



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

**Annual Report  
1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Foreword	<a href="#"><u>3</u></a>
Introduction	<a href="#"><u>4</u></a>
Adult Support and Protection	<a href="#"><u>5</u></a>
Child Protection	<a href="#"><u>12</u></a>
Violence Against Women and Girls	<a href="#"><u>18</u></a>
Offender Management	<a href="#"><u>25</u></a>
Learning and Development	<a href="#"><u>30</u></a>
<b>Appendix A</b>	
East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee membership	<a href="#"><u>32</u></a>
<b>Appendix B</b>	
Public Protection Team Contact Details	<a href="#"><u>33</u></a>

## Foreword

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.

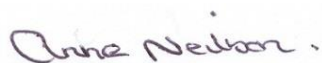
I am pleased to present the Committee's fifth annual report, which outlines some of the core work of the Committee and achievements during the 2018-19 reporting year; as well as our identified areas of priority for the current year.

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 (CSOG), 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 across 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 fulfils 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, Lead Officer for Child Protection, Lead Officer for Adult Support and Protection; Violence Against Women Co-ordinator, MARAC Co-ordinator and Domestic Abuse Support Workers. 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 collocated 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). 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

Further to the Adult Support and Protection Thematic Inspection 2017-2018, a review of strategic structures has taken place nationally, with Adult Support and Protection reporting to the Care, Support and Rights Division within Scottish Government. Responding to the reported outcomes of the Thematic Adult Support and Protection Inspection, Scottish Government have developed and implemented a 5-year improvement plan, this includes the inspections of the 26 partnership areas not inspected as part of the [Thematic Adult Support and Protection Inspection](#).

In recognition of the National Adult Support and Protection Day on the 20th February 2019, East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee supported the awareness raising of Adult Support and Protection locally by holding two public events on the 19th and 20th February 2019 in each of the partnership areas. These events focused on Financial Harm as well as highlighting the wider agenda of Adult Support and Protection and were organised in collaboration with Police Scotland, Trading Standards, Citizens Advice Bureau, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) who promoted their free Fire Home Safety visits. Both events were publicised via council websites, council and Police Scotland social media platforms.



The success of these events lead to smaller focused events with vulnerable groups, providing information on how to recognise and keep safe from financial harm and fire safety.

## Key data

### Adult Protection Referrals

East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership (ELHSCP) have received 778 Adult Support and Protection referrals in 2018-2019. This is similar to the data reported at the end of the previous year. The main source of referrals to the partnership is Police Scotland at 29% (228/778).

Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership have received 536 Adult Support and Protection referrals in 2018-19; a reduction of 29% when comparing to the previous year at (690). The reported reduction has been explored with Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership. Technical issues with a Management Information System, impacted on the figures reported. This has now been rectified. The main source of referrals to the partnership is Police Scotland at 31% (164/536).

#### East Lothian:

Measure	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Referrals	427	493	530	791	778
Investigations	125	69	148	112	86
Initial ASP Case Conference	24	15	21	12	28
Protection orders	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Number of Large Scale Investigations	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Principle Type of Harm Investigated	-	-	-	-	Physical harm 32/86

#### Midlothian:

Measure	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Referrals	452	501	681	690	536
Investigations	94	129	82	87	55
Initial ASP Case Conference	30	24	36	35	27
Protection orders	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Number of Large Scale Investigations	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Principle Type of Harm Investigated	-	-	-	-	Financial Harm <20/55

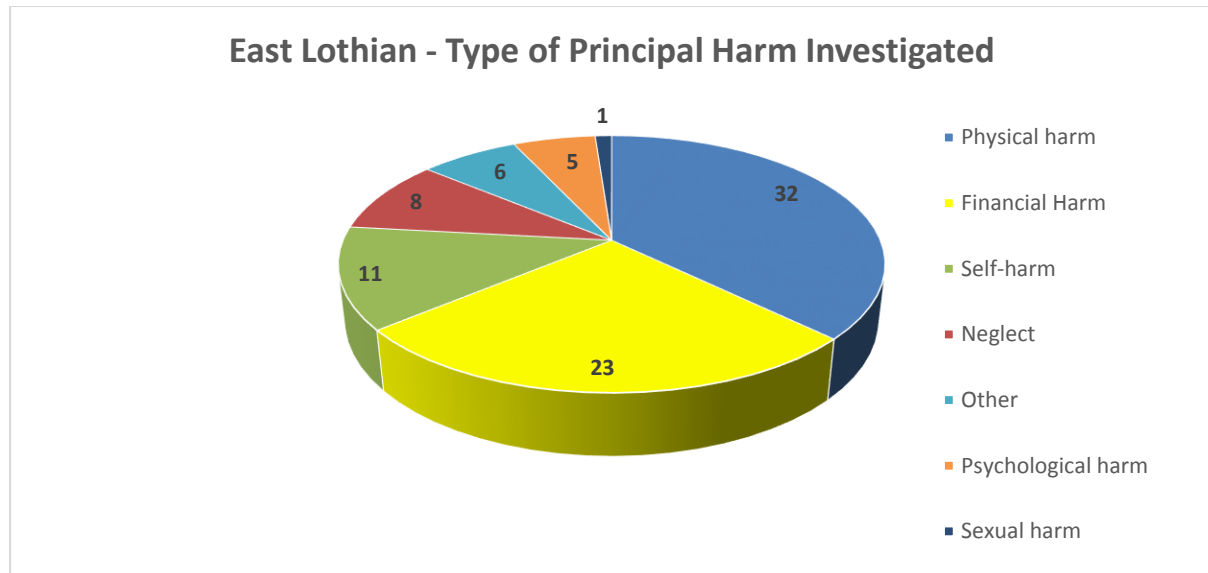
Despite the number of Adult Support and Protection referrals to each of the partnerships, the comparable tables illustrate a decrease in the number of Adult Support and Protection

Investigations and Initial case conferences at fiscal year-end. This suggests consistency of decision making against the criteria of an adult at risk of harm and the application of robust operational processes in the management of adult support and protection work in both partnerships.

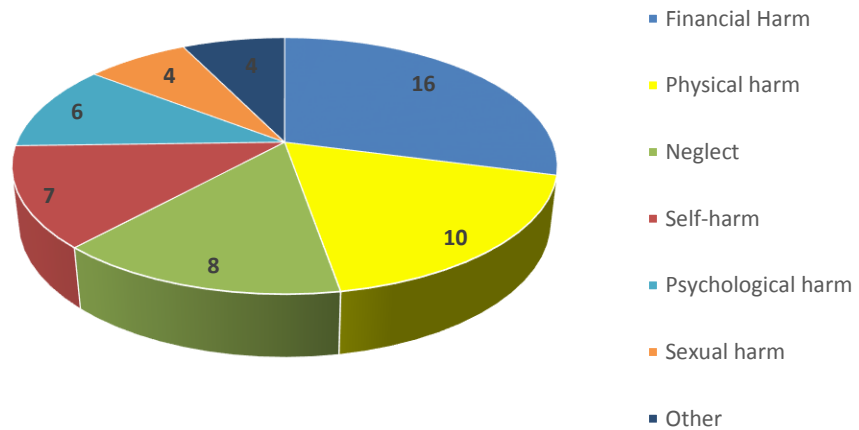
The main type of principle harm investigated by East Lothian council is physical harm. The data reported suggests that this type of harm may have occurred in care settings. EMPPC and ELHSCP are committed to working with care providers and the Care Inspectorate to ensure best and safe practices with organisations supporting vulnerable people in our communities. A small number of Large-Scale Investigations into the quality of care delivered in nursing homes have been progressed within the reporting year. These investigations have been in response to unsatisfactory levels of care and/or low Care Inspectorate grades and have now concluded.

EMPPC are committed to keeping people safe within our communities and offer a wide range of training sessions across the partnerships, including *Train the Trainers* to Care Home Managers and Care at Home Managers.

Financial harm is the principle type of harm investigated in Midlothian, this is reflective of national data. EMPPC endeavour to reduce Financial Harm across the partnership and work closely with colleagues in Trading Standards and Police Scotland.



### Midlothian - Type of Principal Harm Investigated



#### Learning from Initial Case Review / Significant Case Reviews

EMPPC are committed to the learning and development of all staff working with adults at risk of harm across the partnerships and incorporate recommendations and learning points where relevant from national Significant Case Reviews (SCR) into the Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan.

EMPPC have continued to work extensively with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to raise awareness of multi-agency staff groups, care providers and members of the public, of fire risks indicators within the home and of the free Fire Homes Safety Visits, through briefing sessions. To ensure the effectiveness of these briefing sessions, SFRS report on the number of referrals for fire home safety visits, the source of referral and the number of referrals considered by SFRS to be at high risk of fire. The reporting of this data enables the identification of organisations referring across East Lothian and Midlothian and where to target briefing sessions. The main source of referral to SFRS is self-referral.

Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board published their Executive Summary on the case of Mr B in February 2019. This case is in relation to a 61 year-old gentleman with a learning disability, who died from smoke inhalation during a house fire. The conditions of his home showed a pattern of extreme hoarding and severe self-neglect. One of the recommendations from this SCR is the development of a self-neglect policy and thresholds framework.

EMPPC are in the process of developing a multi-agency self-neglect and hoarding protocol.

#### Performance Framework and Improvement Plan

EMPPC monitor and report on a suite of performance indicators for Adult Support and Protection. The improvement plan is informed by recommendations from Initial Case Reviews, Significant Case Reviews, Inspections and self-evaluation activity.



The Care Inspectorate undertook the first Thematic Inspection in 2017-2018 and published the [full report](#) in April 2018. This involved the inspection of six partnerships including Midlothian HSCP. The Inspection report made two recommendations for Midlothian HSCP:

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

EMPPC and MHSCP have worked diligently to improve the timeous response to adult support and protection referrals and to ensure the quality and effectiveness of chronologies when working with adults at risk of harm. An Improvement Plan, detailing the actions taken to meet the recommendations was submitted to the Care Inspectorate who have since signed off the actions as complete. The work undertaken involved the following:

- Briefing note circulated reminding agencies of the 5 day timescale to complete inquiries.
- Briefing sessions held with key agencies.
- Evaluation of all ASP Referral/Inquiries that are reporting as an exception.
- Evaluation of the reported exceptions and outcomes shared with practitioners.
- Chronology workshops delivered to council officers.

#### Self-evaluation

Multi-agency Risk Assessments and Single Agency Chronologies are focused areas of work, including the development and delivery of workshops, followed by a programme of self-evaluation. Through this activity, improvements in the quality and effectiveness of chronologies have been duly noted and reported to the Performance and Quality Improvement sub-group.

EMPPC recognise the benefits of undertaking multi-agency chronologies when working with adults at risk of harm. EMPPC have joined the children's services pan-Lothian multi-agency chronology working group to assist with the development and implementation in adults. Multi-agency chronologies are now an action on the Adult Support and Protection Improvement plan.

## **Challenges and Priorities**

### Challenges

EMPPC actively encourage service users and carers to share and report their experiences of the adult support and protection process. This information enables EMPPC to assess the quality of the service provision from a service user and carer perspective and to improve service delivery. Due to the nature and sensitivity of the work involved this area of practice continues to be hugely challenging. EMPPC recognises these challenges and has established a small working group to explore possible options to progress this work sensitively and effectively.

### Priorities

Having appropriate, effective and participatory multi-agency attendance at Adult Support and Protection case conference remains a priority. This was identified by EMPPC through single agency case file audits and by the Care Inspectorate. This continues to be an area of improvement in the Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan.

To date all self-evaluation work undertaken has primarily focused on social work records, as the local authority have the lead role when working with adults at risk of harm. Information shared and action taken by partner agencies can be gleaned through this process. Ongoing self-evaluation work is a priority for EMPPC as this enables the Committee to determine the quality of the work undertaken in response to adults at risk of harm as well as identify areas of improvement. In partnership with our link inspector and police colleagues, EMPPC have reviewed and amended the evaluation template used in the thematic inspection to ensure a more comprehensive self-evaluation of the multi-agency response to adult support and protection work and to support future self-evaluation activity.

This is an action of the Adult Support and Protection improvement plan. EMPPC have reviewed and amended the care inspectorate evaluation template in collaboration with police colleagues and the link inspector when working with adults at risk of harm across the partnerships.

### Good News Story

Adult Support and Protection work is challenging, as the Council Officer has to balance the rights of the adult to live as they choose, against their right to be safe and protected from harm. A good practice example of this is a case of an older person who was living with an immediate family member. The older person had a large amount of rent arrears and was at risk of eviction. It became apparent that the adult in this case was vulnerable and being controlled by the family member. Visits by the Council Officer and the GP were difficult and brief due to the hostility and aggressive behaviour of the family member. There were also

concerns of Financial Harm and the adult was prevented from receiving medical attention. Progress was made through an Adult Support and Protection Investigation followed by an Adult Support and Protection case conference that identified the need for the application of two protection orders which were granted by the Sherriff Court. The adult was moved to a local care home and assessed by the GP and Consultant Psychiatrist. The adult was dishevelled, unkempt, and malnourished, their medical conditions were not managed. A cognitive impairment meant the adult was not capable of making decisions regarding welfare and finances. As a result of the intervention taken by ELHSCP, the adult is now living in a care home setting and is reported to be thriving with much improvement in their physical and mental health.

## Child Protection

The Inter-agency Referral Discussion (IRD) overview group continues to meet and review decisions taken at IRD, the quality of interim safety plans and whether or not effective actions have been taken to reduce risk. An IRD is a discussion, risk assessment and decision making process between Police, NHS and Social Work when a Child or Adult Protection concern is identified. The Lead Officers for Child and Adult Protection will be developing a framework to capture learning in a more systematic and meaningful way, to support service improvement.

### East Lothian

There were 328 Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) for East Lothian children during the 2018/19 reporting year.

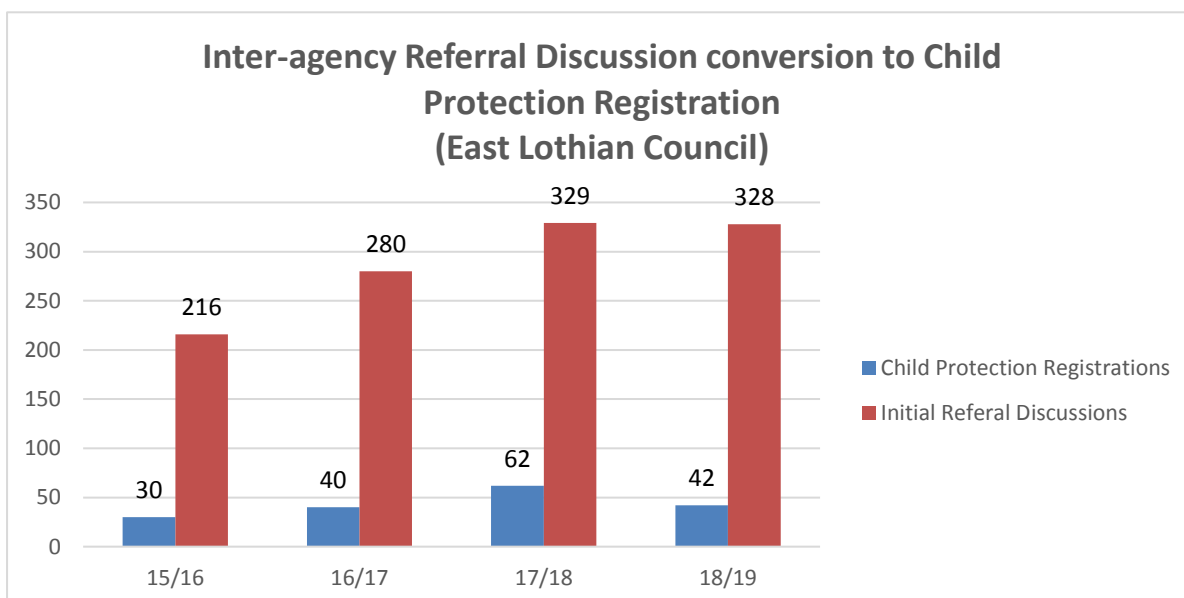
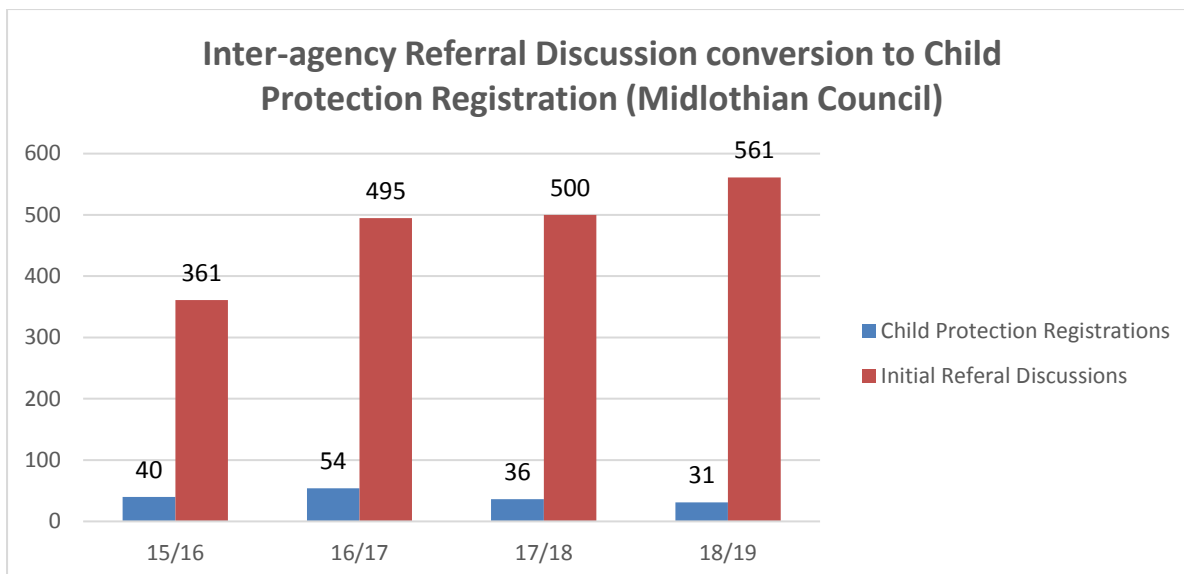
Measure	15/ 16	16/ 17	17/ 18	18/ 19	
CP01 – Number of children on the Child Protection Register (1,000 per 0-15 population)	30 (1.6)	40 (2.0)	62 (3.3)	42 (2.2)	
CP02 – Number of repeat Child Protection Register registrations within a 24 month period	-	17/84 (20%)	<10/77	<10/155	
CP04 – Number of repeat IRD's per child within a 12 month period	None	178	232	256	276
	One	36	39	63	44
	Two	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10
	Three	-	-	-	< 10
	Four	-	-	< 10	-

### Midlothian

There were 569 IRDs for Midlothian children during the 2018/19 reporting year.

Measure	15/ 16	16/ 17	17/ 18	18/ 19	
CP01 – Number of children on the Child Protection Register (1,000 per 0-15 population)	40 (2.5)	54 (3.2)	36 (2.2)	51 (3.0)	
CP02 – Number of repeat Child Protection Register registrations within a 24 month period	-	14 /122 (11%)	<10/103	14/117 (12%)	
CP04 – Number of repeat IRD's per child within a 12 month period	None	293	402	352	400
	One	55	69	108	128
	Two	< 20	22	23	26
	Three	< 10	< 10	< 20	< 10
	Four	-	-	-	< 10

The IRD is the mechanism from which decisions about progressing to Child Protection Case Conference are made. The charts below demonstrate the conversion rates from IRD to the child's name being placed on the Child Protection Register.



## Current Themes

### Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation remains a prominent national issue and a government priority. During the period under review, < 10 East Lothian children and < 10 Midlothian children were referred to a strategy meeting for young people, who may have been at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation. These meetings are chaired by our divisional Public Protection Unit of Police Scotland.

Our current Child Protection Procedures are enacted once risk has been identified and we work closely as partner agencies to ensure a coordinated and effective approach to risk assessment, planning and interventions.

Following the national Child Sexual Exploitation survey in early 2019, an exercise will be undertaken this autumn to evaluate the East Lothian and Midlothian position in relation to the National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation. This will involve reviewing our response to identified cases of Child Sexual Exploitation, our use of data and intelligence and how that helps frame the deployment of resource.

#### Children and Young People Missing from Local Authority Care

The National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland was launched in May 2017 after consultation with a broad range of professionals from a number of services across Scotland. The framework outlines best practice when working with missing adults and children and makes a number of recommendations for effective partnership working. The two main aims of the framework are to **prevent people from going missing** and to **limit the harm associated with being missing**.

The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office has led on an exercise to improve our multi-agency response to Looked After and Accommodated Children who go, or at risk of going missing. This has involved developing a senior oversight and an operational implementation group. The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee agreed a local inter-agency partnership protocol, following from the national pilot. This has been supported by a series of trainings and local briefings, including bespoke sessions for 21 members of staff from the East Lothian residential units.

The Police Scotland 'J' Division Missing Persons Coordinator sits under the Divisional Public Protection Unit. A weekly intelligence report is shared with social work partners to help identify those who most frequently go missing and target our response accordingly.

#### National Minimum Dataset for Child Protection in Scotland

East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee was selected in October 2018 as one of three test partners in the development of the national Minimum Dataset for Child Protection Committees. Since then, the Committee has worked in partnership with the Centre of Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS) to develop, test and refine the Minimum Dataset package. This has included performance indicators, an Excel workbook, report template, and guidance. The package is now being disseminated for use across all of Scotland's Child Protection Committees. The Committee is taking the learning from this pilot exercise to engage in delivering on the national minimum dataset, whilst reviewing our whole suite of performance data, to ensure that it remains meaningful and fit for local purpose.

## Approaches to assessment in East Lothian and Midlothian

Signs of Safety continues to be the key framework utilised in East Lothian. There has been a significant commitment to training staff in the approach. Midlothian continue to invest in the Outcomes Focussed Approach. All of this work is underpinned by EMPPC's commitment to relationship-based and systemic practices. This remains live for both authorities and the EMPPO support them in continued training.

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

There have been Initial Case Reviews for children undertaken in the past year in Midlothian and none in East Lothian. No Significant Case Reviews have been commissioned during the reporting period.

Information sharing across partner agencies remains an area for improvement. There is recognition that staff need to remain 'professionally curious' and vigilant and need to triangulate information with more than one source to ensure accuracy.

Further issues in Initial Case Reviews relate to disguised non-compliance (formally known as disguised compliance) and the need for staff and partner agencies to be alert to this and mindful of that in undertaking any assessment.

Areas for improvement identified from Initial Case Reviews have been take forward through the Public Protection improvement plan and in our learning and development strategy. In addition, practitioners have received feedback in the form of the established *7-minute briefings*.

### Multi-agency Self-evaluation

A programme of multi-agency self-evaluation, using *A Quality Framework for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection*, was initiated in February of this year, with a file audit of cases randomly selected of children who had their names removed from the child protection register between January and June 2018. Due to a Lead Officer for Child Protection vacancy, there was a delay in the implementation of phase 2 (interviews with parents/carers and where appropriate, children and young people) and phase 3 (focus groups with staff). This is now underway. Evidence will be triangulated and findings will inform our improvement agenda.

### Challenges

We continue to work to identifying the most effective ways of supporting children and their families through early and effective intervention, whilst continuing to provide a high-quality and effective response to those whom are most vulnerable and at risk. In doing so, the Committee seeks to further improve its' synergy with the Children's Strategic Partnership in East Lothian and the Getting it Right for Every Child in Midlothian board.

The implementation of the national minimum dataset for Child Protection has given us the opportunity to review our existing suite of performance data, how we present and analyse that data and what it is actually telling us, which helps improve outcomes for the people we serve. This will be subject to further work in the coming year, with the support of CELCIS and partnership analysts.

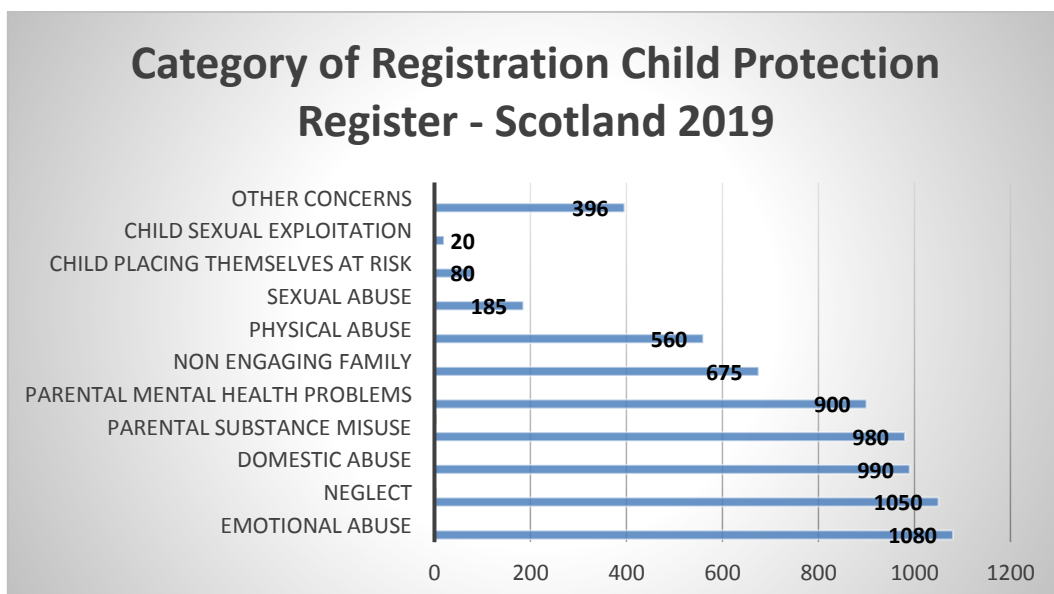
The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014) is in the process of being updated. The concept of the child to the age of 18 may be further enhanced, although not yet set in statute. These revisions may mean that additional work is required around revision local policies, procedures and guidance documents, as well as additional training and awareness raising amongst our multi-agency workforce.

### Priorities

We will continue to support East Lothian Council to embed the Signs of Safety and Outcomes Focussed Approach and align with other Public Protection frameworks, such as Safe and Together, in line with our ongoing commitment to relationship based and systemic practices.

Through the Safe and Together governance and operational groups, we will continue to support the roll-out of the model, ensuring it is integrated into practice, leading to better informed domestic abuse services.

The Committee will continue to engage in improving our identification, assessment and response to neglect. Neglect is the second most prevalent risk indicator recorded at Child Protection registration nationally; with emotional abuse the highest prevalent risk indicator.



We will continue to work on finding meaningful ways to engage with children, young people and their families in planning and participation around decisions made, which affect their lives.



## Practice Themes and Emerging Threats

### Prevent

Prevent is one of the four strands of the UK Government's 2018 [CONTEST Strategy](#) which seeks to reduce the risk to the United Kingdom and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. We continue to see a rise in the number of Prevent referrals. Further work is required to promote and embed the East Lothian and Midlothian Prevent protocol and referral pathway, so that it is applied in the most appropriate and consistent way.

### Domestic Abuse

There has been a continued increase in the number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the Police in East Lothian. In the 2018/19 reporting period 1145 incidents were recorded, against 932 during the previous year. 103 victims of domestic abuse (with a total of 137 children) were referred to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) during the 2018/19 year, against 78 victims (with a total of 110 children) during the previous year. The test for MARAC is risk of homicide or serious harm.

There has also been a continued increase in the number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the Police in Midlothian. In the 2018/19 reporting period 1160 incidents were recorded, against 979 during the previous year. 105 victims of domestic abuse (with a total of 169 children) were referred to MARAC during the 2018/19 year, against 75 victims (with a total of 124 children) during the previous year.

Measures have been put in place to ensure that the Domestic Abuse Service are notified when a Child Protection Case Conference is to be held and domestic abuse is identified as a risk factor.

This year, the Lead Officer for Child Protection will front an exercise to explore how we can improve our whole family approach to co-occurring protection processes (such as the MARAC and Child Protection Case Conference), enabling an integrated, outcome-focussed approach.

## Violence Against Women and Girls

### Key Data

Measure		2016/ 17	2017/18	2018/19	% Change
Number of incidents of Domestic Abuse recorded by the Police	East	932	930	1,145	<b>+23%</b>
	Mid	1,030	978	1,160	<b>+19%</b>
Number of victims referred to Domestic Abuse Service Pathway following a Police Incident	East	106	190	332	<b>+75%</b>
	Mid	113	237	292	<b>+23%</b>
Number of victims referred to MARAC	East	85	78	103	<b>+32%</b>
	Mid	111	75	105	<b>+40%</b>
Number of children involved in MARAC cases	East	120	110	137	<b>+25%</b>
	Mid	153	124	169	<b>+36%</b>
% of repeat MARAC cases within one year	East	25%	27%	48% (49/103)	<b>Expected 28%-40%</b>
	Mid	41%	33%	33% (35/105)	<b>Expected 28%-40%</b>
No of sexual crimes recorded by the Police	East	163	134	203	<b>+52%</b>
	Mid	159	179	202	<b>+13%</b>
Number of survivors of rape and sexual abuse referred to specialist support services in East Lothian and Midlothian	East	52	51	35	<b>-31%</b>
	Mid	33	43	47	<b>+9%</b>
Average length of time survivors of sexual violence need to wait from the point of initial assessment to the first long-term support session, provided by Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre.	East	-	-	19½ weeks	<b>NA</b>
	Mid	-	-	14½ weeks	<b>NA</b>

### Current Themes

The demand for support from specialist domestic abuse services after a police incident (referrals to the Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway) again rose exponentially by 75% in East Lothian and by 23% in Midlothian.

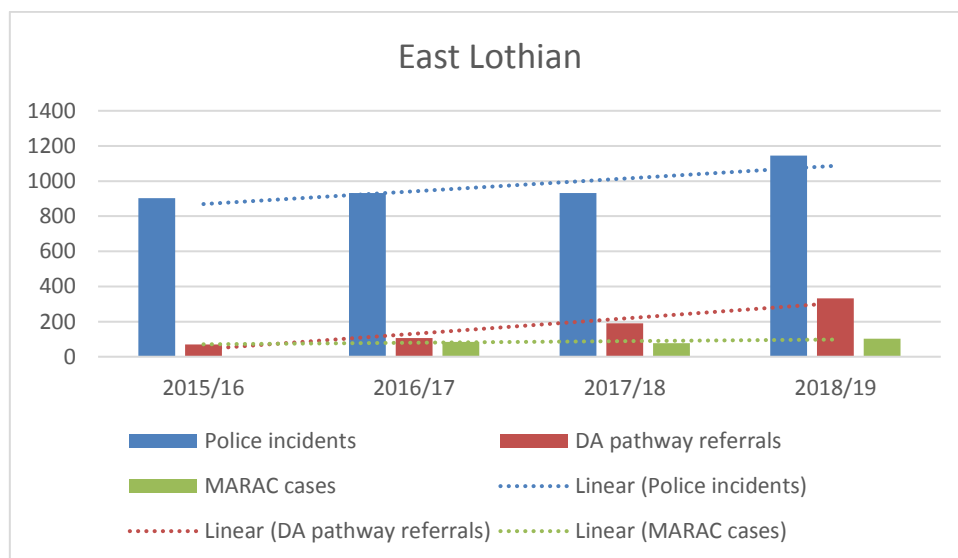
After several years of relative stability the number of incidents recorded by the police rose considerably by 23% in East Lothian and by 19% in Midlothian.

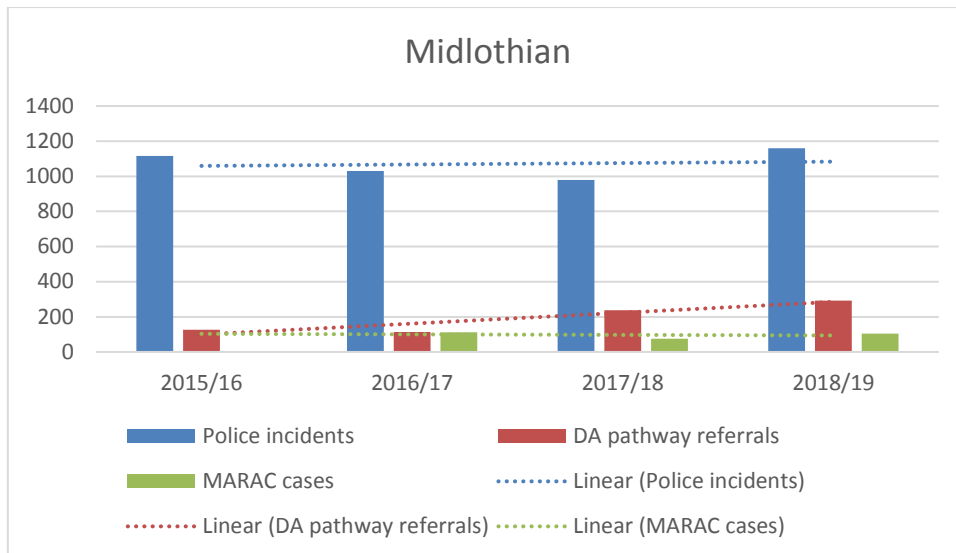
The demand for support in relation the number of incidents recorded by the police rose to 30% (25% in 2017/18) in East Lothian and remained stable at 25% (24% in 2017/18) in Midlothian. Whilst increased media and hence public awareness of domestic abuse is likely to account for this change in East Lothian further analysis is needed in relation to Midlothian.

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 were within the expected range in Midlothian but were well above the range in East Lothian; we always check the relevance of cases at MARAC meetings and no anomalies have been identified.

In both areas referrals to MARAC rose significantly - by 32% in East Lothian and 40% in Midlothian. This is encouraging as it indicates increased awareness across services of the role of MARAC and greater confidence to refer in. Whilst this is encouraging MARAC referrals remain well below the expected rate for the adult female population (as defined by Safe Lives in 2018) at 103/176 (59%) in East Lothian and 105/146 (78%) in Midlothian.

We have continued to raise awareness of MARAC across key services with emphasis on family nurse partnerships, health visiting, midwifery, education, housing providers and third sector organisations and also to increase staff skills through our in-house specialist MARAC training. Attendance at MARAC is generally consistent and we are pleased to report that both MARACs now have education representatives and East Lothian also has a Council Revenues representative. Midlothian MARAC has also begun to receive referrals from the Army Welfare Service.





Taking forward the VAWG Services Review, we have continued to work to ensure that our array of specialist services can be trauma informed, sustainable and able to meet rising demand; note the rise in victims of domestic abuse accepting specialist support as well as the waiting lists for longer-term sexual abuse support; 19½ weeks in East Lothian and 16½ weeks in Midlothian.

In both areas the number of sexual crimes recorded by the Police is now similar, after an increase of 52% in East Lothian and 13% in Midlothian. In relation to this our key local services are the Midlothian and East Lothian Sexual Abuse Services for women; the service for 12-18year old girls and boys is mainly provided in Edinburgh.

Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership allocated service funding to increase the Sexual Abuse Service to 20.5 hours (from 16.5 hours) in 2018/19; subsequently Council Large Grant 3 year funding was confirmed for 2019/22, which together with funding from the NHS and the Volant Trust will provide 21hrs of service.

*“In contact with family and now able to get out and about with friends and the kids without having to ask or be worried about what his reaction would be”*  
 Service user  
 Domestic Abuse Service

Our expression of interest for continuation funding from the Communities Fund for partnership support services within the Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway was accepted, but later reduced to 2 years of funding and covering only the third sector substance support component, safety resources and equipment and information for and scoping work with perpetrators. In the short term we have re-provisioned funds from the Scottish Government's Violence Against Women Fund with some additional local resources from July 2019 to June 2020; this is providing two FTE specialist support workers within the Domestic Abuse Service who are provided by Women's Aid.

### **Safe and Together**

The significant number of children involved in MARAC cases underlines the importance of ensuring children and family services are able to identify domestic abuse and take appropriate steps to support and improve the safety of children and their protective parent as well as to hold perpetrators to account for their parenting choices. In 2018/19 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. Each local authority area has a Safe and Together lead from Children and Families and is delivering an implementation plan.

Following adoption of the Gender Based Violence policy in May 2018, developed in partnership with East Lothian Council and the Public Protection Office, Midlothian Council has recently made provision for an additional ten days paid leave – known as Safe Leave - for those employees who are experiencing gender based violence and need additional time off work to deal with resulting matters. Safe Leave can be taken flexibly over a rolling 12 month period, based on the needs of the affected person.

Midlothian Council was successful in joining the first cohort of Councils working to achieve [Equally Safe At Work](#) accreditation over 2019/20 which aims to support the Council to identify barriers to women's progression and make changes to enhance diversity at all levels. A Council cross-service team which includes Women's Aid East and Midlothian and the VAWG Coordinator is working through the implementation plan which includes launching the Gender Based Violence Policy, establishing mandatory Equality and Diversity training for managers and team leaders and the formation of an employee led Equalities Forum. The aim is to make continuous improvements to advance gender equality at work, supporting survivors of domestic abuse whilst fostering zero-tolerance culture in terms of Violence Against women.

Work is ongoing to finalise a version of the Gender Based Violence policy in East Lothian Council. East Lothian Council is also participating in the Equally Safe at Work shadow group, which prepares the way for accreditation in 2020/21.

*“Since I met you I am getting my hair done, buying new clothes and going to the dentist. I put me first, as you said”*

Service user

Domestic Abuse Service

Our partnership [Commercial Sexual Exploitation Position Statement](#) was adopted by the East Lothian and Midlothian Critical Service Oversight Group and subsequently by both Councils and Health and Social Care Partnerships; work is underway to deliver the recommendations in the associated Briefing Paper and this will be relevant for the review of the licensing of sexual entertainment venues in both areas.

### Improvement Plan

All Violence Against Women and Girls Partnerships are asked to complete the Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Framework, based on the four Equally Safe priorities and partnership working (piloted 2017/18). Our Equally Safe Quality Standards return for 2018/19 is summarised below. It is encouraging that we meet or partly meet all areas and that we are particularly strong in areas 3 and 5. We are aware that we need to do more in prevention i.e. areas 1 and 2. Further action identified will be incorporated into our Improvement Plan.

<b>Quality Standard areas</b>	<b>Meets</b>	<b>Partly meets</b>	<b>Does not meet</b>
<b>1.</b> Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls (6 questions)	1	5	0
<b>2.</b> Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically (6 questions)	2	4	0
<b>3.</b> Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people (13 questions)	<b>11</b>	2	0
<b>4.</b> Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective (5 questions)	3	2	0
<b>5.</b> Multi-Agency partnership working (7 questions)	<b>5</b>	2	0

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 focuses on gap areas: sustainability of specialist services, particularly the sexual abuse services and the domestic abuse services; an approach to prevention (involving women and men, universal services such as education and communities) and developing services which work with perpetrators.

Prevention: [16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence in East Lothian and Midlothian 25 November to 10 December 2018](#) This was our first partnership programme with a focus on the White Ribbon Campaign to bring men and boys on board and encourage them to take the pledge to end violence against women and girls. The programme included a range of training events, radio interviews and items in social and printed media; the campaign also tapped into Edinburgh events.

Action to establish partnership working to integrate VAWG into school health and wellbeing strategies remains work in progress. In the meantime Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre's full time sexual violence prevention worker for East Lothian and Midlothian carried out a set of prevention education sessions which reached 1,147 young people (747 in Midlothian and 404 in East Lothian). This included five Midlothian secondary schools, six East Lothian secondary schools (including one private), three youth work settings Queen Margaret University and with several service providers.

Working with perpetrators: this year Midlothian piloted Families First, a programme working with male perpetrators of domestic abuse who attend on a voluntary basis, which aims to complement the Safe and Together approach to working with families. This project is in collaboration with criminal justice staff due to their expertise in delivering the Caledonian System.

### **Challenges and Priorities**

Demand for specialist services, particularly for domestic abuse and sexual abuse, will continue to rise due to growing public awareness and rejection of gender based violence which is apparent through the Me Too movement, media attention on systemic childhood sexual abuse, the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 (enforced April 2019) and the rising profile of the national Equally Safe strategy. In this context our challenges and priorities are:

- Sustainability: scope and secure sustainable funding to support our partnership services for domestic abuse and sexual abuse.
- Service change: continue to 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 to identify domestic abuse and intervene at the earliest point possible.

- Perpetrator focus: develop our approach to working with perpetrators of domestic abuse more effectively by providing information and support services for those who wish to change their behaviour.
- Prevention: 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, supporting cultural change within our partner organisations and in our communities and bringing men and boys on board.
- 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.

*"The support has helped me to understand that what happened is not my fault and gave me tools to choose wisely in the future. Also sharing my story made me stronger"*

Service user  
Domestic Abuse Service



# Offender Management

## East Lothian

### Key Data

Offender Management key data has remained consistent throughout 2018/19 with little variation when compared with the previous year. At the end of 2018/19, there were 54 individuals who were subject to Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) within East Lothian. Of these, all but one were managed at MAPPA Level 1, with 23 being subject to statutory supervision by way of a Community Payback Order or a post-release Order / Licence.

### Current Themes

#### Housing

East Lothian continues to work with partners to address the housing and welfare needs of those with convictions for sexual offences. There have been fewer incidences of social media targeting of such individuals and Criminal Justice Social Work Services continue to work closely with Housing and Police partners to ensure a co-ordinated response to any community concerns. East Lothian continue to complete Environmental Risk Assessments, with public protection and proportionality at the forefront of our accommodation planning.

#### CONNECT

This is a provision for women who are either involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the criminal justice system. CONNECT is noted within the realms of public protection, due to the number of women who attend and have been the victims of domestic abuse, childhood trauma and / or sexual assault. Services are becoming trauma informed in their delivery to try to increase resource uptake – it is recognised that women (and men) who have ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) are over represented within justice services.

### Learning from Case Reviews

The MAPPA Operational Group (MOG), 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 (ICR) notification report is triggered; this is reviewed by the SOG chair who states if this should progress to a full ICR or not; and this is then sent out to all SOG members to ratify or challenge that decision.

These above process is working well and is enabling us to focus on risk factors as they emerge. There were no such reviews in East Lothian in 2018/19.

### **Improvement Plan**

East Lothian reviewed the Risk Management Case Conference practices and are now working consistently with partners across Lothian and Borders. Their use is more clearly aligned to risk principles and proportionality.

Social Work practitioners are trained to assess and manage risk for those individuals whose offending relates to domestic abuse and / or sexual offending. In 2018/19 we continued to roll out the relevant training to appropriate practitioners.

East Lothian continues to work to MAPPA Level 1 Minimum Practice Standards and we have achieved consistency of practice alongside proportionate monitoring procedures for those subject to Level 1 management. MAPPA Level 1 Audits have been completed and, if identified, appropriate improvement actions completed.

The East Lothian and Midlothian Offender Management Improvement Plan was revised and presented to the Public Protection Committee in September 2018.

### **Challenges and Priorities**

The Chief Executive and Group Service Manager (Adult Statutory Services) / Chief Social Work Officer agreed that all relevant Criminal Justice (CJ) staff would be asked if they would voluntarily agree to the requirements to undertake vetting for ViSOR. Additionally, such vetting is now a requirement for all new CJ employees. They will be required to undergo ViSOR vetting within six months of taking up their post.

The Housing Sexual Offences Liaison Officer (SOLO) continues to work closely with all justice partners to address the challenges that will arise from the upcoming legislative changes and introduction of the SHORE standards (Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone), Rapid Rehousing and Housing First. All relevant partners continue to assess risk and need when accommodation options are being considered for those individuals with convictions for sexual offences.

Initial Case Reviews (ICR's) will be presented by the relevant Service Manager to the East Lothian and Midlothian Offender Management Group, which meets quarterly. The outcomes of either the initial analysis or comprehensive review will be discussed with partners to support consistency of practice and promote future learning.

The East Lothian Community Justice Board continues to see the collaboration and integration of services committed to promoting public protection. The first annual report

highlighted key areas of priority for East Lothian going forward and identified areas of good practice and partnership working.

## Midlothian

### Key Data

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 in Midlothian there were 49 individuals who were subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

In addition there were 3 Category 3 discussions (about individuals with serious violent offences) relating to <10 service users.

By the end of the 2019/19 financial year there were no Level 3 or Category 3 individuals in the community, with all three having been recalled to custody.

The numbers of Registered Sex Offenders managed at MAPPA Level 1 and 2 and on statutory supervision have remained similar to previous years.

### 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 experiences of childhood abuse and domestic violence.

Spring has continued to develop and the number of women attending the service has steadily increased. In 2018/19 the service had to operate a waiting list for the first time.

Qualitative research was carried out in 2018/19 for the Spring service, with the aim of evaluating the extent to which the service meets the needs of service users and to inform future planning. The research process involved communication with the Spring Team Leader and the Spring steering group, to plan and facilitate a focus group and develop a questionnaire for circulation amongst participants. < 10 women attended the focus group, co-delivered with the Violence against Women and Girls Coordinator and < 10 participants completed questionnaires. Findings focused on women's experiences at Spring in relation to the aims of choice, collaboration, trust, empowerment and safety (deemed key indicators of a trauma informed service) and included recommendations for the future.

Spring staff found the report helpful in understanding the experiences of the women attending and were pleased that overall it was meeting its objectives. Suggestions around revisions of group rules have been taken on board and reviewed and there is a plan to involve service users more in future in terms of planning for activities and opportunities for feedback.

## Midlothian Sexual Abuse Services

Midlothian continued to provide extra funding to Edinburgh Rape Crisis to keep waiting times at a minimum. This funding is continuing in 2019/20.

### **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 ICR's or SCR's on Midlothian Criminal Justice social work MAPPA cases in 2017/18.

### **Improvement Plan**

Earlier in 2018 the Improvement Plan was reviewed and agreed by the Public Protection Committee in September 2018.

#### Serious Incident Reviews (SIRs)

There have however been a number of Serious Incident Reviews during 2019, some of which stemmed from offences committed in 2018. Reports are submitted to the Care Inspectorate when an individual on statutory supervision (on a CPO or post-release licence) goes on to commit a further serious offence. Some issues were identified from the SIRs in early 2019 in relation to risk assessments. The actions resulting from these reviews will be incorporated into the Offender Management Improvement Plan.

#### ViSOR

All relevant Criminal Justice social work staff have now been vetted and new staff are expected to be successfully vetted within the first six months of their employment. There have been no issues with vetting being unsuccessful for any member of staff so far.

No administrative staff are vetted and this restricts their ability to use the system. In addition the Criminal Justice team had to move out of their building for several months during 2019 and the Visor machine was put into secure storage, which had negatively impacted on the level of Visor usage.

## **Challenges and Priorities**

### Number 11 Recovery Hub

The Number 11 Recovery Hub will accommodate all mental health, substance misuse and Criminal Justice staff. A key priority for 2019/20 will be to ensure that these agencies, as well as the voluntary organisations who will also be located in the hub, can work together in a more co-ordinated way to create healthier and safer communities.

### MAPPA Operations

The MAPPA Operational Group continues to meet quarterly. 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). The minimum practice standards for Level 1 cases are already met. The most substantive 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 this is already met in most cases.

## Learning and Development

### Training Courses provided

Measure		16/ 17	17/ 18	18/ 19
Adult Support and Protection	Number of courses held	29	28	18
	Number of attendees	589	719	353
Child Protection	Number of courses held	18	22	25
	Number of attendees	336	467	536
Violence Against Women and Girls	Number of courses held	7 <sup>1</sup>	15	15
	Number of attendees	120	266	263
Public Protection	Number of courses held	1	0	0
	Number of attendees	117	0	0

There has been an overall reduction in the number of training courses provided. This has been in response to reviewing the frequency of some training, which has operated under capacity and to ensure that we are delivering the right training, to the right people at the right time in their career.

As from 1 April 2019, the basic awareness courses in Child Protection and Adult Support and Protection, have been combined into a Public Protection module, covering Child Protection, Domestic Abuse and Adult Support and Protection.

*The percentage of training attendees reporting an increase in their knowledge from attending face-to-face training by thematic area remained consistently above 80% for the whole year.*

During the reporting year between 86% and 97% of training attendees reported that they have enough information to put their learning into practice from attending face-to-face training.

### Safe and Together

14 practitioners attended the first cohort of Safe and Together Core Practice Training in January following the Learning & Development Co-ordinator completing the Safe and Together *train the trainer* in December 2018. 21 practitioners attended the May cohort with a cohort for up to 40 practitioners planned for November 2019. Safe and Together Briefings have been delivered to both Local Authority Children's Panel members. Safe and Together briefings will continue throughout 2019 to a range of services and departments to help inform services and agencies of the basic core principles and components to help with the system change.

---

<sup>1</sup> Collation of Violence Against Women and Girls training course data only began in September 2016.

### Return Discussion Training (Children and Young People)

Bespoke training has been delivered to Midlothian Residential Units and East Lothian Residential Units as part of embedding the EMPPC Looked After and Accommodated Children Who Go Missing Person Local Partnership Protocol.

## 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 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 Robertson	Head of Education, East Lothian Council
Jane Milne	Acting Head of Customer & Housing Services, Midlothian Council
Joan Tranent	Head of Children's Services & Interim Head of Education, Midlothian Council
Judith Tait	Chief Operating Officer – Children's Services / CSWO, East Lothian Council
Julie Watson	Chief Executive Officer, Women's Aid East and Midlothian
Lesley Siewert	Locality Reporter Manager, SCRA (Mid lead)
Lorraine Cowan	Interim Chief Nurse, East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership
Sean Byrne	Public Protection Team Manager, EMPPPO
Sharon Saunders	Head of Communities and Partnerships, East Lothian Council
Trish Carlyle	Group Service Manager – Criminal Justice, East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership

### **Ex-officio members**

Denice Lilley	Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer, EMPPPO
Veronica Campanile	Interim Violence Against Women and Girls Co-ordinator, EMPPPO
Trish Pattison	Child Protection Lead Officer, EMPPPO



## 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	-	-
Denice Lilley	Adult Support & Protection Lead Officer	<a href="mailto:dlilley@eastlothian.gov.uk">dlilley@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5158
Trish Pattison	Child Protection Lead Officer	<a href="mailto:ppattison1@eastlothian.gov.uk">ppattison1@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5155
Veronica Campanile	Violence Against Women Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:vcampanile@eastlothian.gov.uk">vcampanile@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 7475
Rebecca Turnbull	Domestic Abuse Support Worker	<a href="mailto:rturnbull1@elothianmail.net">rturnbull1@elothianmail.net</a>	0131 653 5153
Marian Haro	Domestic Abuse Support Worker	<a href="mailto:mharo@elothianmail.net">mharo@elothianmail.net</a>	0131 653 5159
Katerina Gradeva	MARAC Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:kgradeva@eastlothian.gov.uk">kgradeva@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>	0131 653 5156
Andrew Main	Senior Business Support Administrator	<a href="mailto:amain@eastlothian.gov.uk">amain@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>	01875 824 093
Vacant	Business Support Assistant	-	-

<b>Author's name</b>	Anne Neilson
<b>Designation</b>	Director of Public Protection, NHS Lothian
<b>Date</b>	26 September 2019