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## **East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee Annual Report (April 2021 – March 2022)**

### **Introduction by the Chair**

I am pleased to present the East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee's (EMPPC) eighth annual report, which seeks to outline key achievements and areas for improvement in the year ahead. Established in 2014 the EMPPC operates within the context of Public Protection national policy and legislation.

The past year continued to pose significant operational pressures across services, as a result of the ongoing impact of COVID on staffing levels, and the resource requirements for developing approaches to respond to the Ukrainian Crisis. This was alongside increased activity in relation to Violence against Women and Girls and increased referrals for adults at risk of harm. Notwithstanding this, operational and strategic staff worked hard to ensure that the highest risk aspects of our public protection responsibilities were prioritised and there was a continued commitment to partnership working to ensure the safety of children and adults at risk of harm and abuse.

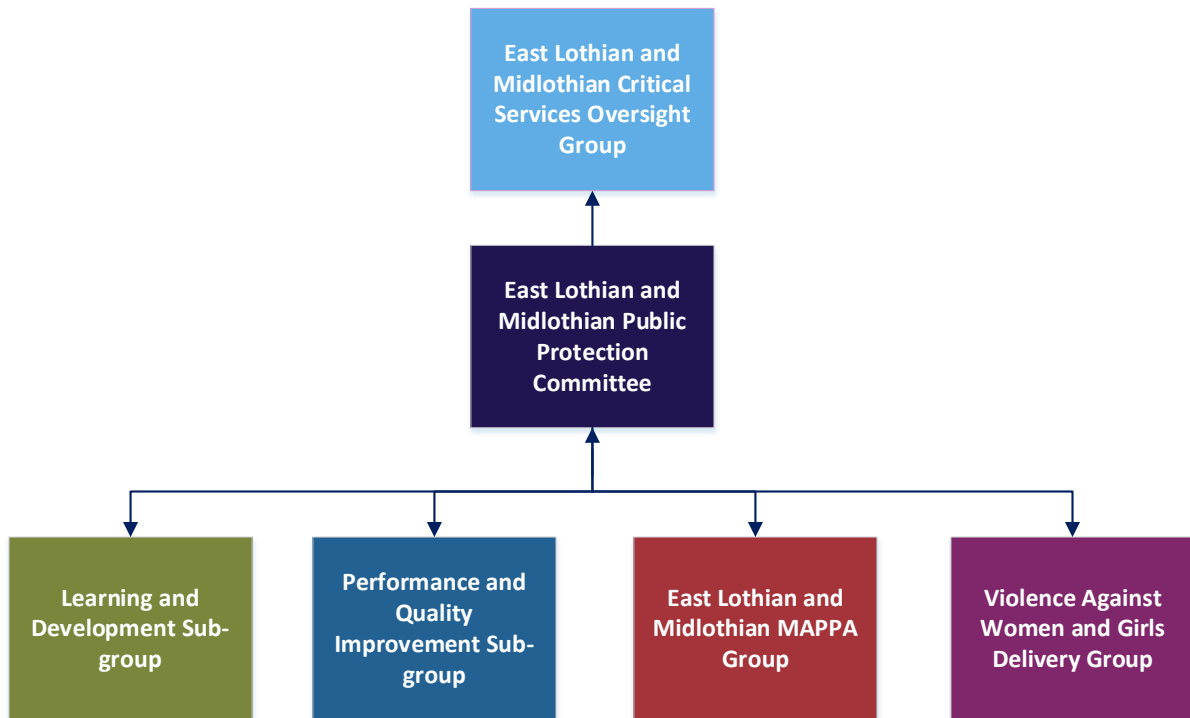
Despite the operational pressures, children and adults at risk of harm and abuse continued to have their needs assessed and supported on a face-to-face basis.

As a Public Protection Committee, we continued to meet on a virtual basis for all the quarterly meetings of our Committee and its associated Sub-groups.

I would like to thank partners for their support, resources, and continued commitment to the EMPPC and associated subgroups in working together to improve public protection services.

Anne Neilson,  
Chair, East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee

## Strategic Structure for Public Protection in East Lothian and Midlothian



Through the **Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG)**, the Chief Officers of our core partners provide strategic leadership, scrutiny, governance and direction to EMPPC. CSOG is co-chaired by Monica Patterson, Chief Executive of East Lothian Council and Grace Vickers, Chief Executive of Midlothian Council.

The **East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee (EMPPC)** is the local strategic partnership responsible for the overview of policy and practice in relation to ASP, Child Protection, MAPPAs and Violence Against Women and Girls. The primary aim of the Committee is to provide leadership and strategic oversight of Public Protection activity and performance across East Lothian and Midlothian. It discharges its functions through four sub-groups. The Chair is Anne Neilson, Director of Public Protection, NHS Lothian.

The **Learning and Practice Development Sub-group (L&PD)** oversees the development and delivery of the Learning and Development strategy, and our multi-agency training programme. Our Chair for the year was Trish Carlyle, Group Service Manager, East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership.

The **East Lothian and Midlothian MAPPAs Group (EMMG)** ensures that the statutory responsibilities placed on local partner agencies for the assessment and

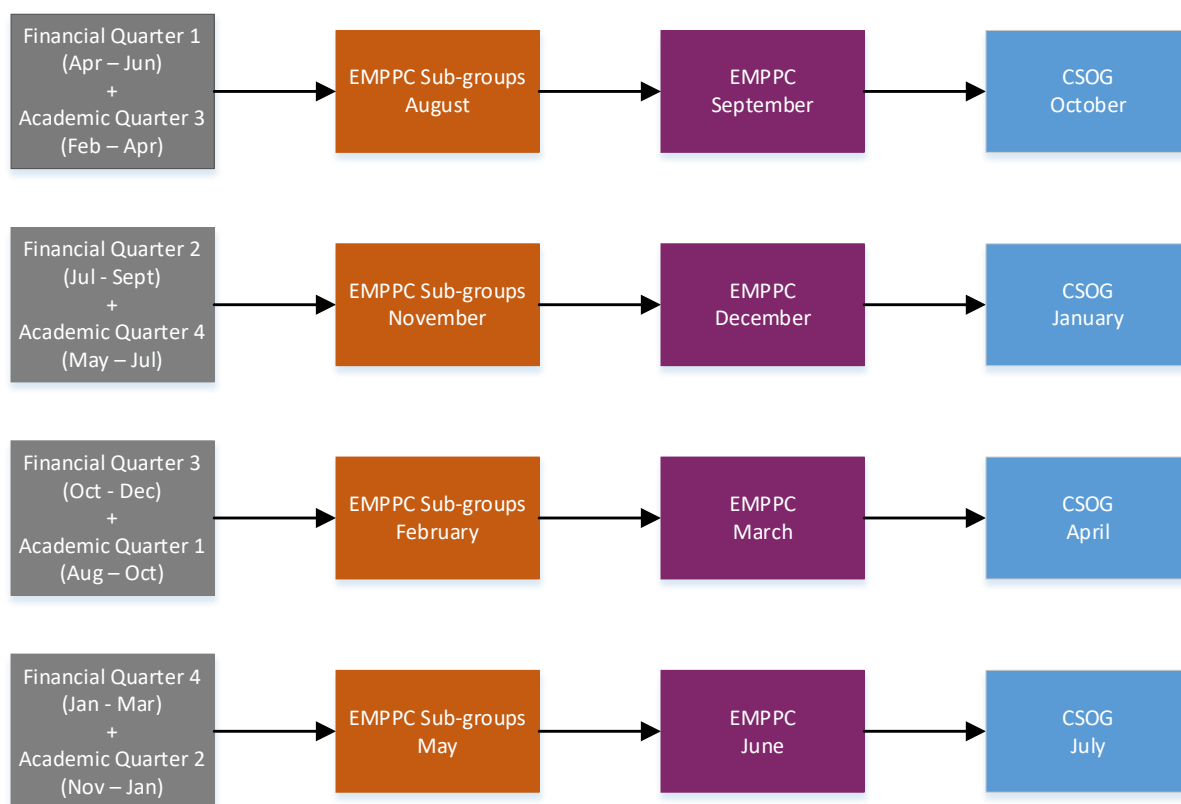
management of risk posed by offenders subject to MAPPA are discharged effectively. The Chair is Judith Tait, Chief Social Work Officer/ Chief Operating Officer, Children's Services, East Lothian Council.

The **Performance and Quality Improvement Sub-group (P&QI)** is responsible for the oversight and governance of the performance framework and improvement plan. The Chair is Joan Tranent, Chief Social Work Officer/Chief Operating Officer Children's Services, Communities and Partnerships, Midlothian Council.

The **Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Group (VAWG)** works to support the delivery of Equally Safe: Scotland’s strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls in line with the local context and priorities. The Chair is Keith Mackay, Detective Chief Inspector, J Division, Police Scotland.

## Reporting Cycle of EMPPC

Our Committee runs based on quarterly cycles, as shown in the attached diagram, and the reporting therefore covers the quarters detailed below.



The reporting of data and performance follows the academic quarters for Child Protection. We introduced the use of the national dataset of performance indicators (supported by

CELCIS) in Academic Quarter 2, 2020 – 21. At the time we recognised a potential challenge in considering a mix between financial and academic quarterly reporting, noting that the timeframe between the Academic-end quarter and reporting to EMPPC is almost five months. We introduced a Child Protection Minimum Dataset Sub-group to support more detailed consideration and early scrutiny of the data. This meets prior to the Performance and Quality Improvement (P&QI) Sub-group and worked well during the year.

The reporting of all our other data (ASP, Violence Against Women and Girls, Drug and Alcohol, MAPPA and Learning and Development) follows financial quarters. In the year, we introduced a new reporting format, laying out our data in graphs and charts for easier reading. For ASP data, we introduced a pre-meeting to support the development of the reporting to our P&QI Sub-group, and are taking forward a similar pre-meeting for VAWG data reporting. All our data reports are reviewed and considered by our P&QI Sub-group, and thereafter to EMPPC. Our EMPPC members have welcomed the new format.

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

The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Office (EMPPO) supports the delivery of the operational and strategic objectives and priorities of the EMPPC and its Sub-groups. The EMPPO is jointly funded by East Lothian and Midlothian Councils, Police Scotland and NHS (Health and Social Care Partnerships in East Lothian and Midlothian). Its operational base is the Brunton Hall, Musselburgh.

Staff include Senior Business Support Administrator, Business Support Assistant (0.5), Lead Officer for ASP, Lead Officer for Child Protection, Violence Against Women and Girls Co-ordinator, Marac Co-ordinator and Public Protection Manager. The staff within the office are responsible for:

- Working with multi agency partners to promote effective inter-agency policy and practice, by providing consultation, advice and guidance;
- Supporting the implementation of national policies, and developing local procedures and guidance;
- Maintaining an independent overview of inter-agency activity in ASP, Child Protection and Violence Against Women and Girls;
- The co-ordination, delivery and evaluation of multi-agency training, learning and development in the different areas of Public Protection;
- Supporting the collation and review of data and performance information and contributing to the identification and development of improvement actions;
- Co-ordinating the scheduling of meetings of the EMPPC and associated groups, and providing secretariat services to support their smooth functioning;
- Developing and delivering key communications and messages about Public Protection;
- Supporting and co-ordinating the process of carrying out learning reviews and ensuring learning is embedded into practice and policy;

- The operational delivery of the Domestic Abuse Service through the co-location of Domestic Abuse Staff employed by Women’s Aid; and
- The operational delivery of Marac.

The EMPPPO saw some staffing changes over the reporting period, with a new Lead Officer for ASP joining in March 2021, and a new Lead Officer for Child Protection joining in June 2021 (after a six month vacancy in the post). The Marac Co-ordinator took a period of absence from the post in September 2021, which was filled on a temporary basis the following month. The Domestic Abuse Service staffing complement was increased to three posts with the provision of the new Scottish Government Delivering Equally Safe Funding from October 2021, but we were unable to recruit to this and the other two posts when they became vacant in the latter part of the year. Discussions commenced in the reporting period about the options for a different delivery model for the Domestic Abuse Service, which continued into the year commencing April 2022.

## Adult Support and Protection (ASP)

### Data and performance information

The data reported here is a combination of the annual reporting to the Scottish Government and EMPPC's local performance indicators.

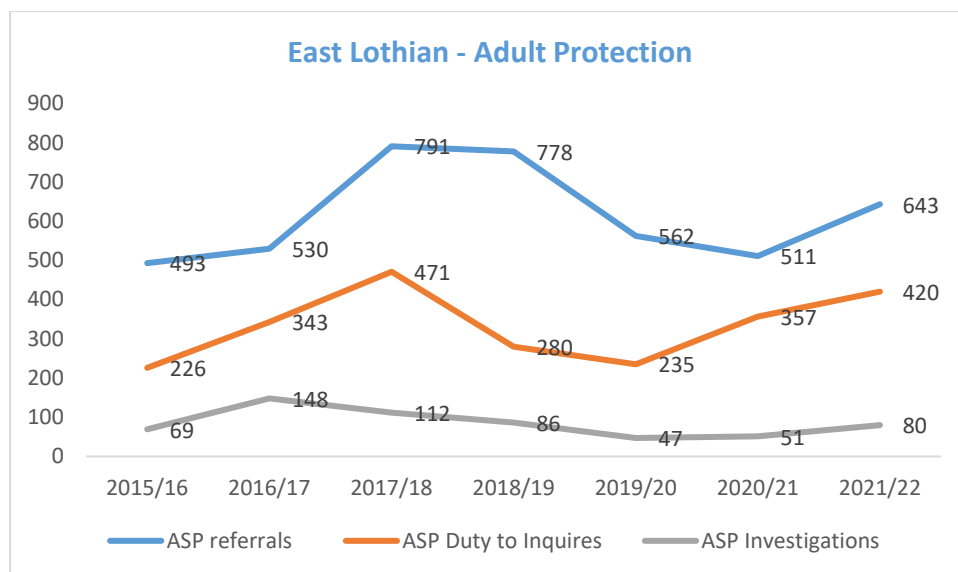
The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 requires the Council to make inquiries into an adult's wellbeing and financial affairs if it believes the adult might be an adult at risk and they might require measures of protection. The Act requires other agencies to assist the Council with such inquiries. In both areas, a specially trained social worker called a Council Officer participates in a duty rota to undertake referral screening and the Duty to Inquire (DTI). As part of an inquiry, the Council Officer may decide that further investigation is required on a single or multi-agency basis. The purpose of an Investigation by the Council is to establish if the adult at risk is suffering harm and to establish what supports and measures can be used to protect the adult from further harm.

An Inter-agency Referral Discussion (IRD) may be initiated by any of the statutory agencies in line with the local Adult Support and Protection Procedures. This is a vital stage in the process of joint information sharing, assessment and decision making about adults at risk of harm. The core agencies involved in IRD are Social Work, Police and Health. In each area, we operate an IRD Oversight Group, consisting of the core agencies who undertake IRDs (Police, NHS and Social Work) and chaired by the ASP Lead Officer. The Group meets every four weeks to review all IRDs that have taken place during the period, or remain open, authorise closure of the IRD and undertake quality assurance activity.

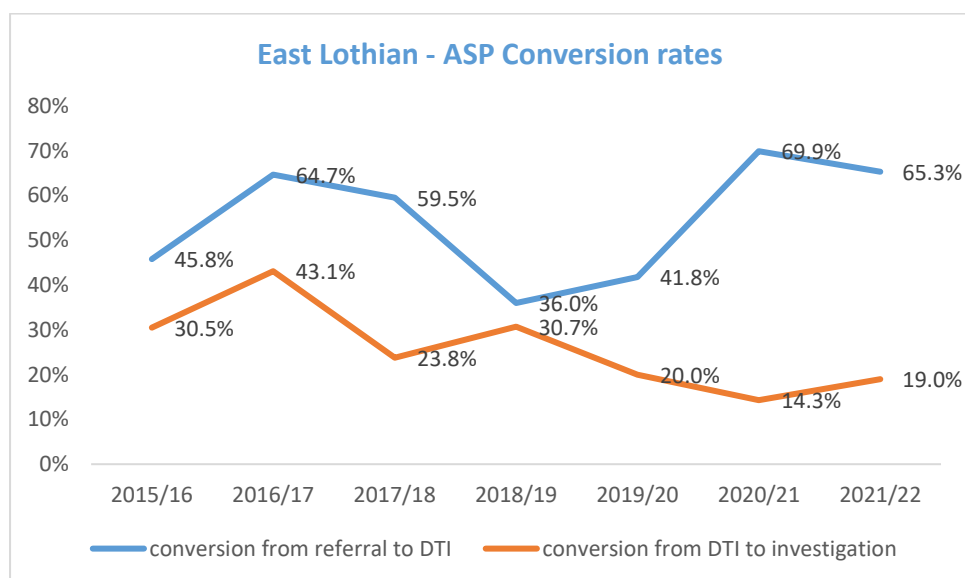
Over the coming year, we will engage in the work that is being undertaken by IRISS and the Scottish Government to develop a national dataset of performance information. We already have a well-established structure through our P&QI Sub-group to support taking this work forward.

## East Lothian ASP Data and Performance Information

### Number of ASP Referrals, Duty to Inquires and ASP Investigations



There were 643 referrals categorised as ASP in the year, an increase of 25.8% (132) from the previous year. In the year, there was an increase of 17.6% (63) of the number of DTIs completed. The number of ASP Investigations increased by 29, which was an increase of 56.9%.



65.3% of referrals badged as ASP converted to a DTI, a slight decrease from the previous year, when 69.9% of referrals converted to a DTI. In the year, 19% of DTIs led on to an ASP Investigation, a slight increase from 14.3% the previous year.

### Referral source

Of the 643 referrals received under ASP, the three most frequent sources were Police (24.9%, 160), other organisations (16.5%, 106) and NHS (14.0%, 90). Police have been the most frequent referrer for the past four consecutive years. Other organisations (e.g. third

sector care at home providers) remained as one of the top three referrers of ASP to the Council with an increase in the proportion of their referrals from the previous year. This appears to reflect the increase in face-to-face contact with adults when lockdown restrictions eased.

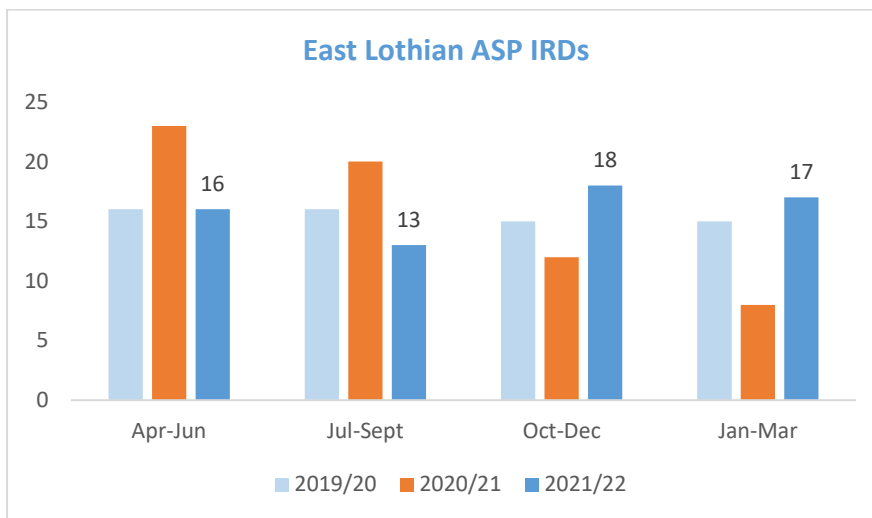
Source of referrals East Lothian	Number of referrals
Police	160
Other organisation	106
NHS	90
Others	79
Social Work	60
Family	29
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	27
Scottish Ambulance Service	25
Council	25
Friend/Neighbour	16
GPs	10
Care Inspectorate	8
Anonymous	5
Office of Public Guardian	<5
Self (Adult at risk of harm)	<5
Other member of public	<5
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>

### Duty to Inquire

In the year, there was an increase of 17.6% (63) of the number of DTIs completed. In East Lothian, Council Officers completed 81.0% of Duty to Inquires within our local standard of seven calendar days. The two main reasons identified for the standard not being achieved were absence of the Council Officer who commenced the DTI (leave and sickness absence) and awaiting information from other professionals (most commonly health professionals). Whilst this was a similar percentage to the previous year (81.8%), there was an increase of 63 DTIs undertaken in the year, with no additional staffing resources to meet the increased demand around ASP work in East Lothian in the year. During the latter part of 2021/22, there has been a strengthening of the oversight arrangements for ASP work, and we should anticipate increased performance in the coming year.

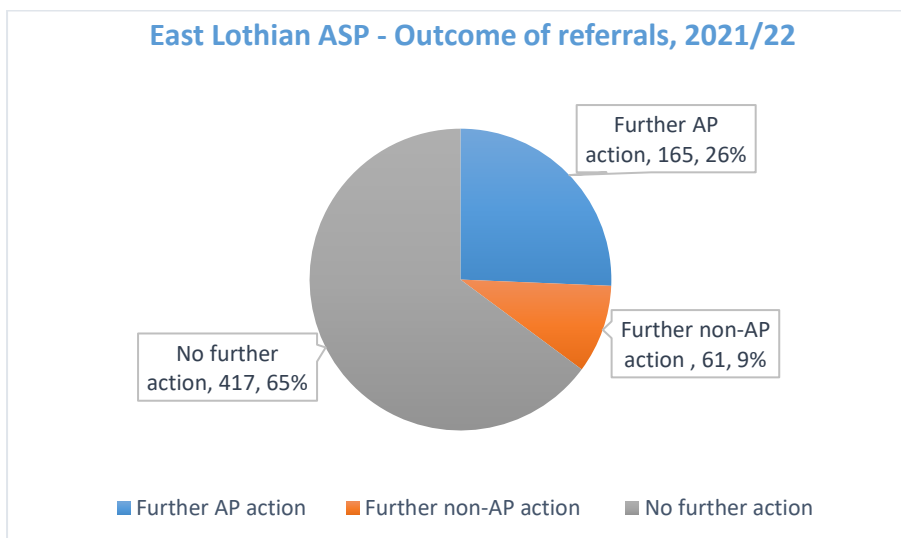


## Inter-agency Referral Discussions



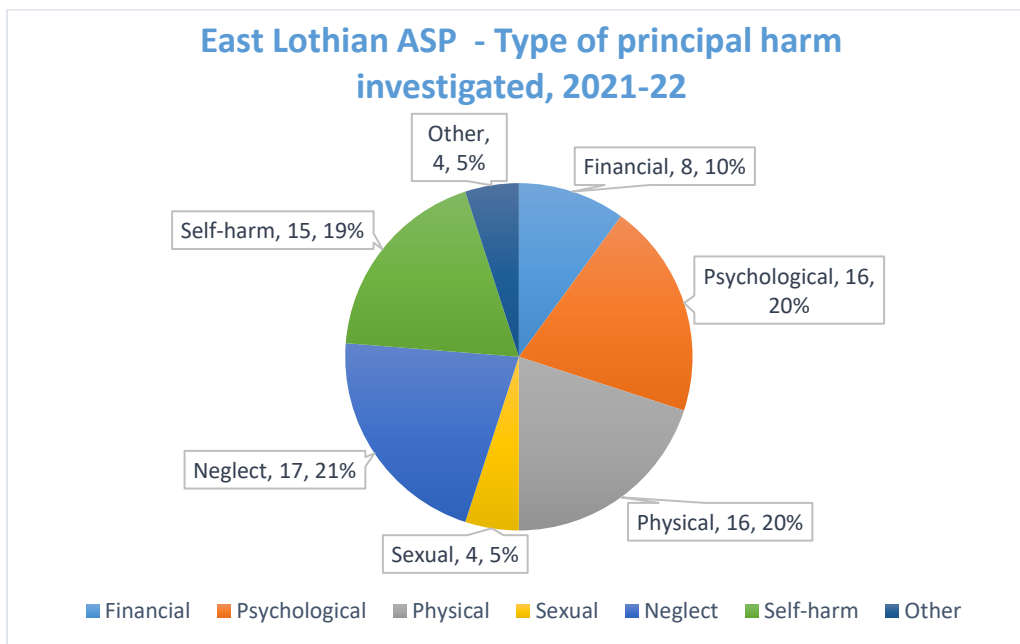
In the year, there were 64 Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) for ASP, with an even spread over the four quarters. We have not seen an increase in IRDs correlating to the increase in referrals, DTIs and Investigations, and have seen little change over the three years in the number of IRDs undertaken.

## Outcome of ASP referrals

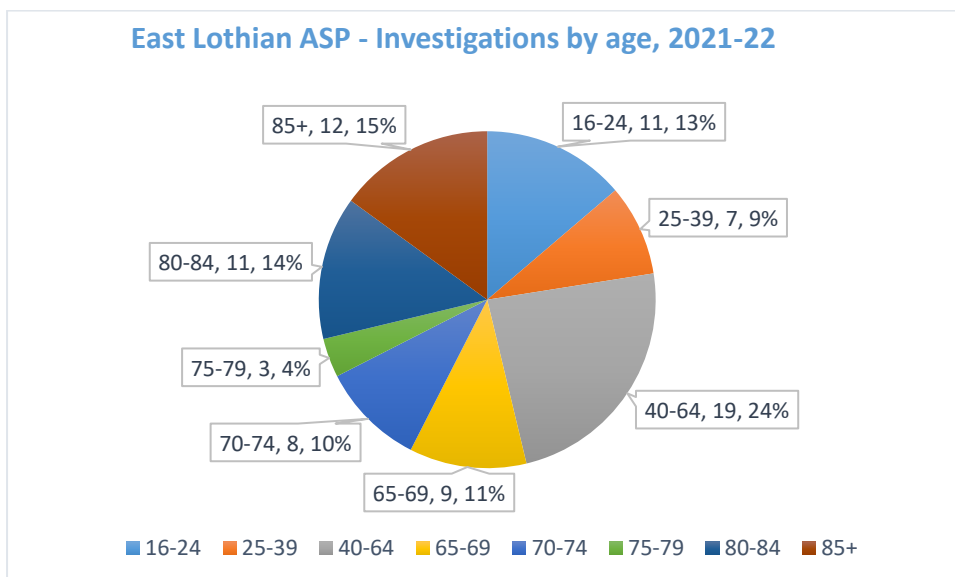


35% of ASP referrals made in the year had some form of further action. This was only a slight decrease from 38% the previous year.

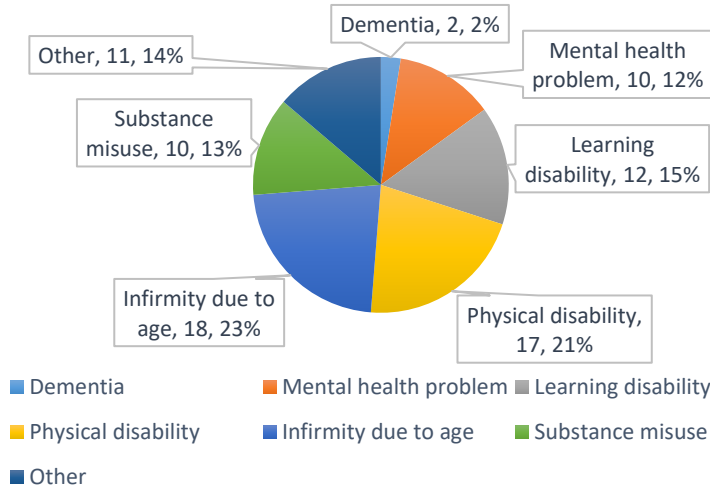
## Profile of Investigations



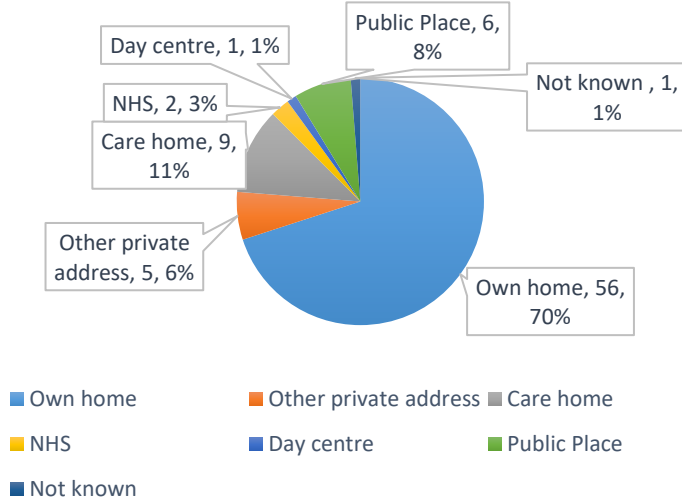
There are seven major categories of harm reported annually under ASP. In East Lothian, the most common type of harm investigated under ASP in 2021-22 was neglect (including self-neglect), followed by psychological and physical harm. This was a shift from the previous year, where the most common type of harm investigated was financial harm. Financial harm has been the most common type of harm investigated in four of the last six years. This was the theme for our successful Adult Support and Protection Learning Event for ASP Day in February 2022.



### East Lothian ASP - Investigations by client group, 2021-22



### East Lothian ASP - Investigations by location of harm, 2021-22



The location of harm experienced by the adult was the adult’s own home for 70% (56) of ASP Investigations. There was no shift in gender balance from the previous year, with females accounting for 61% (49) of all ASP Investigations and 35% (28) being male (three cases where the gender was recorded as not known, which is likely to be explained as a recording error). 29% of ASP Investigations were for adults over the age of 80, with a pattern of Investigations in this age group more likely to be for females.

There is a notable under-recording (by 51%) of the ethnic group of adults who are the subject of an ASP Investigation. This is a similar percentage to the previous year and is a recording issue to be addressed in the coming year.

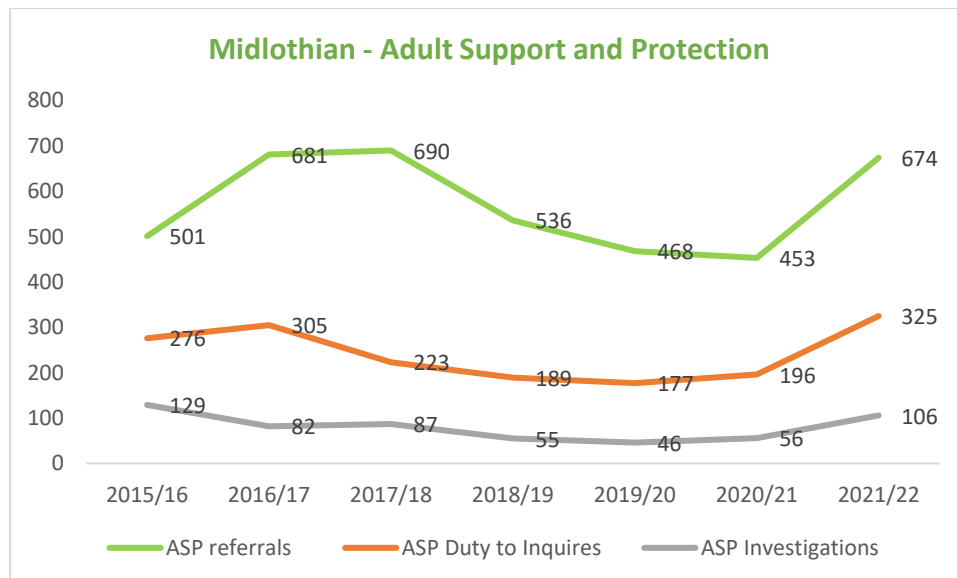
### ASP Case Conferences

In East Lothian, there were 51 ASP Case Conferences in the year, of which 26 were Initial Case Conferences and 25 Review Case Conferences. The standard is to hold these within 21 days from the date of the IRD to the Initial Case Conference, and within three months for

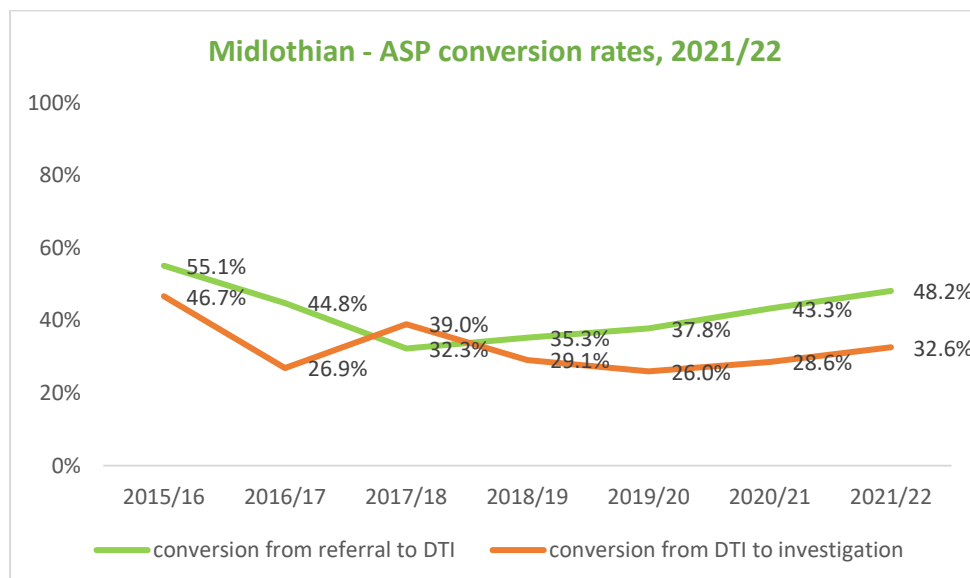
the Review Case Conference. 66.7% of Case Conferences were held within our timescale standards. Where timescales standards were not met, in 17 cases, this was due to a combination of staffing absences arising from COVID, and in some instances ensuring that the meeting had the right people in attendance. There was no identified detrimental impact to the adult where the Case Conference did not take place, as there was an interim safety plan in place. The timescale standard for completion of the report by the Council Officer no later than three days before the Initial Case Conference was met in 80.8% of cases (21 of 26 cases), and again, where not met, this was due to staffing absence. Adult Support and Protection Case Conferences continued to adopt a hybrid approach of Virtual Meetings, with the adult supported to attend where appropriate, and Health and Police personnel attending virtually. Through our P&QI performance reviews and self-evaluation activity, we identified that there was a need to improve the consideration and use of advocacy in ASP cases, and took steps to promote advocacy services to Council Officers.

## Midlothian ASP Data and Performance Information

### Number of ASP referrals Duty to Inquires and ASP Investigations



In Midlothian, there were 674 referrals categorised as ASP in the year, an increase of 48.8% (221) from the previous year. In line with an increase in referrals, there was a corresponding increase of 65.8% (129) in the number of DTIs completed.



48.2% of referrals badged as ASP converted to a DTI, a slight increase from the previous year, when 43.3% of referrals converted to a DTI. In the year, 32.6% of DTIs led on to an ASP Investigation, a slight increase from 28.6% the previous year.

### Referral source

Of the 674 referrals received under ASP, the most frequent referral source was NHS, who made 21.4% of all referrals under ASP. Other organisations made 19.0% of referrals and

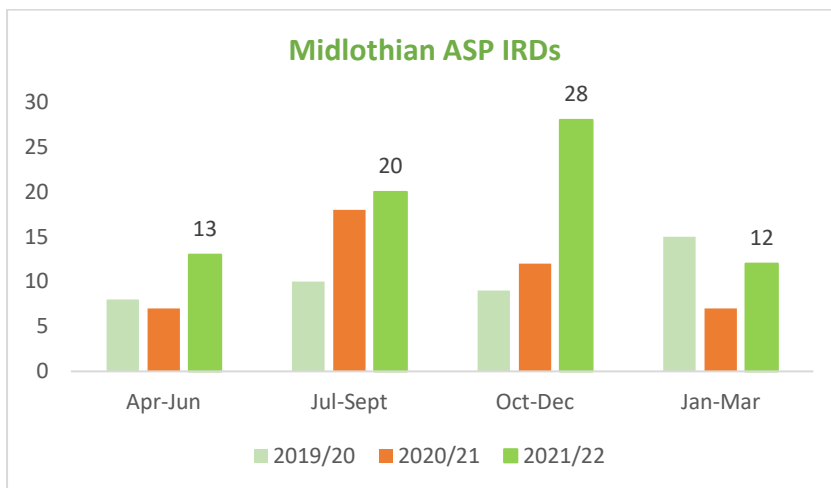
Police 18.4%. This was a shift from the previous three years, where the most common referrer was Police.

Source of referrals Midlothian	Number of referrals
NHS	144
Other organisation	128
Police	124
Social Work	87
Family	42
Others	24
Council	22
Other member of public	20
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	17
Scottish Ambulance Service	15
Self (Adult at risk of harm)	14
Care Inspectorate	10
Friend/Neighbour	8
GPs	7
Unpaid carer	6
Anonymous	6
Office of Public Guardian	<5
Mental Welfare Commission	<5
Healthcare Improvement Scotland	<5
Total	674

### Duty to Inquire

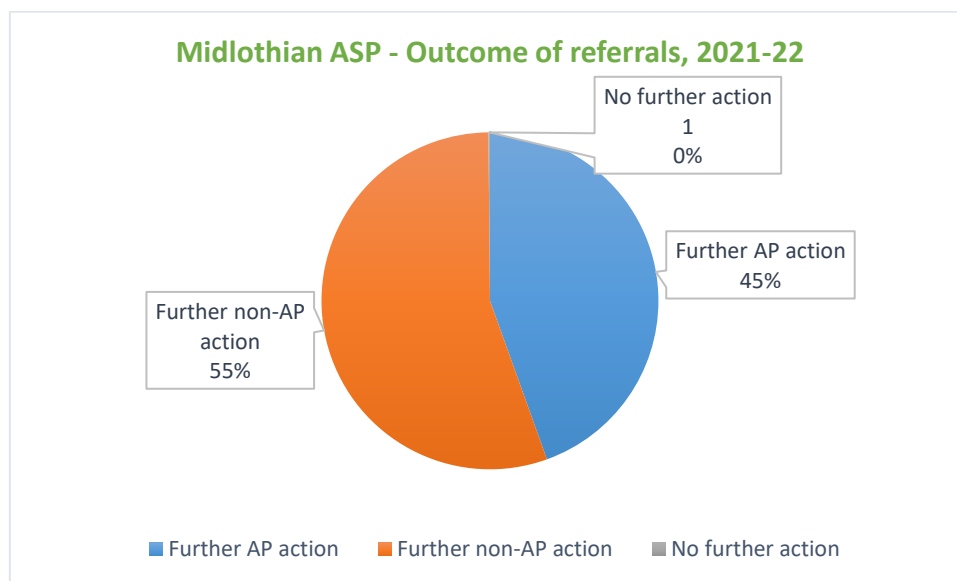
In Midlothian, Council Officers completed 97.2% of Duty to Inquires within our standard of within seven calendar days. This standard is achieved through a well-embedded culture of prioritisation of this aspect of ASP work, and the majority of the DTIs being completed by the dedicated ASP team, with close oversight and tracking of the progress of DTIs. There was an improved performance from 2020/21 (89.8%), in spite of an increase of 129 DTIs undertaken in the year, with no additional resources.

## Inter-agency Referral Discussions



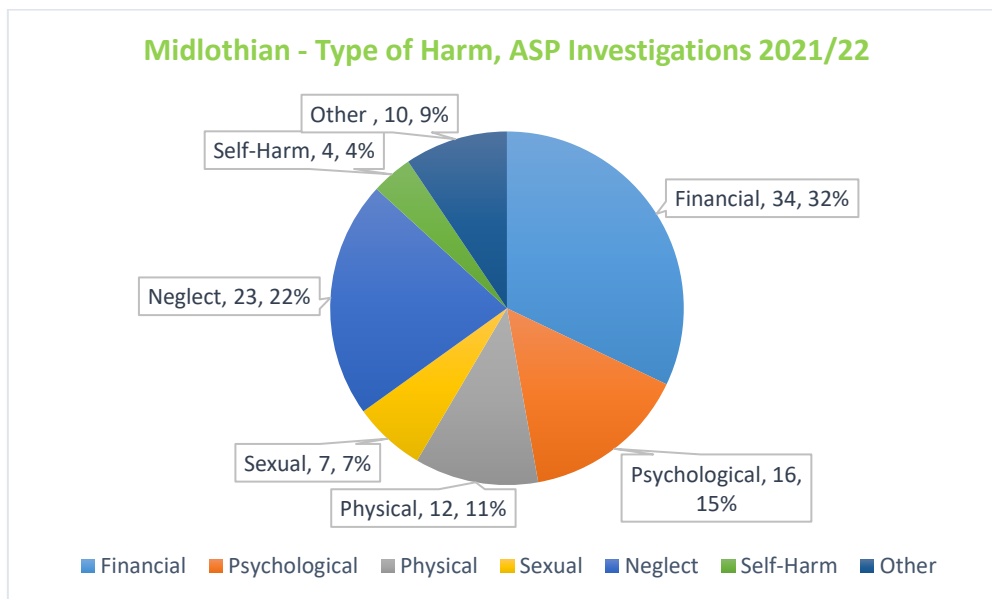
In the year, there were 73 Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) for ASP. We have seen an increase in IRDs for the past three years, with a 65.9% (44) increase from 2020-21. Some of the increase can be explained by way of Large Scale Investigations in care homes, and concerned relatives/neighbours becoming more aware of adults at risk as lockdown restrictions eased.

## Outcome of ASP referrals

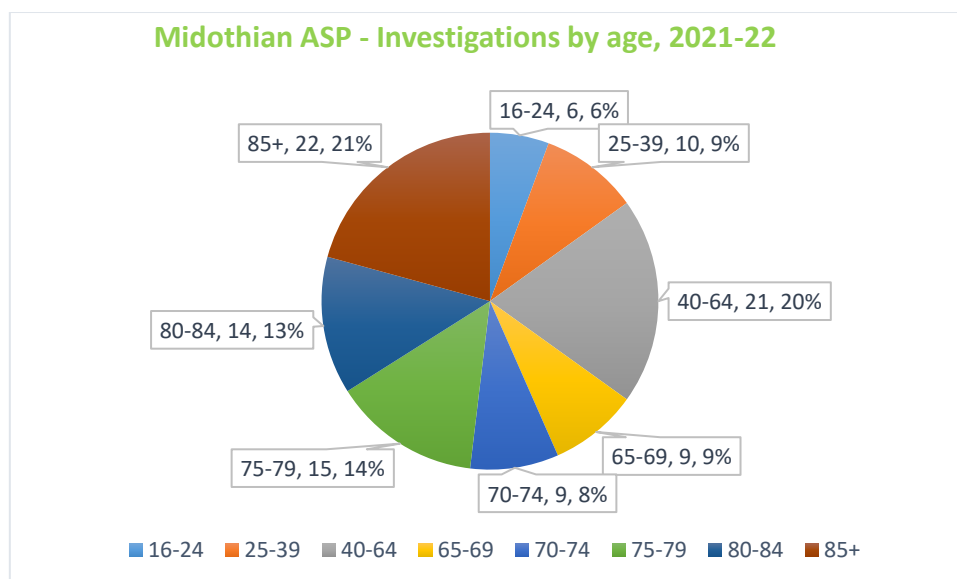


99% of ASP referrals made in the year had some form of further action. This is almost the same as the previous year (98%), and reflects the tight processes around initial screening of referrals being identified as ASP, with the vast majority of ASP referrals being handled by the ASP team that operates within the Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership.

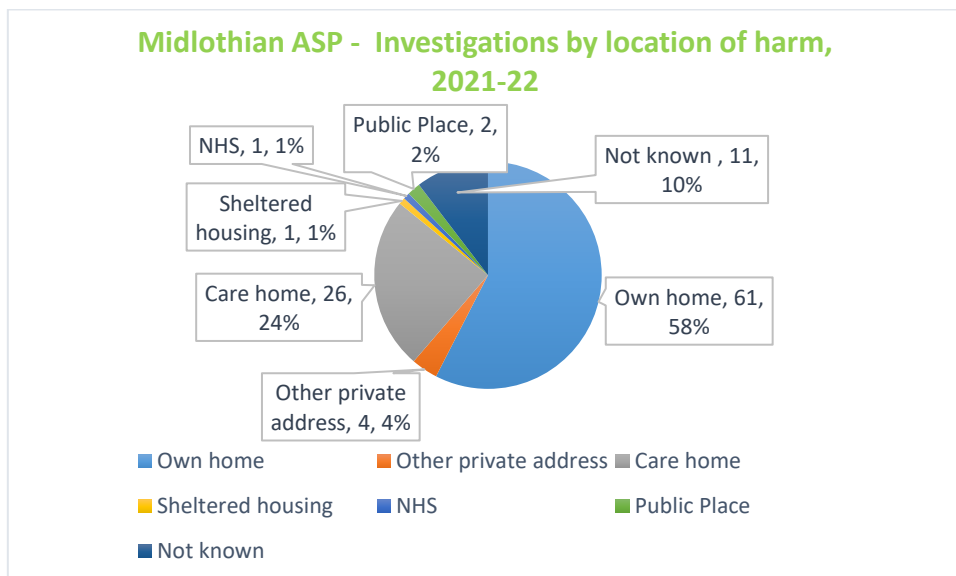
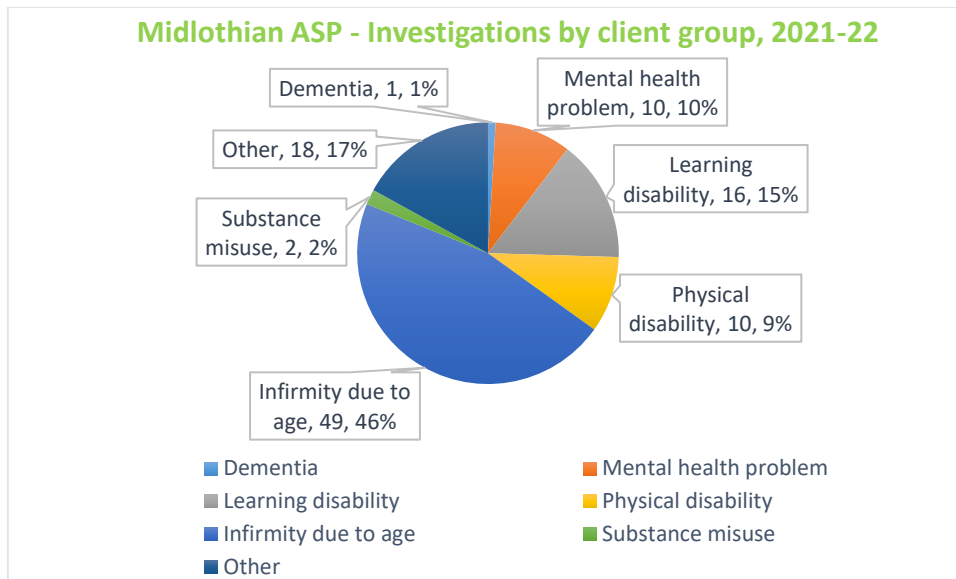
## Profile of Investigations



There are seven major categories of harm reported annually under ASP. In Midlothian, the most common type of harm investigated under ASP in 2021/22 was financial harm, followed by neglect (including self-neglect). Financial harm has been the most common type of harm investigated in five of the last six years.







53% of ASP Investigations were for females (56) and 47% (49) were for males. In the previous year, 71% of ASP Investigations related to females, and 29% related to males. There is no identified explanation for the shift in gender balance.

38% of adults who were the subject of an ASP investigation in the year had their ethnic group recorded as not known. This is the same percentage as the previous year, and is a recording issue to be addressed in the coming year.

#### ASP Case Conferences

In Midlothian, there were 31 Case Conferences, of which 22 were Initial Case Conferences and nine Review Case Conferences. The standard is to hold these within 21 days from the data of the IRD to the Initial Case Conference, and within three months for the Review Case Conference. 87.1% of Case Conferences were held within our timescale standards, with only four being held out with that timescale. Where the standard was not met, the timescale was extended to ensure that all the appropriate people attended to support good

decision making, and there was no detriment to the adult involved, with an interim safety plan in place.

We operate a timescale standard for completion of the Council Officer report, within three days of the Initial Case Conference. In all but one case, the standard was met in the year, and in all cases, a single agency chronology was available for the Initial Case Conference. In all cases where there was a first Review Case Conference (nine cases), a comprehensive multi-agency risk assessment was completed within 28 calendar days of the Initial Case Conference.

Adult Support and Protection Case Conferences continued to adopt a hybrid approach of Virtual Meetings, with the adult supported to attend, and where not in attendance, advocacy was offered. Health and Police personnel attended virtually when invited.

## **Supporting Practice in ASP**

### **Learning and Development**

A change in the focus of, and arrangements for, the Council Officer Forums in East Lothian and Midlothian took place during the year. They moved from service updates and intermittent case studies, towards regular briefings on key topics delivered by the Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer, and the development of an approach to present case studies to promote the transfer of learning to practice. The development of this derived from self-evaluation activity in East Lothian, which highlighted areas of developmental need and informed the content of the programme that started in East Lothian during the year. The content of the programme is sufficiently flexible to respond to developmental need, but covers core topics including analytical risk management, evidential risk analysis, professional curiosity in ASP and chronologies. We also agreed to implement the same approach in Midlothian from April 2022.

Formal training for Council Officers was redesigned, the inspiration for this being taken from the pilot run in Dundee and Angus, which was presented to the National ASP Lead Officer's Learning and Development forum towards the end of the year ending March 2021. This was one of the key priorities identified in our previous year's annual report. Moving from a one-day training course to a modular approach of nine half days over nine months, the Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer delivered this from October 2021. The first six sessions were taught modules on key areas of ASP legislation and practice, with input from key partners, and the final three sessions were aimed at supporting the transfer of learning to practice through reflective presentations. We originally started out with 11 Social Workers from East Lothian and Midlothian, four left the programme due to changing jobs/personal circumstances, which resulted in seven Social Workers successfully completing this training and able to act as Council Officers. Evaluation of the training was positive and we used this to revise the programme for the second round of training during the year commencing April 2022, including reducing the length of time to complete the full training.

## **Audit Activity**

The Lead Officer and a Senior Operational Manager in East Lothian carried out an audit of the last year's chronologies and Multi-Agency Risk Assessments (MARA). The MARA takes place after the initial APCC when it is agreed there will be a review APCC.

The chronology audit found that recording was generally good, however, there needed to be a greater focus on including the point of view of the adult as per the principles of ASP legislation. The MARA audit identified that most risks were appropriately identified and managed; however, there was a need for increased granularity in the analysis of risk. The learning from both audits is being progressed via Council Officer Forums and ASP training.

Similar audit activity in Midlothian was planned for the year commencing April 2022.

Every IRD is reviewed at the monthly IRD Overview Group. This is chaired by the Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer and has representation from the NHS, Police Scotland and operational Social Work staff. There was a strengthening to the work of this group over the year, to ensure that the learning is captured and quality assurance activity is robust. An audit of IRDs in each area over a six-month period between November and March was completed, reporting to the P&QI Sub-group shortly into the next year. Strengths in information sharing were evident in both areas, with some improvements around SMART planning identified. Observational learning opportunities for all IRD participants at the IRD Overview Group was also established and will continue into the coming year.

## **Self-evaluation of ASP**

In East Lothian, we commenced some self-evaluation activity in relation to ASP, using the Care Inspectorate Quality Indicator Framework for ASP. A staff survey and focus groups highlighted areas of strength and improvement, which we used to refresh our improvement activities. Along with a strengthening of the operational management and oversight of ASP work this programme of activity is continuing into the year commencing April 2022.

In Midlothian, similar self-evaluation activity in relation to ASP will be undertaken over the course of the next year.

## **Guidance and Procedures**

During the year, we began work to develop our approach for escalating concerns for managing cases relating to adults where existing frameworks are not appropriate or able to reduce levels of risk and where a multi-agency approach may be beneficial. Implementing this new guidance and monitoring its use and effectiveness will continue into this year.

We engaged in the consultation to the proposed refresh of the ASP Code of Practice by analysing the implications of the proposed changes from a local perspective and consulting with ASP staff. In the coming year we will take forward the development of our local ASP procedures to reflect the changes in the new Code of Practice.

## **National ASP Day**

84 staff from across East Lothian and Midlothian attended our on-line learning event in February, to hear about financial harm from a number of different perspectives, its impact and how to tackle it. We received positive feedback about the content and structure of this event. Our focus on financial harm arose from our recognition that financial harm has been the principal type of harm investigated in recent years in each of our two areas. Our keynote speaker, Keith Brown, emeritus Professor from Bournemouth University, delivered a stimulating presentation on financial harm by scams, how to recognise this and its impact. He was ably supported with further presentations from Trading Standards in East Lothian, and Police Scotland who provided an overview of how the Police can help investigate a crime of financial harm and of the Banking Protocol, where staff in financial institutions are trained to recognise and respond to concerns. Our speaker from the charity Surviving Economic Abuse told us about the experience of economic abuse as a form of gender based violence. The ASP Lead Officer also promoted our Practitioner's Guide to Financial Abuse at the event.

## **Herbert Protocol**

During the year, we undertook some communications activities to raise awareness of the Herbert Protocol, through our newsletter, social media communications, development of a video by East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership and a radio interview in December 2021 by the ASP Lead Officer and Alzheimer's Scotland on Black Diamond FM (serving the Midlothian area). Our local Missing Persons Co-ordinator with Police Scotland commenced some on-line briefings for staff, which will continue in the coming year.

## **Large Scale Investigations**

A Large Scale Investigation is a multi-agency response where an adult who is a resident of a care home, supported accommodation, NHS hospital ward or other facility, or receives services in their own home, has been referred as at risk of harm; and where investigation indicates that the risk of harm could be due to another resident, member of staff or some failing or deficiency in the management or operation of the service. In the year, there were four LSIs pertaining to older people's care homes, three of which started and concluded in the year. One remains ongoing. One of the care homes closed following issues being raised in the LSI process around the suitability of the environment and standards. The need for improvements in the leadership within the environments was a key feature of the LSIs, and in each, standards were restored whilst under the LSI process. The ASP Lead Officer commenced a piece of work to review the themes and learning arising from LSIs, which is continuing into the year commencing April 2022.

## **Care at Home Service Provision Challenges**

There was a significant challenge in meeting the demand for care at home services in the second half of 2021, due to the impact of staffing absence arising from COVID. This arose particularly in East Lothian, where a significant proportion of the providers are third sector organisations. The ASP Lead Officer supported the oversight and monitoring of the

response in East Lothian to this by developing a risk assessment framework for the allocation of care at home services and proposed a new risk assessment framework to complement existing processes. This led to the implementation of the T.I.L.S. risk assessment framework that looks at the interaction between types of harm; imminence of harm; likelihood of harm and the severity of impact of harm. This helped support the risk assessment processes in the allocation of pressured care at home resources. The Care at Home Oversight Group in East Lothian, a multi-disciplinary group of senior partnership managers and the ASP Lead Officer, met weekly to monitor and support performance in the sector to ensure safe delivery of services to an extremely vulnerable client group. This was effective in managing the service provision challenges. Whilst there were pressures in Midlothian arising from staffing absence due to COVID, the higher proportion of in-house provision rather than private sector made the co-ordination of response easier to manage. The approach and framework used in East Lothian was subsequently shared with managers in Midlothian.

### **Initial Case Reviews and Significant Case Reviews**

Whilst we awaited the publication of the new Learning Review Guidance for conducting a Learning Review we continued to follow our Significant Case Review (SCR) Guidance. This sets out the processes for conducting a review where an adult has been harmed or died, and where abuse or neglect was a factor, or where the adult was involved in ASP processes, and the incident(s) give(s) rise to serious concerns about service involvement. An Initial Case Review (ICR) is carried out in order to inform the decision about the need for a full SCR. We commenced and concluded one ICR in the year, concluding that the learning points had been addressed without the need to progress further to a full SCR. Our CSOG was assured that improvements identified had been implemented.

We commenced a further two ICRs in the year, concluding and reporting on these in the year commencing 2022, and taking forward the sharing of learning further in ASP training and other learning opportunities to raise awareness of identification of ASP risk of harm.

## Child Protection (CP)

### CP Data and Performance Information

EMPPC follows academic quarterly reporting for Child Protection, and we have fully implemented the national child protection minimum dataset (along with some additional local measures). A separate multi-agency Sub-group of the P&QI Sub-group reviews the data and performance, and prepares the report for the P&QI Sub-group.

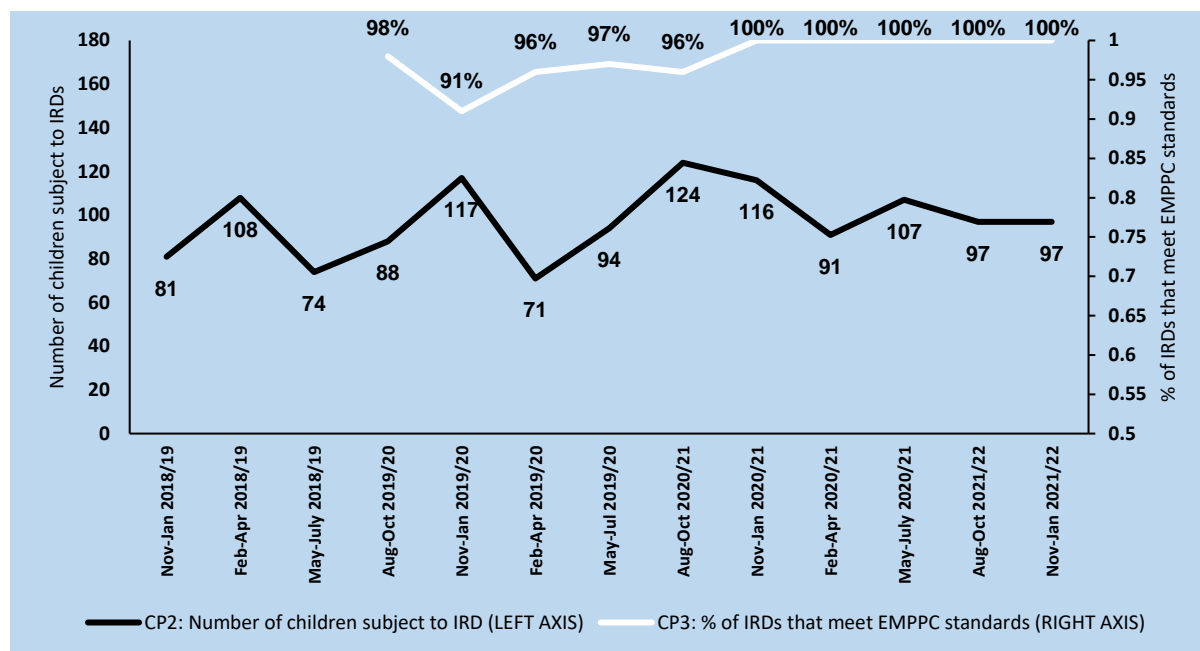
Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) involve a discussion between the 'core' agencies of Police, NHS and Social Work, and we have the benefit in both our areas of having the same Police and NHS personnel involved, creating a consistency of approach. Our IRD Overview Group operates four weekly in each area and again has the same Police and NHS personnel, which supports consistency of approach and shared learning opportunities. The Child Protection Lead Officer attends this to support the drawing out of learning themes and quality assurance.

East Lothian uses the Signs of Safety approach to their Child Protection assessment and planning, and consequently, it was agreed that the timescale for holding an Initial Case Conference is within 28 days from the raising of the IRD.

Vulnerable children and children on the Child Protection Register continued to be seen on a face-to-face basis by professionals in both areas. East Lothian and Midlothian continued to strive for 'going back to business as usual' in terms of Child Protection Case Conferences and aimed to have meetings face-to-face where possible. A blended approach of virtual meetings and face-to-face meetings have been used for Case Conferences, with the majority of professionals joining the meeting on line but the family, Chair and Social Worker being in the same room.

## East Lothian CP Data and Performance Information

### IRDs

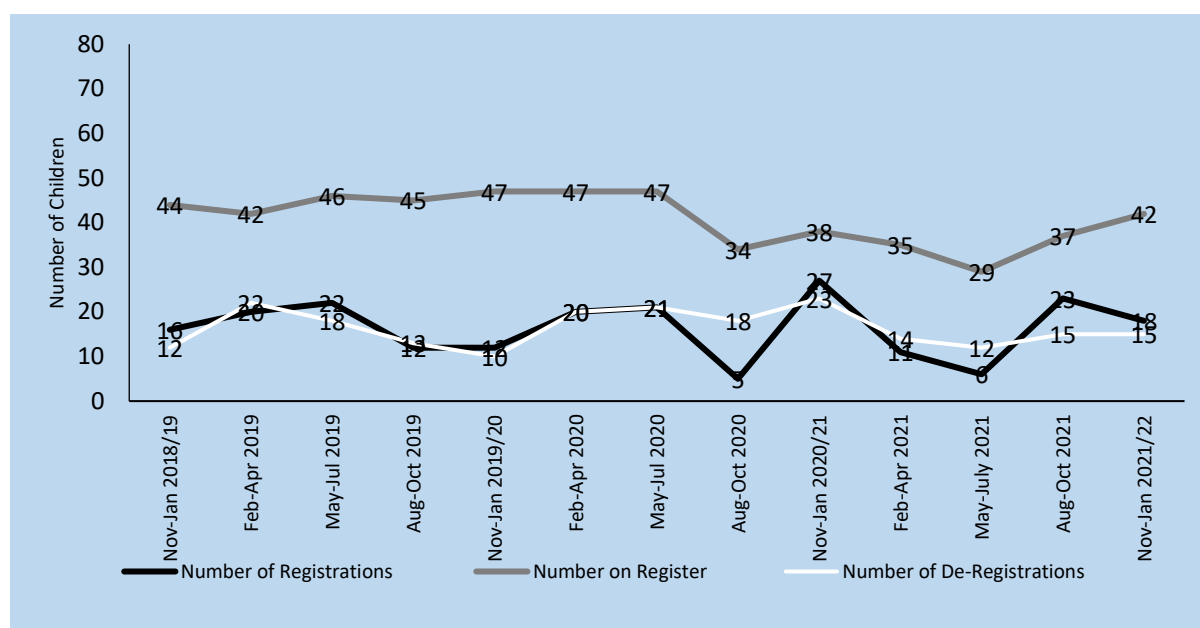


Levels of IRDs over the last year have remained consistent in East Lothian, with over two thirds of IRDs being for children and young people between the ages of 5 and 15 each quarter. The largest single age category each quarter was the 11 to 15 age group, highlighting the increased challenges and vulnerabilities for this age group. The EMPPC Vulnerable Young Persons Protocol gives a helpful framework for supporting and protecting this age group; this has been promoted and used more during the past year in East Lothian.

The publishing of the Scottish Government Child Protection Annual Return Data in March 2022 (for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021) sparked a comprehensive discussion of the rates in East Lothian in comparison to other local authorities. East Lothian had the fourth highest rate in Scotland, at 22.9 per 1,000 children. The national average was 12.8 per 1,000 children.

On review and consideration of various hypotheses, we were not overly concerned about our higher rates in East Lothian, as we consider that our IRD processes are well aligned with the 2021 National Guidance for Child Protection, and the IRD Overview Group considered that local standards for IRD were consistently met. We recognise that comparison with other local authority areas should be made with caution, and we will continue to keep a watching brief on this via our IRD Overview Group and P&QI Sub-group.

## Child Protection Registrations



The number of Child Protection registrations at each quarter-end remained below pre-lockdown levels in East Lothian. The flow of children being placed on the Register and removed is shown in the above graph, and on review of this data throughout the year, nothing exceptional or concerning has come to our attention. Through our P&QI Sub-group, we review the number of children who are re-registered within periods of up to 24 months, and nothing exceptional has stood out from this.

In East Lothian, the most common concerns raised at registration over the year were parental drug misuse and domestic abuse, followed by emotional abuse. Domestic abuse featured as the most common reason the previous year.

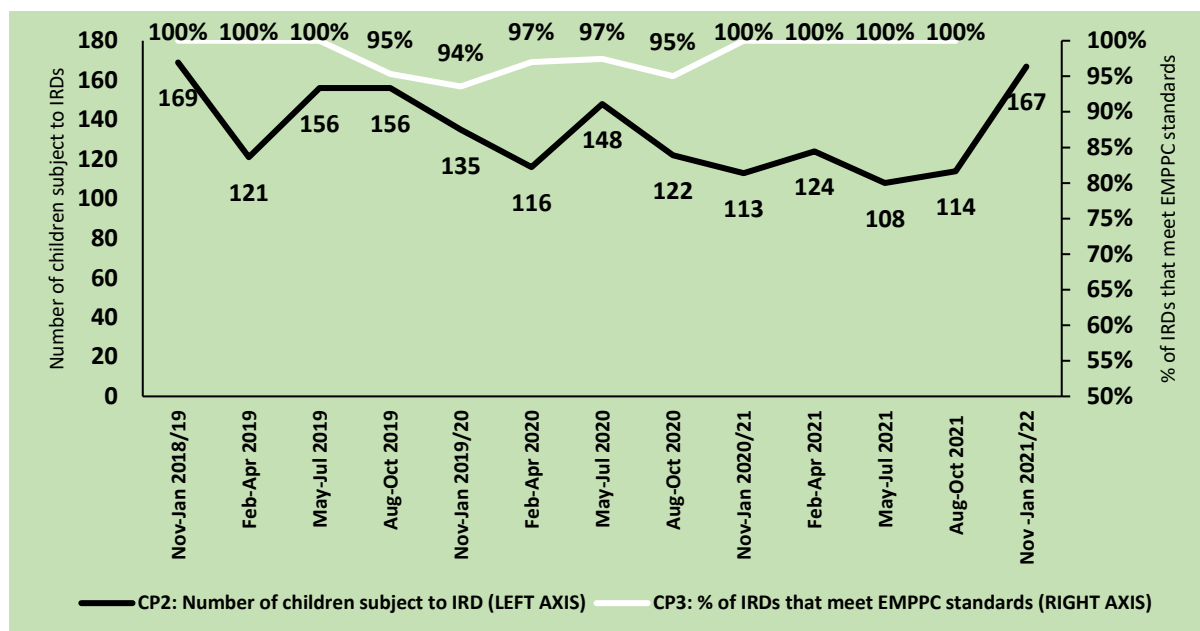
Where East Lothian did not meet the standard for holding an Initial Case Conference within 28 days, or an Initial Core Group within 15 calendar days of the Initial Case Conference, staff absence due to COVID was the primary reason. Meetings were held at the earliest opportunity thereafter, with no adverse impact on the child being identified. Parental attendance at Case Conferences was supported primarily by Social Workers. Over the year, we have seen a quarter-on-quarter improvement in the sharing of plans with children, which has been supported by a re-launch with training for staff to embed Signs of Safety.

The use of Multi-agency Chronologies within Child Protection continues to be well-established in East Lothian. The CP Lead Officer and Social Work staff in East Lothian are linked into the wider work of the Pan Lothian Chronology Groups and the standard Pan-Lothian template is in use for Initial and Review Case Conferences. Over the coming year, some audit and peer-review of Multi-agency Chronologies will be undertaken, supported by the CP Lead Officer.



## Midlothian CP Data and Performance Information

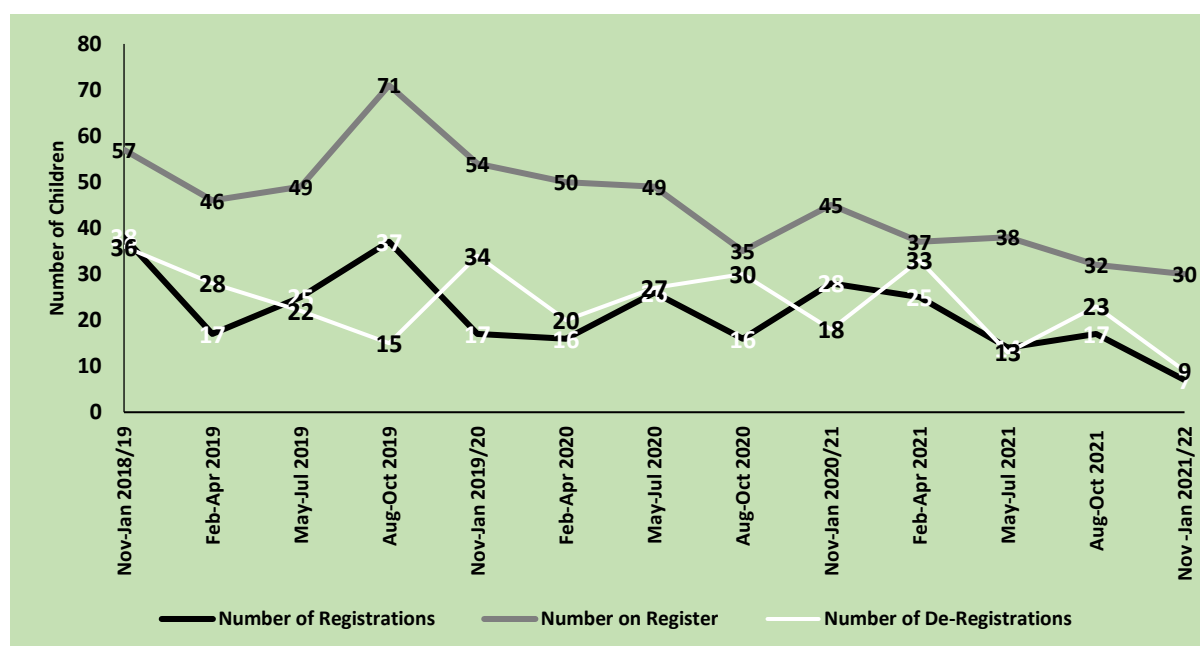
### IRDs



IRDs in Midlothian ranged from 108 to 167 per quarter in the year. There was a significant increase in the academic quarter 2 (November 2021 to January 2022), occurring around the New Year period, with double the number of IRDs for the 5 to 10 year old age group, and an increase in the 0 to 4 age group.

The comparative rates of IRDs to other local authority areas as published in the Scottish Government Child Protection Annual Return Data in March 2022 (for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021) saw a similarly high rate, with Midlothian sitting at the third highest rate at 17.7 per 1,000 children (in comparison to the national rate of 12.8). Processes in Midlothian are aligned to the National Guidance for Child Protection 2021, and we will engage in further monitoring and scrutiny of local processes and practice over the coming year to ensure that IRDs are appropriately instigated. The IRD Overview Group monitors whether threshold guidance is met, and assessed that IRDs routinely did meet local standards. We will continue to monitor this over the coming year.

## Child Protection Registrations



In Midlothian, conversion rates from ICPC to CP Registration decreased in the two quarters during the year. Whilst we exercised caution about interpreting percentages where the number is small, the CP Lead Officer and Clinical Nurse Manager, Public Protection Team, NHS Lothian undertook a small audit to explore any themes. The findings highlighted the need to undertake and evidence a robust assessment and child’s plan to justify decision making about registration, incorporate the child’s voice within that, and the need to further explore how we ensure that all agencies are clear on their roles and responsibilities within the Case Conference processes. The CP Lead Officer and partners will share the learning from this work over the coming year to support improvement activity, in training, partnership work and development of local procedures.

In two of the four quarters, domestic abuse featured as the most common reason for a child being placed on the CP register, but across the year, the concerns noted at registration were multi-faceted, reflecting the complexity of circumstances facing children and families.

## Supporting Practice

### Audit Activity

During the year, the CP Lead Officer undertook an audit on the relationship between Marac and IRD, focusing on Children’s Social Work records across East Lothian and Midlothian. A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (Marac) is a local meeting where representatives from statutory and non-statutory agencies meet to discuss individuals at high risk of serious harm or murder due to domestic abuse. The audit outlined that the majority of cases did not trigger an IRD. Whilst this was appropriate for some in light of measures already in place to address the risks, in a third of cases there was evidence to suggest an IRD should have taken place, and in a further third, an IRD should have been considered. We have subsequently implemented a change to our local processes and practice around Marac,

whereby all referrals to Marac are now sent to Children and Families Social Work for assessment and active consideration of the need for an IRD.

### **Improvement Activity**

In the year, we commenced work on the Cumulative Neglect agenda, establishing a multi-agency short-life working group to develop our approach in East Lothian and Midlothian. We have agreed to adopt City of Edinburgh's Neglect Toolkit, which will support a consistent approach by partner agencies working across Edinburgh and the Lothians.

East Lothian and Midlothian sought to take part in a Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework Audit, which will be facilitated by the NSPCC and funded by the Scottish Government. In both areas, there has been an increase in incidences involving Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) and the aim of the audit is to further develop and improve multi-agency responses to children displaying HSB.

### **Initial Case Reviews and Significant Case Reviews in Child Protection**

We had one Significant Case Review that continued during the year; delays in the light of COVID and changes of professionals in the review group membership impacted on bringing this to conclusion. Face-to-face practitioner and manager workshops were held to inform the findings and learning. We will take forward the learning from this over the coming year.

### **Development of Child Protection Procedures**

During the year, an agreement was reached by Chief Officers in East Lothian and Midlothian to collaborate with our partners in City of Edinburgh, Scottish Borders and West Lothian to develop our local procedures in line with the National Guidance for Child Protection that was published in October 2021. An independent writer was commissioned to undertake this work, which commenced in the last quarter of the year, and will continue through the coming year.

### **Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019**

The Act raised the age of criminal responsibility from the age of eight to 12, with children under 12 no longer being held criminally responsible for their actions. To support the implementation of the changes introduced in December 2021, a short-life multi-agency working group was established. The CP Lead Officer produced communication materials, including a seven minute briefing, flowchart to outline the key changes and what they would mean for practice. This was made available to all partner agencies across East Lothian and Midlothian.

### **Scottish Child Interview Model for Joint Investigative Interviewing**

In preparation for going live with the new Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) for Joint Investigative Interviewing in April 2022, East Lothian and Midlothian joined the Scottish Borders to develop our approach. This new approach is designed to minimise re-traumatisation for the child as well as improving the quality of evidence gathered to avoid

children having to give evidence in person as part of court or children's hearing processes. The model recognises that the forensic interviewing of children is a specialist skill. To support implementation, eight staff (four social workers from East Lothian, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders, and four Police Officers from our 'J' Division) completed the specialised training. The CP Lead Officer supported the launch of this approach by developing communication materials, including a seven-minute briefing, to enhance multi-agency understanding of the approach. We also hosted a launch for all services and partner agencies across all three Local Authorities. There is a multi-agency steering group in place, led by the Police to oversee the operational delivery of SCIM.

## **EMPPC IRD Threshold and Outcome Guidance**

Our IRD Threshold and Outcome Guidance was revised within the year to reflect the Promise and New National Child Protection Guidance, and specifically refer to the Safe & Together principles to ensure their consideration within the earliest stages of child protection risk assessment and planning.

## Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

There are two operational elements of the delivery of services for victims of gender-based violence that come under the oversight and governance of EMPPC, Multi-agency Risk Assessments (Marac) and the Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway (DARP). EMPPC has developed and implemented supporting guidance, the former of which was updated during the year.

### **Marac**

A Marac is a multi-agency meeting where information is shared about the victims who are at the highest risk of serious harm or murder due to domestic abuse. The aims of Marac are to work with victims of domestic abuse to help keep them safer and respond to their needs, manage perpetrators' behaviour to reduce risk, and ensure that risk and support needs attached to family members or extended networks are identified.

We operate Maracs every four weeks in each of the two areas, with additional meetings to respond to demand as required. Our model for delivery of Maracs closely follows the design and approach recommended by SafeLives, the national organisation that provides resources, training and quality assurance framework for Maracs.

In the year ending March 2022, we continued to hold our meetings virtually over Microsoft Teams, and held 16 Marac meetings for 123 cases in East Lothian, and 15 in Midlothian for 115 cases. In East Lothian, we saw an increase for the fourth year in a row (albeit an increase by four from the previous year) and in Midlothian, the number of cases discussed was the same as the previous year. In both areas, two thirds of referrals to Marac were made by Domestic Abuse Services. In both areas, there were fewer cases than SafeLives would anticipate, estimating that for the adult female populations, which indicates that there is more work to do to promote Marac as one response for supporting the highest risk victims of domestic abuse.

In both areas, just over 84% of cases involved children (defined as under the age of 18 with an association to the victim/perpetrator). This was an increase of 19.7% in East Lothian, and an increase of 7.8% in Midlothian, compared to the previous year. This rise may reflect a shift in the understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on children as the Safe & Together model is becoming embedded in practice in each area.

An increase in the number of victims referred with a disability in both areas brings us closer to the SafeLives indicator that 18% of cases would be representative of the UK population. 10.5% (13) cases in East Lothian had a known disability in the year. This is more than double the number of cases from 2020/21. 14% (16) cases in Midlothian had a known disability in the year.

There were no recorded male and/or LGBT+ referrals; increasing awareness of Marac, its benefits and referral processes will be an area of development over the coming year.

Following our first Marac self-assessment in the year, our improvement plan was developed and is progressing. In the year, we agreed to develop a separate Marac Steering Group and made arrangements for its operation during the year commencing April 2021.

## **Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway**

The Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway is a partnership arrangement whereby following a Police attendance arising from a domestic abuse incident the victim consents to a referral to a specialist service for advocacy and support.

In the year, in East Lothian, there were 244 referrals to the DARP, and in Midlothian, there were 208. The number of referrals reduced significantly from the previous year, by 99 from 343 in East Lothian and by 107 from 315 in Midlothian. As the service operates based on consent and is offered at the time of the Police involvement, it is not clear why there was such a reduction, albeit we had seen an increase in referrals the previous year.

One of the specialist services that supports the DARP has been the Domestic Abuse Service, whereby specially trained staff employed by Women's Aid East and Midlothian were located within the Public Protection Office. Due to challenges in recruitment to these posts, we commenced discussions about alternative options for this service provision, which have continued into the year beginning April 2022.

## **Delivering Equally Safe Funding**

The VAWG Co-ordinator worked with partners in East Lothian and Midlothian to prepare an application for funding from the national Delivering Equally Safe (DES) Fund, commencing for a three year period from October 2021 to September 2024 (this was subsequently extended to March 2025). We secured funding for three Domestic Abuse Support posts to support the DARP and Marac, safety equipment and leaflets for victims of domestic abuse, and training for staff in the Safe & Together approach.

## **Supporting Practice**

### **16 days of activism 2021**

The 16 days of activism is an annual international campaign that runs from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10 December, International Human Rights Day. It is used as an organising strategy by individuals and organisations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. It provides an opportunity to increase awareness of violence against women and girls, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations.

For the 2021 campaign we co-ordinated with the Scotland-wide campaign which focused on #WhatWillYouDo and #LightUp. The campaign encouraged leaders and staff to make their pledges #WhatWillYouDo. Midlothian Council Cabinet approved a groundbreaking Equally Safe Housing and Homeless Policy in November 2021.

## **Safe & Together**

East Lothian and Midlothian have been committed to embedding the Safe & Together approach since 2018. It is an internationally recognised suite of tools and interventions designed to help child and adult professionals become domestic violence informed. In light of COVID, the Safe & Together Institute developed virtual programmes. We purchased licences with the DES funding as our approach to the training delivery.

In the year, 32 practitioners across East Lothian and Midlothian (32 East Lothian Council, 13 Midlothian Council and 6 Third Sector staff) completed the four-day practitioner-training course. The number completed was well below the annual target of 65, and completion of the four days proved challenging in the light of operational demands arising throughout the year, undoubtedly impacted by staffing pressures during COVID. At the end of the year, 37 staff were registered for the training but had not completed this. Through the two implementation groups in each area, and our L&PD Sub-group, we took time to understand the barriers to completing the training and we piloted a blended approach for staff to physically meet together to undertake the virtual training. Eight staff successfully completed this, feeding back that they would not have completed the training had they not been able to come together to undertake the training. Although a resource intensive approach for a small group, we are continuing this approach in the year commencing April 2022 to support some practitioners to undertake the training.

We have 38 managers who have completed the Supervisor Training, three of whom completed the programme, with a further eight starting the training in the year.

Audits have evidenced that supervisors who have undertaken the training programme are more likely to use the approach and associated tools within supervision. The implementation groups have assessed that there is evidence that training is having a positive impact on practice. The Implementation Groups are now well established and linked with the Improvement Service and national forum for Safe & Together to start exploring the evaluation framework.

## **Learning and Development**

We introduced on-line briefings for staff in the year, our first being on the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme for Scotland (DSDAS), led by our Police partners. This proved to be popular, with 109 people attending our first briefing, and it has proved to be an efficient use of staff time (lasting one hour) and resource as no booking was required.

Our specialist agency partners at Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre and Shakti Women's Aid supported our learning and development on VAWG by delivering four sessions on specific topic areas around gender based violence. These complemented our core training on VAWG and we will continue to raise awareness of some of the issues covered in these events – specifically around Black and Minority Ethnic Women's experiences of Domestic abuse, no recourse to public funds, responding to disclosures of rape and sexual assault and sexual violence and the justice process.

## **Development of Equally Safe in East Lothian and Midlothian**

To complement the work of our VAWG Delivery Sub-group, we commenced discussions with partners about ways to take forward an Equally Safe Strategy for each local authority area, focusing on prevention through culture change and education, and enhanced service response for survivors and their families. In November 2021, Midlothian Cabinet agreed to establish a Midlothian Equally Safe Strategy, the development of which was delayed due to operational and strategic capacity challenges arising from COVID and the response to the Ukrainian crisis. This will be taken forward in the year commencing April 2022 with support from the Improvement Service. East Lothian considered embedding Equally Safe into existing planning structures and will take forward their approach under their revised structural arrangements for the Community Safety and Justice Partnership.



## East Lothian and Midlothian MAPPA Group

One of our four Sub-groups is the East Lothian and Midlothian MAPPA Group (EMMG). Previously operating as the Offender Management Group since 2008, the Group had not met consistently during the previous year due to the impact of COVID. We undertook some developmental work to re-establish this Sub-Group, and changing its name was an important step in re-focusing its scope and purpose. The Group, with a new Chair from August due to the departure of the previous Chair, took time to properly consider its scope and relationship to the wider Edinburgh, Lothians and Scottish Borders Strategic Operating Group and MAPPA Operational Group. There are long established effective links.

The terms of reference for EMMG were revised and approved by EMPPC in March 2022, and the membership was reviewed. On a quarterly basis, the EMMG reviews the national dataset of 51 indicators relating to the different MAPPA levels, and we commenced work to review our local dataset that is considered by the P&QI Sub-group.

Over the year we have noted that in general, the data in relation to MAPPA in both East Lothian and Midlothian is stable, reflecting that quality assurance processes are working efficiently and effectively.

## Training and Learning and Development

During the year, we developed and published our [Learning and Development Strategy for 2021-23](#). Our Learning and Practice Development Sub-group is responsible for implementing and overseeing the strategy.

The overall aim of our strategy is to support our workforce across East Lothian and Midlothian to become increasingly competent and confident over time in their specific areas of responsibility and across all areas of Public Protection. We aim to promote a multi-agency learning culture and best possible practice. The focus of the strategy is on creating opportunities for delivering multi-agency training and learning, through training courses and online briefings. Our training is free to staff and carers from East Lothian and Midlothian.

The strategy covers a two year period from 2021-23, reflecting the changing landscape in how we design and deliver our services and the work of EMPPC, particularly given the challenges that the COVID pandemic posed on a traditional model of face-to-face training.

Our focus in the past year was on delivering a training schedule that provided 'recovery' from the impact of the operational challenges posed by the pandemic. Our key priority was to re-establish our 'core' training courses, which had not been taking place the previous year, and adapt our approach and training materials for on-line delivery. All our training in the year was delivered over Microsoft Teams, the details of which are shown in the table

below. Re-establishing training has taken up a significant amount of Lead Officer resource in the year.

We streamlined our approach to seeking feedback from attendees on training, moving to an electronic survey, which is easy to access on various devices and quick to complete. Our L&PD Sub-group reviewed evaluation reports of all training courses and we have used the feedback to make any necessary changes. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly the multi-agency facilitation and mixture of presentations, case studies, short videos and input from different agencies. Some staff have commented that face-to-face training would be beneficial, and we will seek to introduce more face-to-face training over the coming year, blending this alongside on-line training.

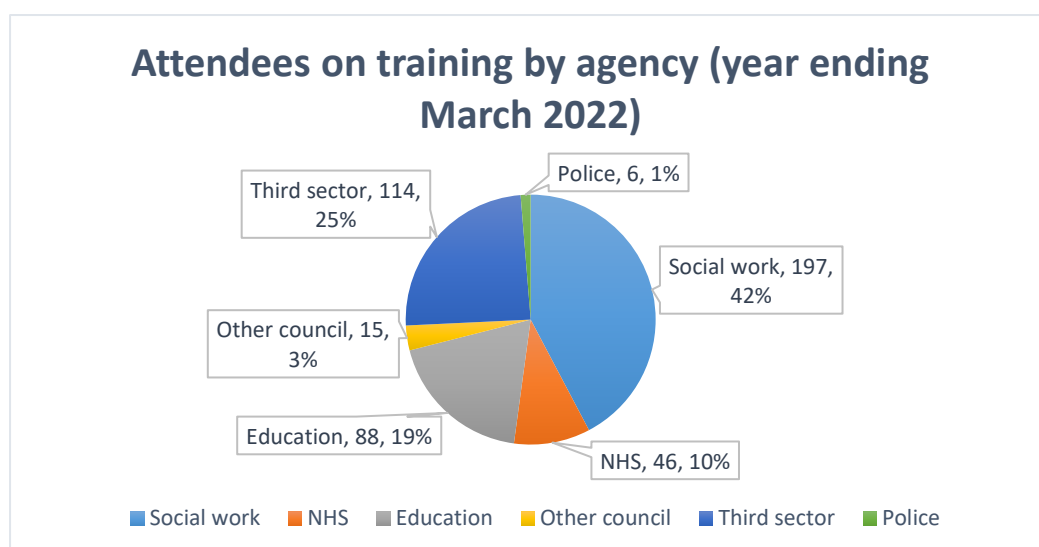
In the year, we streamlined our learning and development performance indicators and made improvements to the quantitative data collation, data quality and data presentation for the new reporting period of 2022/23.

We have good support from, and thank, our multi-agency partners who support and co-deliver our training with our ASP Lead Officer, CP Lead Officer and VAWG Co-ordinator.

### Our Training in the year – key highlights

- We delivered 20 training courses, three more than 2020-21;
- 466 staff, volunteers and carers from East Lothian and Midlothian attended training courses, which was an increase by 83.5% from the previous year; and
- 60.5% (282) of attendees at training provided feedback, with almost all reporting that they had increased their knowledge as a result of attending.

Time period	Number of attendees	Number of courses
Quarter 1, Apr - Jun	58	3
Quarter 2, Jul - Sept	68	3
Quarter 3, Oct to Dec	180	7
Quarter 4, Jan to Mar	160	7



<b>Course</b>	<b>Number delivered</b>	<b>Partners involved in delivery</b>
Child Protection Risk Assessment and Processes (Core training)	5	Education – East Lothian and Midlothian, Social Work – East Lothian and Midlothian, Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration, Public Protection Unit Police Scotland, NHS Lothian, Lead Officer, Public Protection Office
Improving our Practice on Violence Against Women (Core training)	4	Women’s Aid East and Midlothian, Public Protection Office
Adult Support and Protection Roles and Responsibilities (Core training)	2	Public Protection Unit Police Scotland, Social Work – East Lothian and Midlothian, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Lothian
Public Protection is Everyone’s Responsibility (Core training)	2	Public Protection Office
Trauma, Domestic Abuse and Children and Young People	1	Caledonian Service
Domestic Abuse and Migrant Women who have No Recourse to Public Funds	1	Shakti Women’s Aid
Sexual Violence and the Justice Process	1	Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre
Protecting Children and Young People with Disabilities	1	NHS Lothian
Protecting People from Serious Harm from Domestic Abuse – Assessing Risks and Referring to Marac	1	Women’s Aid East and Midlothian, Public Protection Office
Black and Minority Ethnic Women’s Experiences of Gender Based Violence	1	Shakti Women’s Aid
Responding to Disclosures of Rape and Sexual Abuse	1	Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre

## Communications

### EMPPC Newsletter

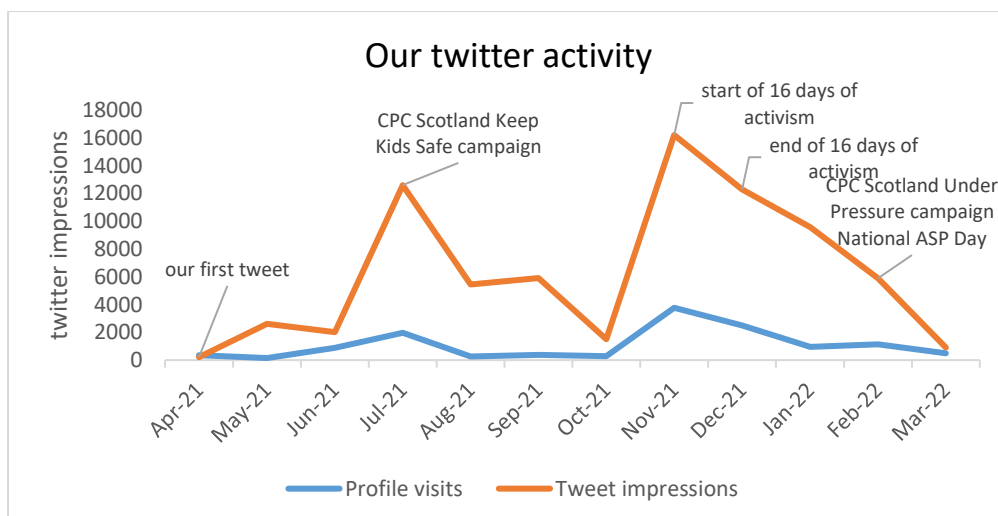
We launched our quarterly EMPPC Newsletter in November 2021, and our second in February 2022. It is distributed widely across our public and third sector partners and is primarily for staff working in East Lothian and Midlothian. Our aims are to provide an opportunity for staff to learn more about:

- The work of the Committee and its sub-groups and to help see its relevance and link to their day to day work. Our 'Meet the Committee' section gives an opportunity to hear direct from a Committee member about their role and contribution to the work of the Committee;
- Key practice topics through our 'Spotlight on' section – in our November edition we did a Spotlight on Prevent and Online Harm for Safer Internet Day in our February edition; and
- What is happening in the worlds of ASP, Child Protection and Violence Against Women and Girls, both locally and nationally – we covered a range of practice issues, with links to research, podcasts and videos.

We have had some positive and constructive feedback about our newsletter which we will use to build our approach over the coming year.

### Twitter

We made a modest foray into the world of twitter when we launched our twitter page in April 2021. The graph below shows some of the analytics from our twitter feed in the year, with our biggest audience reach at the launch of the 16 days of activism in November, and supporting national campaigns such as those from Child Protection Committees Scotland.



*Key: A Twitter impression (or impact) is generated when someone sees our tweet - e.g. if my tweet has been seen 10 times it means it has 10 impressions (or impacts). Profile Visits – The total number of users visiting your Twitter profile. Twitter Analytics will not count your own visits to your own profile. It does not include multiple visits from the same user*

## Some examples from our Twitter page

Apr 2021 • 30 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

**Top Tweet** earned 213 impressions

Wondering what cuckooing is after **#LineofDuty**? It's when drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person to deal drugs. Worried about someone you know? Phone local social work or the police on 101 (or 999 in emergencies).

**#AdultProtection #Cuckooing**

**@ELHSCP @MidGov**

[pic.twitter.com/DmhhuKkmg2](https://pic.twitter.com/DmhhuKkmg2)



Nov 2021 • 30 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

**Top Tweet** earned 5,256 impressions

Today is the global launch of 16 days to end violence against women and girls - it's everyone's business to take action!

**#whatwillyoudo #LightUp**

**@ELCouncil @midgov @ELHSCP**

**@MidlothianHSCP @PoliceScotland**

**@WomensAidEML @EdinRapeCrisis**

**@QMUniversity**

[pic.twitter.com/mziMLTgWoN](https://pic.twitter.com/mziMLTgWoN)



## Our approach to Communications

We had planned on a workshop with Committee and Sub-group members during the year, but had to cancel this due to technical difficulties in delivering this by Microsoft Teams. Nonetheless, we completed the planning for this to take place in early April 2022, the outputs of which we will use to further develop our approach to our communications as a Committee.

## Looking Ahead

There is a lot of work underway in East Lothian and Midlothian, via the Sub-groups of EMPPC and partnership activities. Our high-level aims are outlined overleaf. In addition to continuing to deliver training, learning and development activities and support communications about Public Protection, some of our current priorities include the following:

### **Adult Support and Protection**

- Support self-evaluation activity in East Lothian and Midlothian, and work with our partners in East Lothian to prepare for and engage in an external Adult Support Inspection
- Revision of our ASP Procedures and other associated documents in light of changes to the Code of Practice
- Implement an Escalating Concerns Protocol for use where other existing frameworks and legislation are not appropriate or feasible, but where concerns still exist about an adult at risk of harm

### **Child Protection**

- Work with NSPCC to undertake a Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework (HSB) Audit to identify and develop an action plan to improve our responses to children displaying HSB
- Continue to work with partners in City of Edinburgh, Scottish Borders and West Lothian to develop revised Child Protection Procedures and will develop plans for implementation
- Implement the Scottish Child Interviewing Model

### **Violence Against Women and Girls**

- We will work with East Lothian and Midlothian to progress local strategies for Equally Safe
- We will develop supporting guidance to support staff and leaders in embedding the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Position Statement into practice
- Continue to support the embedding of the Safe & Together approach

## Our Strategic Priorities

What will we do (our high level aims)	What we are working to achieve	What difference will it make (outcome and impact)
<b>Continue to strengthen our leadership arrangements in Public Protection</b>	<p>To have effective partnership working arrangements and shared responsibility for Public Protection</p> <p>To have and communicate a shared vision for the delivery of Public Protection services across East Lothian and Midlothian</p> <p>To work with the planning partnership arrangements to identify issues and influence responses within local plans</p>	<p>We can demonstrate that children, young people and adults are safer and better protected from risk of harm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children, young people and adults receive the right support at the right time to prevent harm and reduce the impact of harm</li> <li>• Child and ASP concerns are recognised and responded to in a trauma informed way (with compassion, care and protection)</li> <li>• We are meeting and improving our agreed performance standards in key processes and practice</li> <li>• Staff are competent and confident in recognising risk and harm and responding appropriately</li> </ul>
<b>Provide and support the implementation of multi-agency procedures and guidance for staff working in Public Protection</b>	<p>To lead and guide staff in their practice</p> <p>To promote a collaborative and integrated approach to reducing harm</p>	
<b>Continue to develop our performance framework and approach to quality improvement</b>	<p>To ensure that we are collating and analysing the right type of information to support performance monitoring and continuous improvement</p>	

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<p><b>Promote and support a learning culture by providing staff with multi-agency learning and development opportunities in Public Protection</b></p>	<p>To ensure that we are influencing services to respond to emerging risks and trends</p>	
	<p>To support the transfer of learning into practice</p>	
	<p>To promote and embed a culture of learning</p>	
	<p>To support the workforce in East Lothian and Midlothian to become increasingly competent in their specific areas of responsibility and across all areas of Public Protection, through the provision of shared learning opportunities</p>	
	<p>To support staff to build effective working relationships and shared understanding of roles and responsibilities</p>	