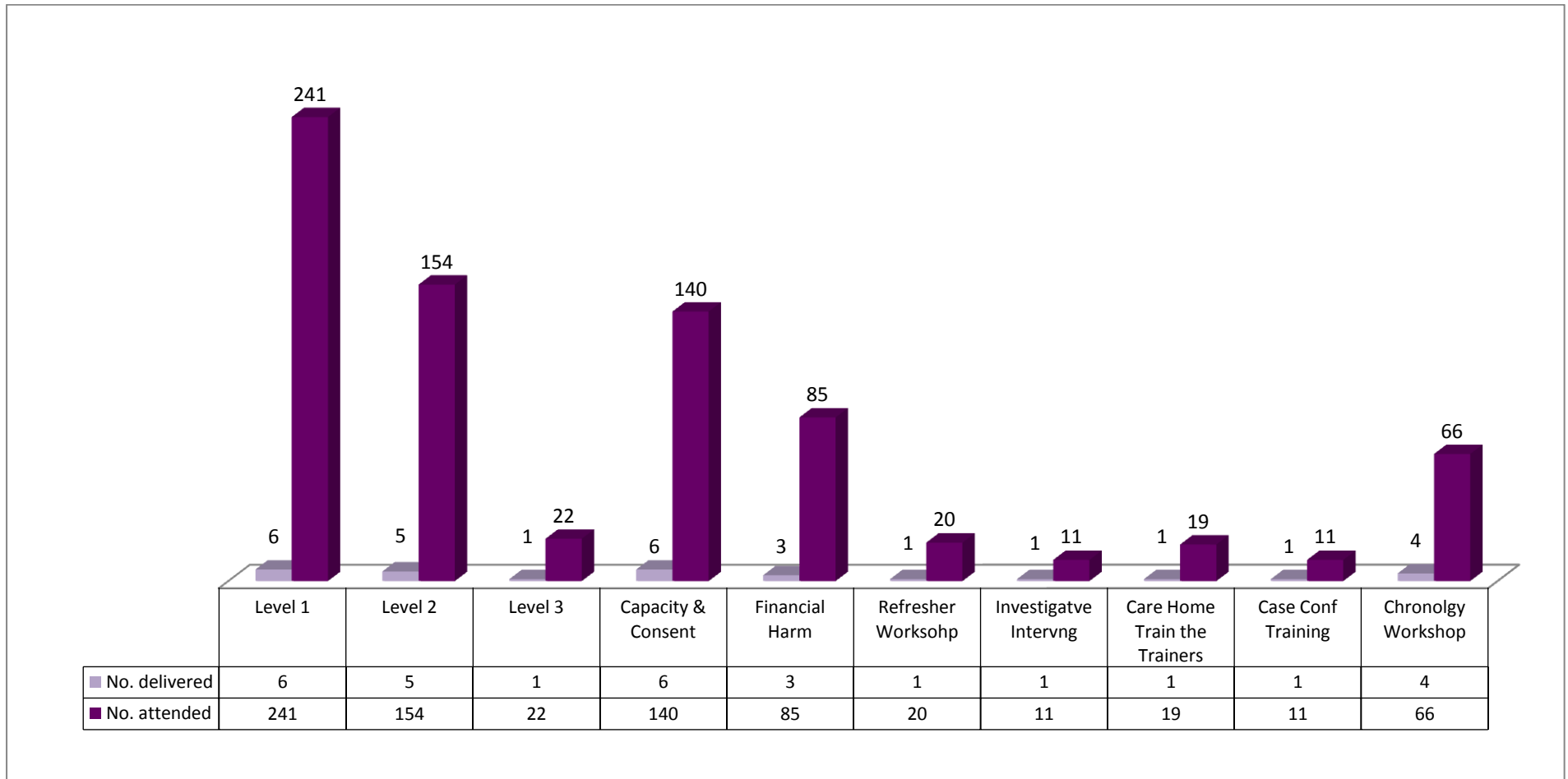
#### 2015/16 agency split

Agency	Split
East Lothian Council	£108,652.86
Midlothian Council	£99,404.88
Police Scotland	£38,828.00
NHS Lothian	£38,828.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£285,713.73</b>

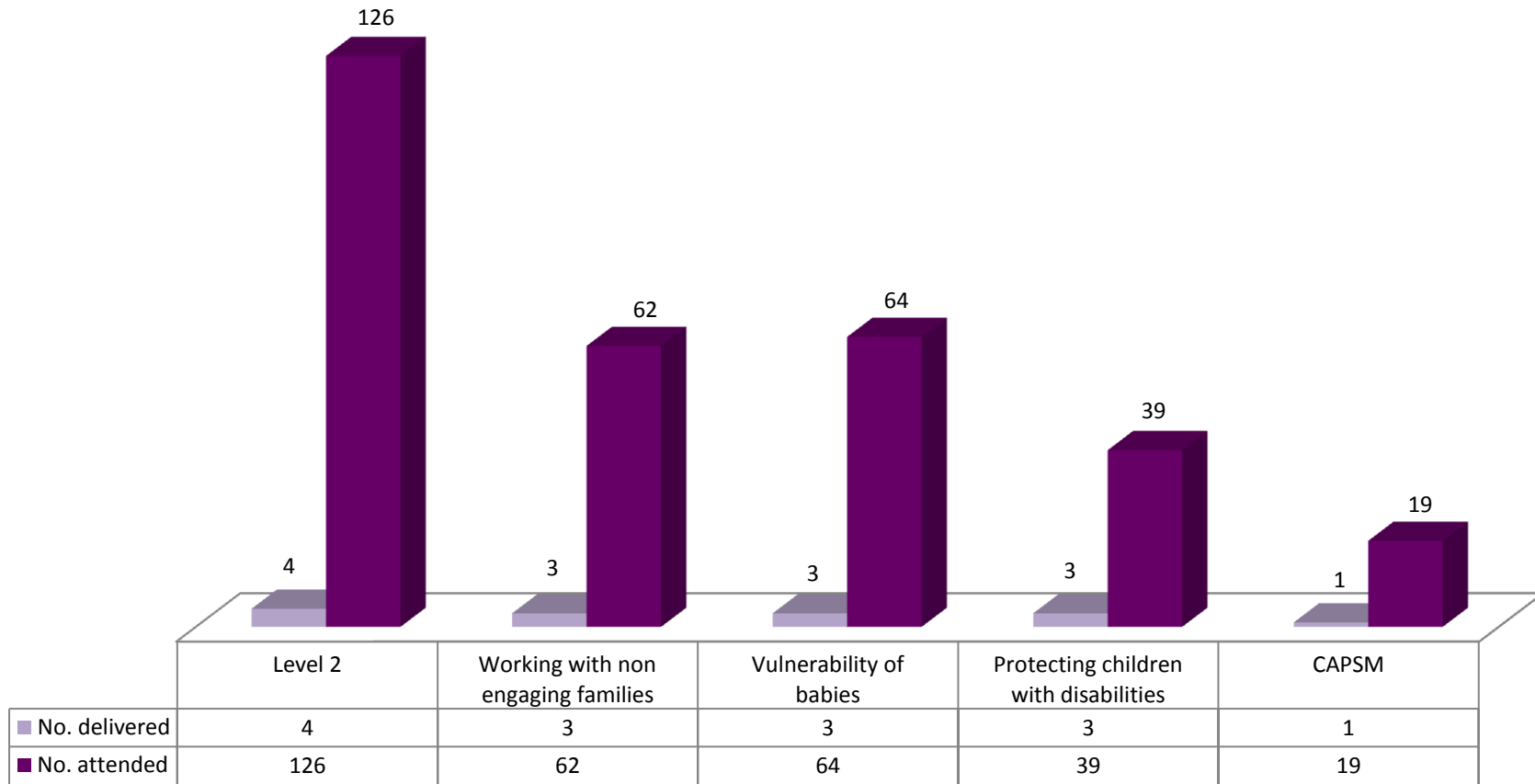
## Appendix 3

### Public Protection Training

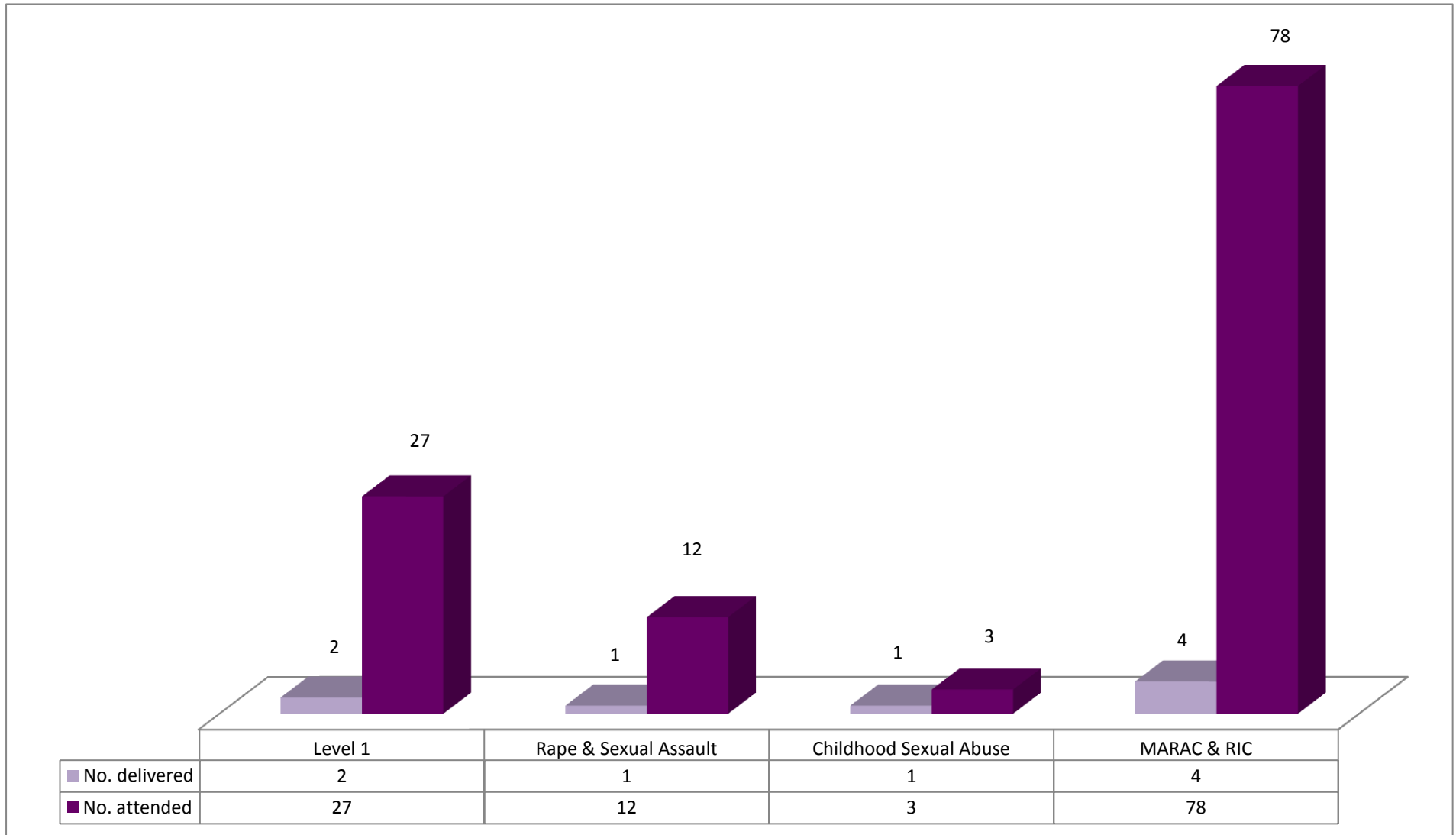
Adult Support and Protection Training Summary – April 2015 to March 2016



Child Protection Training Summary – April 2015 to March 2016



Violence Against Women and Girls Training Summary – April 2015 to March 2016



## Appendix 4

### East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Team Contact Details

- Anne Thompson – Team Manager – [athompson2@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:athompson2@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk) / 0131 653 5151;
- Lindsey Byrne – Child Protection Lead Officer – [lbyrne@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:lbyrne@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk) / 0131 653 5155;
- Denice Lilley – Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer – [dlilley@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:dlilley@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk) / 0131 653 5158;
- Veronica Campanile – Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Co-ordinator – [vcampanile@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:vcampanile@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk) / 01620 827 475;
- Alison Porter – Domestic Abuse Advisor – [aporter@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:aporter@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk) / 0131 653 5153;
- Caroline Hall – Domestic Abuse Advisor – [chall3@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:chall3@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk) / 0131 653 5159;
- Neil Whettam – Public Protection Learning and Development Co-ordinator – [nwhettam1@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:nwhettam1@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk) / 0131 653 5154;
- Andrew Main – Senior Business Support Administrator – [amain@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:amain@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk) / 01875 824 093;
- Bernadette Stein – Administration Assistant – [bstein@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:bstein@eastlothian.gcsx.gov.uk) / 0131 653 5152;

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