

REPORT TO: Policy and Performance Review Committee

MEETING DATE: 16 June 2015

BY: Acting Chief Social Work Officer

SUBJECT: Adult Protection and Child Protection Annual Monitoring
Reporting to Elected Members
April 2014 to March 2015

1 PURPOSE

This report gives an overview of the statistical performance information from the Public Protection Committee for Child and Adult Protection for the year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the contents of the attached East and Midlothian Public Protection Annual Report 2014/2015

3 INTRODUCTION

3.1 This report is the first full annual report of the East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee and includes statistics for the reporting year 2014/15. The report summarises and comments on the main themes arising in each of the areas of Public Protection over this time period. The data is also set within a historical context showing annual trends since 2010/11.

Data is presented using previously existing formats and it should be noted that from 01 April 2015 reports will be based on the newly developed Public Protection Performance Framework which aims to have a more consistent approach.

3.2 Child Protection

East Lothian Child Protection data is presented on page 5 of this report, with commentary on pages 6 -8.

- 3.3 Adult Protection
East Lothian Adult Protection data is available on pages 9 -12 of this report with commentary on pages 14-15
- 3.4 Violence Against Women and Girls
East Lothian data is presented on pages 16 &18 of this report.
- 3.5 Offender Management Group
Information from the offender management group is presented on page 19 of this report.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications arising from this report.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required on the performance reporting aspect of this report.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial N/A
- 6.2 Personnel N/A
- 6.3 Other N/A

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee – Annual Report 2014-15

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DATE	16 June 2015



East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee

Annual Report 2014/2015

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1) Introduction

This report marks the end of the first year of the East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee.

In East Lothian and Midlothian, in recognition that while structures in Public Protection have evolved separately, the reality for most service users is that their needs often span more than one area. East and Midlothian Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) agreed to streamline its Committee structures and establish a single Public Protection Committee to address the significant overlaps. To our knowledge this is the first such committee in Scotland.

East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee (EMPPC) was therefore established in July 2014 incorporating the duties and functions of the Adult Protection Committee, Child Protection Committee, Offender Management Committee and Violence Against Women Partnership and to ensure robust links with Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP).

EMPPC has met six times in its first year, and has implemented improvement plans in each of the areas. These can be accessed through the following links:

- East Lothian Inter-agency Child Protection Improvement Plan 2015-18:
http://emppc.org.uk/file/East_Lothian_Inter-agency_Child_Protection_Improvement_Plan_2015-18_-_30-04-15_Ver_2.3.pdf;
- Midlothian Inter-agency Child Protection Improvement Plan 2015-18:
http://emppc.org.uk/file/Midlothian_Inter-agency_Child_Protection_Improvement_Plan_2015-18_-_28-04-15_Ver_1.8.pdf;
- East Lothian and Midlothian Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan 2015-18:
http://emppc.org.uk/file/Adult_Support_Protection_Improvement_Plan_2015-18-05-2015_ver_2.4.pdf;
- East Lothian and Midlothian Violence Against Women and Girls Improvement Plan 2015-18:
http://emppc.org.uk/file/VAWG_Improvement_Plan_Version_-_1-04-15_v5.pdf.

There are two sub-groups, one which focuses on Performance and Quality across all areas and is chaired by Sharon Saunders (Head of Children's Wellbeing, East Lothian Council). This sub group has led the development of a Performance Framework which was implemented from 1st April 2015, providing a framework for self evaluation, audit and scrutiny. This will include co-ordinating and managing the governance of all levels of case reviews and ensuring that learning is incorporated into practice across all Public Protection areas. The Learning and Practice Development sub-group, chaired by Alison White (Head of Adults and Social Care in Midlothian) continues to meet quarterly to oversee the development and delivery of the East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee Learning and Development Strategy.

We have also established a Public Protection Team which works in a more integrated way to strengthen public protection practice, sharing skills and resources and giving innovative opportunities for a more joined-up response, which will improve outcomes for our most vulnerable service users. Members of the Public Protection Team take lead responsibility for specific crosscutting work streams, co-opting relevant people and establishing short life groups to progress the work of the Public Protection Committee as required.

The Public Protection Team aims to support operational staff across partner agencies, by providing a level of expert advice and promoting consistency of practice. The team includes Adult Support and

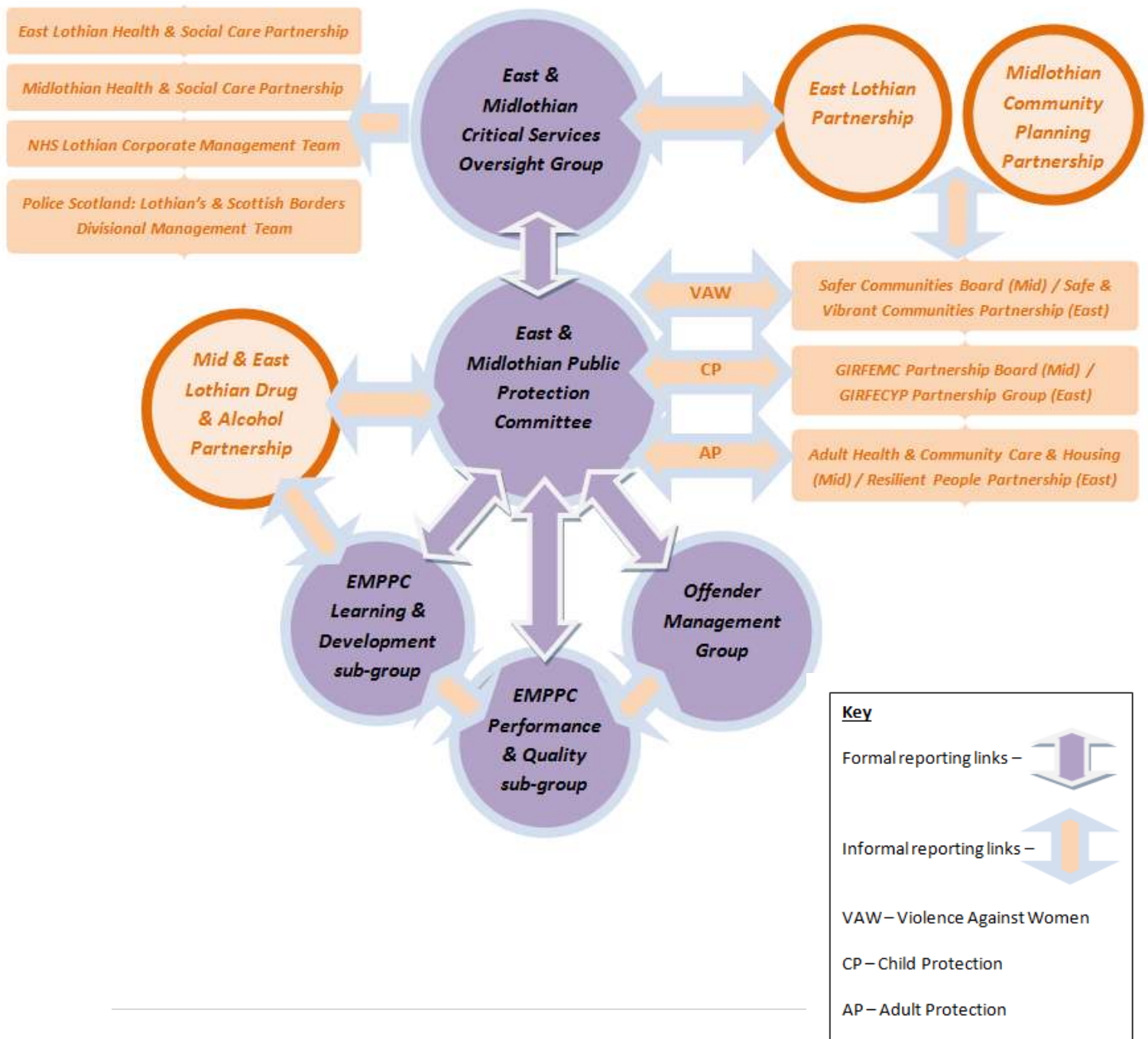
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Protection, Child Protection and Violence Against Women and Girls staff co-located with police Public Protection Unit colleagues in the Public Protection Office, at the Brunton Hall, Musselburgh, working across East Lothian and Midlothian.

We are excited about this final phase in the creation of an operational “hub” with a staff presence from social work police and health, which will take forward our vision of an integrated approach to all aspects of Public Protection “across the lifespan” and will promote the understanding of the impact of trauma at all ages and stages of life.

This approach is strongly endorsed by East and Midlothian Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) comprising chief officers of all our partner agencies, who have led its evolution and will continue to provide governance and scrutiny of this critical area of work across both local authority areas.

East & Midlothian Public Protection Governance



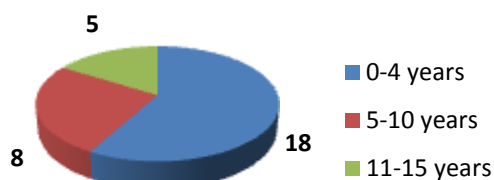
2) Child Protection

Profile – East Lothian

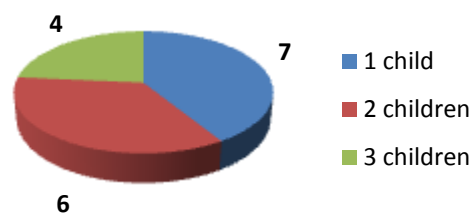
Measure	Short term trend	Long term trend	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Annual (average)
No of children on CPR in East Lothian	↓	↓	53	66	53	59	31	52

	2013/14 (as at 31/3/14)	Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun 14)	Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep 14)	Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec 14)	Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar 15)	
No of children on CPR	59	65	63	39	31	
No of families on the CPR	35	35	33	22	17	
Rate per 1,000 on CPR (0-15 pop)	3.1	3.5	3.4	2.1	1.7	
No of IRD's within quarter	113	86	67	57	66	
No of children with repeat IRD's (within 15 months)	34 (38%)	31 (36%)	12 (18%)	9 (16%)	18 (27%)	
% Repeat registrations on CPR in quarter (within 12 months)	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	
% of ICPC registered within quarter	77%	90%	100%	62%	67%	
Length of time on the CPR	0-3 months	27	27	18	13	6
	4-6 months	13	21	25	12	12
	7-12 months	14	12	14	9	9
	12+ months	5	5	6	5	4

Age



Family Groups

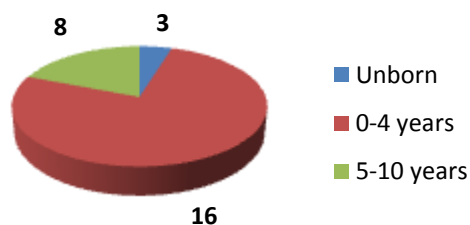


Profile – Midlothian

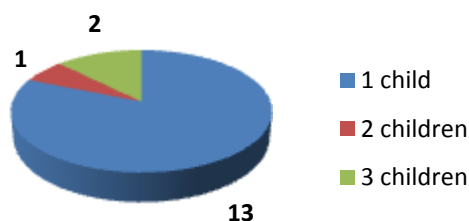
Measure	Short term trend	Long term trend	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Annual (average)
No of children on CPR in Midlothian	↓	↓	112	95	49	79	21	71

	2013/14 (as at 31/3/14)	Quarter 1 (Apr-Jun 14)	Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep 14)	Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec 14)	Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar 15)
No of children on CPR	79	76	38	33	21
No of families on the CPR	45	44	24	19	16
Rate per 1,000 on CPR (0-15 pop)	5.0	4.8	2.4	2.1	1.3
No of IRD's within quarter	138	110	97	117	94
No of children with repeat IRD's (within 15 months)	43 (32%)	32 (30%)	29 (30%)	27 (23%)	19 (21%)
% Repeat registrations on CPR in quarter (within 12 months)	14%	12%	9%	6%	5%
% of ICPC registered within quarter	62%	88%	41%	73%	72%
Length of time on the CPR	0-3 months	42	39	17	17
	4-6 months	17	25	10	3
	7-12 months	16	5	8	10
	12+ months	4	7	3	3

Age



Family Groups



Over the past year, Midlothian has seen a significant decrease in the number of children on its child protection register. This decrease comes as a result of focused work in relation to thresholds for Inter Agency Referral Discussions (IRD) and case conference intervention, a focus on early and effective intervention and a strengthening of stage 2 and 3 interventions. IRD's have remained fairly consistent over the past year with Midlothian figures sitting higher than its partner local authority areas, however, ongoing evaluation as part of the IRD overview group has evidenced appropriate decision making and intervention at this level. Midlothian continues to have a higher number of repeat registrations on its child protection register within a twelve month period. An evaluation of these cases has been undertaken and the findings and recommendations considered by the operational management team.

In East Lothian, the number of children on its child protection register has remained fairly consistent. Over quarter 3 there was a decrease noted and this decrease has remained consistent over the quarter 4 reporting period. East Lothian's IRD's have steadily decreased over the past year. East Lothian has a lower number of repeat child protection registrations over a twelve month period. An

evaluation of these cases has also been undertaken in this area and the findings and recommendations considered by the senior management team.

In April 2013, East Lothian introduced the Signs of Safety model approach to its child protection intervention and assessment process. The Signs of Safety approach is a solution focused, safety oriented model of intervention. It aims to have a greater focus on planning, enable families to present their views, ensure that all views are grounded in evidence, place strong emphasis on relationships, reduce power inequalities and build on existing strengths. The Signs of Safety approach was initially adopted in relation to initial child protection case conferences and following a positive evaluation of this approach was subsequently adopted in relation to all case conferences and core group meetings.

Both Midlothian and East Lothian underwent Children's Services Inspections by the care inspectorate towards the end of 2013. The findings of these inspections were published in early 2014. These have in turn informed the Midlothian and the East Lothian child protection improvement plans. The improvement plans have strong links to the East Lothian Plan (Single Outcome Agreement) 2013-23, East Lothian Integrated Children's Services Plan 2013-17 and reflects the priorities in the Single Midlothian Plan, Midlothian's Integrated Children's Services Plan and the East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee Business Plan.

The improvement plans are aimed at frontline service provision with a clear focus on providing better outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and their families across East Lothian and Midlothian.

The child protection improvement plans focus on key areas for improvement as identified from the Children's Services Inspections. The key identified areas focus on providing help and support at an early stage through improving the quality of inter agency recording and information sharing within the child protection process, by assessing and responding to risk and needs through improving practice relating to risk assessment and the effective management of children and young people who are placing themselves or others at risk and through planning for individual children and young people by ensuring that all child protection plans are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time managed) and result in improved outcomes for children, young people and their families. Work in relation to these plans is ongoing in both areas.

The East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee's Performance and Quality Improvement sub-group has a key role in reviewing these plans and ensuring that their actions are implemented. In turn the improvement plans will inform the priorities for joint self-evaluation. The evaluation of all identified areas within the improvement plans is also an ongoing process of work. The evaluation of Child Protection work is detailed within the Public Protection Performance Framework evaluation calendar and evaluation summary. The main areas of evaluation to date have been in relation to IRD and case conference intervention, integrated chronologies, SMART planning and cases re-registered on the child protection register within a twelve month period. This has led to focused intervention in each area including, a reviewed IRD episode and a stage 3 consultation episode determining thresholds for intervention in each area, the introduction of integrated chronologies for all children on the child protection register, focused work in relation to SMART planning in Child protection and recommendations for improved practice in relation to stage 3 intervention.

As well as focused intervention a number of guidance and protocol documents have also been developed. These include a Child Protection Dispute Resolution Protocol, Integrated chronology Guidance, Minimum Requirements for an Agency Child Protection Policy, Safer Internet, Responsible Use Guidance, Mandatory Training Guidance, East Lothian and Midlothian Procedure for Responding

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to the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adults and SMART outcomes in Child Protection Guidance. Work is currently ongoing in relation to developing a vulnerable young person's protocol. In January 2014 an East Lothian and Midlothian E Safety working group was established and an associated action plan identified. This in turn has led to the establishment of an East Lothian and Midlothian E Safety forum. This forum aims to meet on a quarterly basis to ensure that there is agreed and consistent delivery of practice and training in this area.

East Lothian and Midlothian are also in the process of establishing a local Child Protection Disability Forum which will aim to ensure that the work of the National Child Protection Disability Network is shared and rolled out across both areas.

Child Protection training has been delivered on an ongoing basis over the past year with a number of child protection courses being reviewed and in turn delivered as joint training across both areas. We are continuing to deliver regular Child Protection Training and Awareness Raising and Response (Level 1) and Inter Agency Child Protection Risk Assessment and Processes Training (Level 2). In addition to this we have delivered targeted Vulnerability of Babies, Working with Non Engaging Families, Getting it Right for Children and Families affected by Parental problem alcohol and drug misuse and Protecting Children and Young People with Disabilities training. Joint investigative interview training has also continued to be offered to staff across both areas.

3) Adult Support and Protection

















Introduction

The annual report reflects the implementation of the Scottish Governments National Data Set introduced on 1st April 2014 as one of the Five National Priorities. The National Data Set provides a template and a collection table and guidance was created to support Local Authorities in this regard. A consultation process confirmed that Local Authorities were able to report on the required data.

In previous years all police referrals received to Adult Services across East Lothian and Midlothian were included in reported data, which grossly exaggerated the number of Adult Support and Protection Concern referrals received. Following the implementation of the National Data Set we are required to report on all referrals known or believed to be “Adults at Risk of Harm” including where indicated those received from the police. The implementation of the National Data Set has seen a dramatic decrease in the overall number of Adult Protection Concern referrals received to both East Lothian and Midlothian councils in 2014/2015.

We are now no longer required to report on the activity of “Duty to Inquires” but are required to report on the number of Investigations undertaken where an Adult is at Risk of Harm. As we did not previously collect this information there is no comparison to previous years. The number of Investigations undertaken in 2014/15 will therefore provide the base line moving forward for future years. The implementation of the National Data Set on 1st April 2014 suggests that it has enabled more consistency in trends and patterns across East Lothian and Midlothian.

Trends and Patterns – East Lothian:

Measure	Short term trend	Long term trend	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Q1 2014 / 15	Q2 2014 / 15	Q3 2014 / 15	Q4 2014 / 15	Annual
Referrals*			941	1065	1144	65	103	151	108	427
Investigations						40	26	38	21	125
Duty to Inquire	N/A	N/A	307	363	271	For comparison only				
IRD			145	132	102	30	21	31	11	93
Case Conferences**			95	141	64	15	14	18	12	59
Professionals meetings			-	40	21	5	1	4	3	13
No of open cases			56	48	47	35	39	32	24	33 (average)
Protection Orders			5	11	4	3	0	0	0	3
No of Large Scale Investigations			7	6	2	1	1	1	0	3

* Please refer to introduction above table for further information on recent data set changes.

** 2011/12 figures include Professionals Meetings. 2014/15 figure includes reviews.

National Data Set

East Lothian Council received 427 Adult Support and Protection Concern referrals in 2014/15, a reduction of 63% (1144) from the previous year. Police Scotland remains the highest referrer to East Lothian Council having submitted 198 referrals in 2014/15. This is followed by other organisations which are thought to be made up of the Voluntary and Private Sector who submitted 90 referrals across the year.

Of the 427 referrals received, 125 (29%) had progressed to Investigation where it was indicated that a visit to the adult had taken place, there were also 93 (22%) Inter-agency Referral Discussions. Applications for 3 Temporary Banning Orders with Powers of Arrest were extended to Full Banning Orders with Powers of Arrest in respect of a female with Diagnosed Mental Illness were granted and fully implemented in 2014/15, all three orders were granted in respect of the one adult.

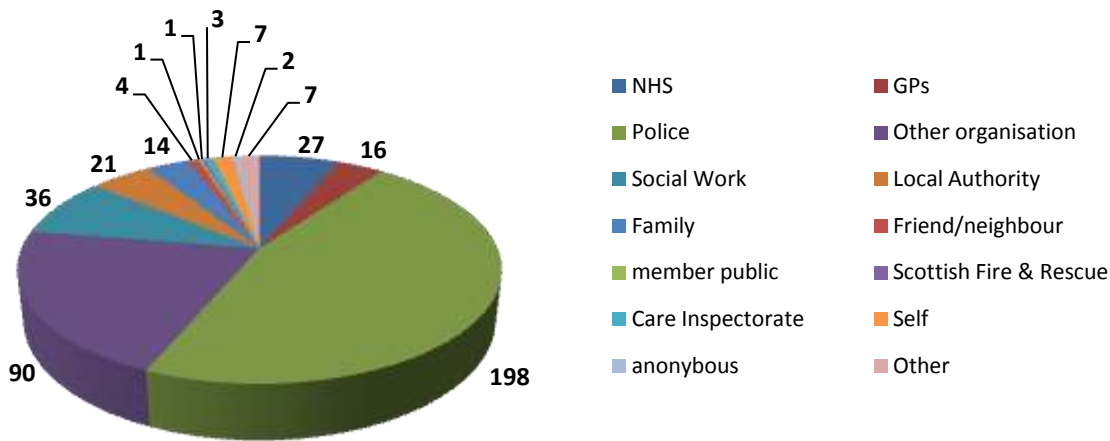
There were 3 Large Scale Investigations undertaken in East Lothian, one was a Care Home, one a Care at Home Service and the other a Care Home that provides a combination of medical / nursing and care home service. The average number of cases being managed under Adult Support and Protection Procedures in 2014/15 was 33.

Of the 125 investigations undertaken in East Lothian in 2014 the majority (88) were in relation to females across the lifespan; within that the largest group (31) were women aged 40 – 46 years; the second largest group (25) were females aged 85+. In comparison there were 37 investigations for males of which the largest age group was 40-46yrs (15).

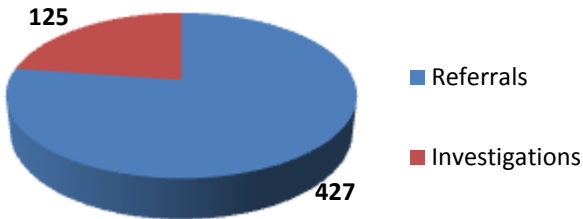
The biggest client group was mental health (31) followed by “other” (25), it is thought that the main category of this group is an “older” person who does not have a diagnosis of dementia and is not considered to be infirm due to age. The main type of principal harm reported was financial harm (33) and psychological harm (20).

Profile – East Lothian:

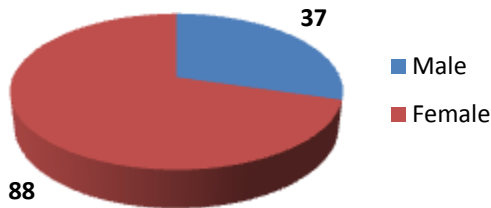
Referral Source



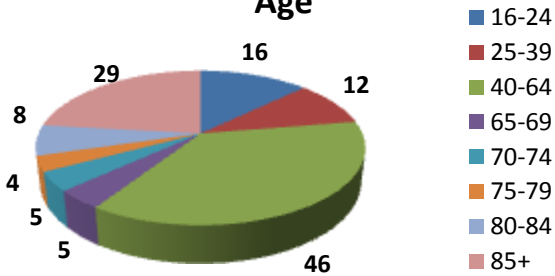
Referrals/Investigations



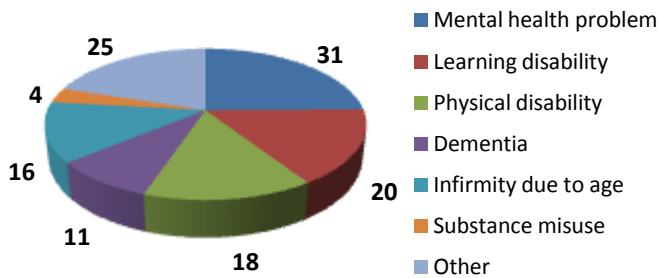
Gender



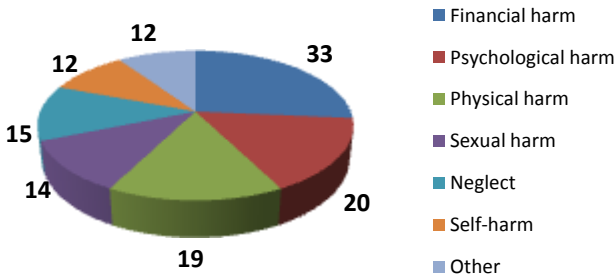
Age



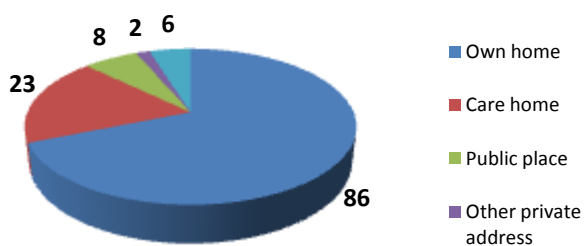
Client group



Type of harm



Place of harm



Trends and Patterns – Midlothian:

Measure	Short term trend	Long term trend	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Q1 2014 / 15	Q2 2014 / 15	Q3 2014 / 15	Q4 2014 / 15	Annual
Referrals*	↓	↓	802	1657	1534	57	105	148	142	452
Investigations	↓	→				32	23	23	16	94
Duty to Inquire	N/A	N/A	126	137	118	For comparison only				
IRD	↑	↓	76	51	25	7	6	17	16	46
Case Conferences**	↑	↑	64	52	21	15	9	9	12	45
Professionals meetings	↑	→	-	35	19	6	5	9	18	38
No of open cases	↑	↑	34	40	37	39	41	55	77	53 (average)
Protection Orders	↑	→	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
No of Large Scale Investigations	↓	↓	5	0	3	0	0	2	0	2

* Please refer to introduction above table for further information on recent data set changes.

** 2011/12 figures include Professionals Meetings. 2014/15 figure includes reviews.

National Data Set

Midlothian Adults and Community Care received 452 referrals for adults known or believed to be Adults at Risk of Harm in 2014/15 a reduction of 71% (1534) from the previous year. Police Scotland remain the highest referrer to Midlothian Council having submitted 223 referrals, this is followed by 75 referrals from social work and 70 referrals received from other organisations which is thought to be made up of private and voluntary sector agencies.

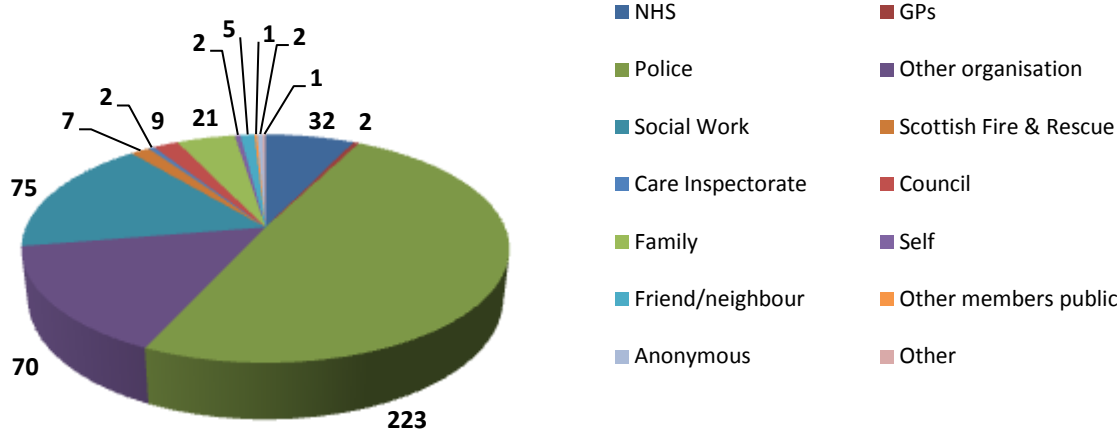
Of the 452 referrals received 94 (21%) progressed to Investigation where the adult was considered to be at Risk of Harm and it was indicated that a visit to the adult had taken place. From the total number of investigations there were 46 (49%) Inter Agency Referral Discussions undertaken. An application for a Temporary Banning Order with Powers of Arrest was applied for in quarter 4 and this has now extended to a Full Banning Order with Power of Arrest in respect of a female considered to be experiencing mental infirmity. There were 2 Large Scale Investigations undertaken in Midlothian, both care homes for older people. The average numbers of cases managed under Adult Support and Protection Procedures in 2014/15 was 53.

Of the total number of investigations undertaken in Midlothian in 2014/15 (94) the majority (67) were for females across the lifespan, within that the largest group (22) were women aged 40 – 46 years the second largest group (13) were females aged 70-74). In comparison there were 27 investigations for males the largest age group (7) within which was 40-46 years.

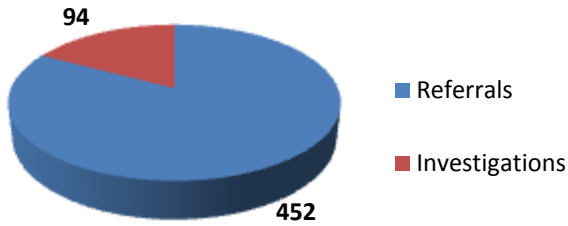
The biggest client group was mental health (24) followed by “Infirmity due to age” (21). The main type of principal harm investigated was financial harm (29) and physical harm (18). From the 94 investigations there were 93 Inter-agency Referral Discussions undertaken.

Profile – Midlothian:

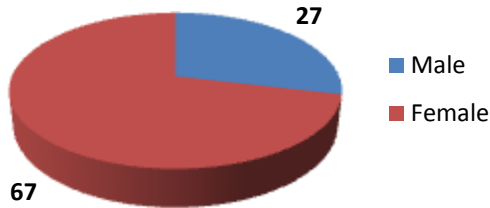
Referral Source



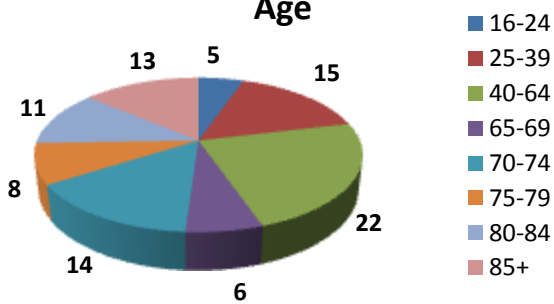
Referrals / Investigations



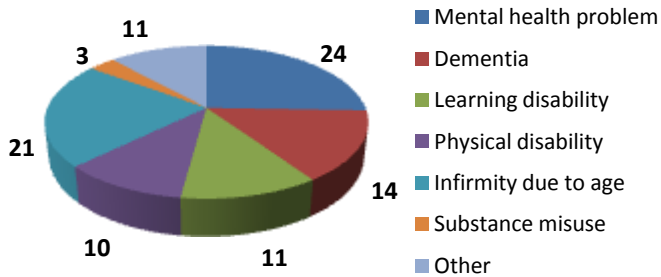
Gender



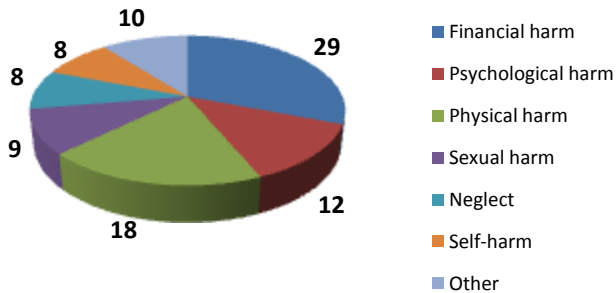
Age



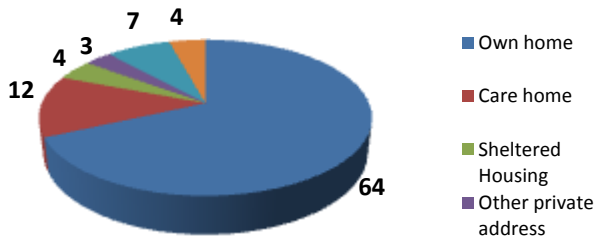
Client group



Type of harm



Place of harm



Financial Harm

Financial Harm is the most commonly reported type of harm across East Lothian and Midlothian in relation to Adult Support and Protection. Paul Comley (National Co-ordinator for Adult Support and Protection across Scotland) co-ordinates a National Group tackling Financial Harm, consisting of public and private sector agencies.

In response to this, East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee have reviewed our Financial Harm training which covers all aspects of Financial Harm including scam mail. A working group has been established across East Lothian and Midlothian Council which include a partnership response with colleagues from Trading Standards, Police Scotland, Operational Staff East and Midlothian, Housing and Welfare Rights.

A multi-agency team which will include the private sector is being established to provide a consistent response to Financial Harm across neighbouring authorities, City of Edinburgh and West Lothian as the Banks and Building Societies operate on a regional basis. This group will also be guided and influenced by the National Group and the Lead Officer will act as the link to East Lothian and Midlothian Councils.

Case File Audits

In quarter 1 the Lead Officer's observational report reflected a significant downward trend in Inter-agency Referral Discussions and Adult Support and Protection Case Conferences across East Lothian and Midlothian Council in 2013/14 and as a result a number of single agency case file audits were undertaken within both councils.

At the end of this audit we concluded that a further audit of the IRD process was necessary as well as ongoing development sessions with council officers

Inter- Agency Referral Discussion

A further case file audit was therefore undertaken with a focus on the Inter- Agency Referral discussion. Again a sample number of cases were identified, and it was found that the majority of IRDs were conducted between police and social work. Issues were identified around recorded agreement as to whether the adults met the criteria or not and whether a decision had been reached to progress to Adult Support and Protection Case Conference.

Focus Groups

An outcome of this audit was to undertake focus groups in each authority with Senior Practitioners and Team leaders who are responsible for conducting Inter-agency referral discussions. The purpose of this was to obtain raw data regarding the process and understanding of Inter-agency Referral Discussions. A technique named "Brain Writing" was used where participants are not provided with information on the topic but given a series of questions that are required to be answered from a knowledge base, with a specific focus on the subject.

This exercise identified a professional confidence amongst participants of their understanding of the purpose of an IRD. However this became less clear when identifying what agencies should be involved, what should the IRD identify and where in the Adult Support and Protection process should an IRD occur as there were varying responses. In the main, both groups recognised that the IRD should be tri-partite with Police, Health and Social Work, however there was recognition that health are not always involved in this process.

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It is evident from the audits that people understand the main responsibility within the IRD process to be between Police and Social Work. Further information from health at the IRD stage may be relevant to the adult's vulnerability and assessment of risk as part of the tri-partite discussion and this would suggest that there is a need for clarity around the role that health play as part of the IRD process. Most participants identified Police and Social Work as having the lead role in investigations, although in some cases it may be relevant for health to have a lead role for example where someone has a severe and enduring mental illness and have a care and treatment plan and/or a support plan.

Issues around the availability of Police when undertaking an IRD were noted, as this has resulted in delays at times. There will be an opportunity to address this issue now that Police colleagues are co-located in the Public Protection Office. Additionally barriers to sharing information were identified where there has been some experience of GPs who were unwilling to share information in regard to the Adult at Risk.

What was clear from the audit is that practitioners involved with this exercise were of the view that they would benefit from clarification and review of the IRD process as well as a forum in which they could share practice experiences and learn and develop from each other buddying / support/ mentoring of colleagues who are new in post and/or who do not carry out IRDs' as part of their day to day work. The following recommendations were therefore made:

- Consideration to be given to a mentoring systems to less experienced staff when undertaking IRD's;
- Development sessions for Senior Practitioners of the IRD Process with partner agencies;
- Clarity of health role within the IRD process;
- Co-location of operational staff would enable easier access to the availability of information sharing between police, health and social work with minimal delays;
- Share Information with partner agencies – Health & Police;
- Implement open discussion sessions for Senior Practitioners to enable sharing of experiences and practice issues.

East Lothian and Midlothian Adult Support and Protection Policy and Procedures

Briefing meetings have taken place for all staff across East Lothian and Midlothian to assist with the joint implementation of the above procedures on the 1st April 2015. These meetings have focused on the importance of recording, evidence based decision making, timescales, accountability and responsibility of the role of the Council officers. Performance Indicators have been identified through the Performance Framework and Improvement plans and will be reported to the Performance and Quality Improvement sub-group. It is anticipated the implementation has laid the foundation for staff on which further development sessions can be built.

Framework i / Recording

In line with the implementation of the procedures, changes and refinements have been made to Framework i (the social work recording system common to both councils) which will facilitate both recording and the collection of data in line with the National Dataset.

4) Violence Against Women and Girls

This year has seen significant changes within the Violence Against Women sector for East Lothian and Midlothian. With the introduction of Equally Safe, Scotland's strategy to eradicate violence against women and girls, we have introduced a strategic three year improvement plan which is monitored by the Violence Against Women Delivery group. We have also started reviewing how we deliver training to maximise opportunities to offer sessions that cover different areas of public protection.

The Domestic Abuse Service for East and Midlothian (DAS) has had an exciting year of development. Following a successful application to the Big Lottery Fund we have recruited a second full time Domestic Abuse Advisor who began in September 2014. The position of the Domestic Abuse Service Manager was also filled in October 2014 which saw the beginning of a service redesign to incorporate the functions of the SMILE Project.

Support to Maintain Independent Living Effectively (SMILE) is our Big Lottery funded project that has allowed us to expand and improve local services for victims of domestic abuse. With this grant, in the last year we have:

- Recruited a full time Domestic Abuse Advisor to be based within DAS;
- Recruited a Substance Misuse worker, based at Women's Aid East and Midlothian (WAEML), who works with women experiencing substance and domestic;
- Recruited a Routes to Independence worker, based at WAEML who supports women to increase their opportunities to manage independently;
- Created a new referral pathway for Police Scotland to access support for victims of domestic abuse – we now have one referral form and one email address where all referrals can be sent for screening to ensure they reach the most suitable service;
- Designed and introduced a weekend response system so that victims who consent can be contacted within 24 hours of a domestic incident. This service is delivered by DAS and WAEML;
- Lowered the threshold for referrals to DAS so that we now support victims who score 10 and above on the Risk Indicator Checklist.

The Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for East Lothian and Midlothian is a four weekly meeting to share information and creatively increase safety for very high risk victims of domestic abuse. Those discussed at MARAC have scored 14 or above on the Risk Indicator checklist, have been referred on professional judgement or there has been an escalation in reported incidents. They are at high risk of domestic homicide or significant harm and we rely upon partner agencies to offer creative actions to reduce the risk or increase safety. MARAC referrals have been increasing throughout the year and Midlothian meetings have been over capacity since January 2015. This has resulted in us extending the meeting times and we are closely monitoring the workloads within DAS to ensure we are working effectively with a reasonable number of people.

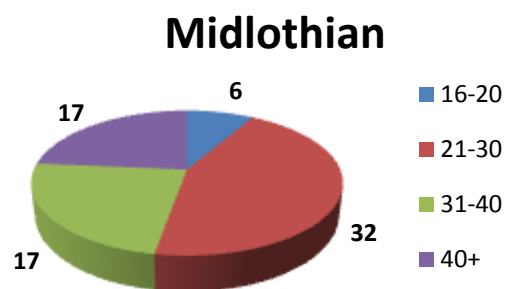
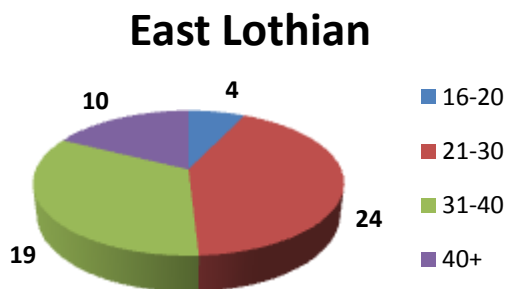
We have continued to form positive effective relationships with WAEML and the Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Service (EDDACS) who are both key partners in the new pathway. We are delighted that EDDACS are soon to allocate East Lothian and Midlothian a dedicated worker who will work closely with DAS to further reduce duplication for those wishing to access support.

DAS are also benefiting from working directly next door to the Domestic Abuse Risk Assessors within Police Scotland. Police Officers from the Public Protection Unit moved into the co-located office in April 2015 and we feel positive about the increased opportunity to work more closely with key colleagues to increase communication and to streamline processes.

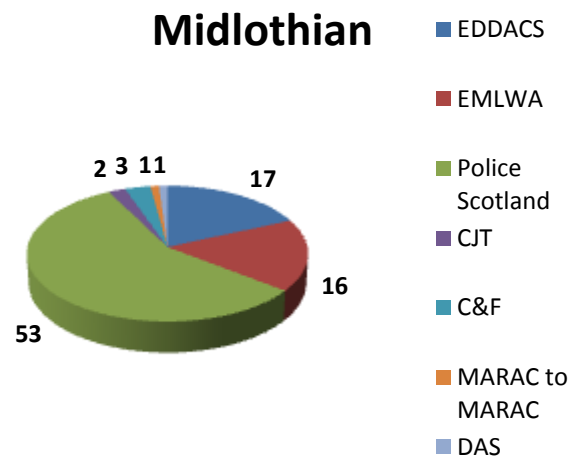
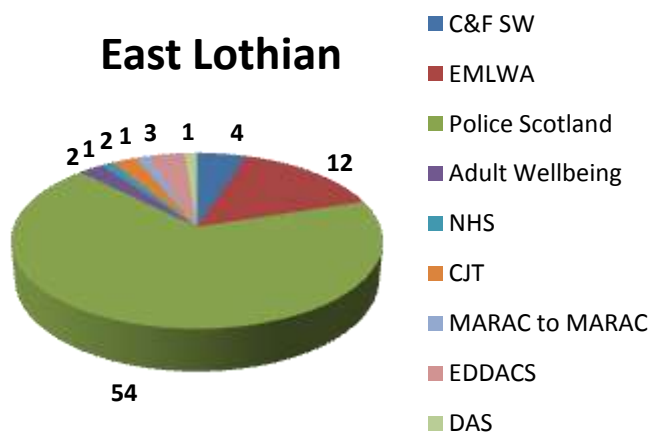
Annual MARAC Statistics

MARAC Statistics						
Measure	2013/14 (as at 31/03/14)	Q1 2014 / 15	Q2 2014 / 15	Q3 2014 / 15	Q4 2014 / 15	Annual
Women discussed at MARAC	108	40	32	57	44	173
% women engaged with service	79%	79%	69%	76%	64%	72%
Alarms installed	23	6	5	1	4	16
Actions offered by agencies	343	149	116	138	136	539
Number of children (16 and under) within referred families	-	46	56	82	50	234
Total no. of completed RICs	115	20	24	38	25	82
Average RIC Score at intake*	11.9	14.1	16.7	14.6	13.28	14.11
Average RIC Score at exit	5.9					
Percentage of women reporting improvement in safety	82%					
Percentage of women reporting improvement in overall situation	91%					

Referrals to MARAC by age of victim:

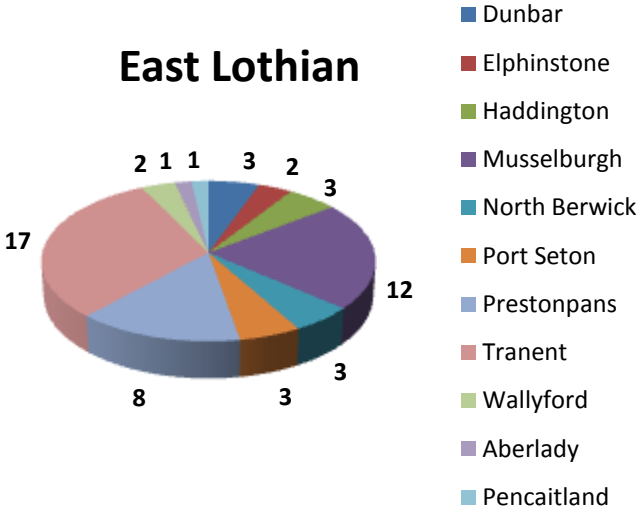


Referrals to MARAC by agency:

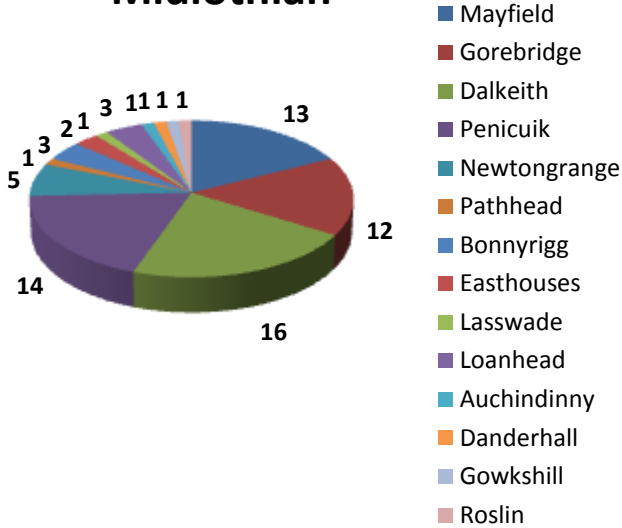


Referrals to MARAC by area:

East Lothian



Midlothian



5) Offender Management Group

Spring Service

As agreed the East and Midlothian Spring service ran until the end of March 2015. At this time East Lothian withdrew from the service in order to assess the progress of the pilot and plan for introducing a service based in East Lothian.

The Spring service continues to operate in Midlothian but accommodation is an issue at present. The sustainability of the Spring service in both areas is constrained by a lack of funding and the service needs to be staffed and funded across health and social care and not just from Criminal Justice funding. However in Midlothian funding has been agreed for a 12 month, part-time Spring Team Leader post.

The Scottish Government has announced that they plan to use the funding previously earmarked for the new Inverclyde prison for smaller, more local custodial units for women rather than community alternatives. A consultation is underway on this proposal.

New Structure for Community Justice in Scotland

The Scottish Government published a response to the second consultation exercise on the new structure for Community Justice just before Christmas. Timescales are now clarified and there is an expectation that shadow partnerships will be in place by April 2016 with the Community Justice Authorities (CJAs) being abolished and the new structure officially established in April 2017. The Scottish Government has announced that each local authority will receive £50,000 to support the transition to the new structure. The Scottish Government has advised that this funding will be available each year for the next three years, subject to budget review.

Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Extension

The MAPPA process was due to be extended to violent offenders. However the MAPPA Extension has now been deferred due to issues relating to ViSOR inputting and the fact that training relating to assessing violent offenders who pose a significant risk of harm is about to be rolled out by the Risk Management Authority. The Extension is now highly unlikely to take place during 2015.

MAPPA Thematic Review

The examination of ViSOR records as part of the review has now been completed and all MAPPA Serious Case Reviews are being scrutinised. The review team will be visiting Lothian and Borders the week beginning 4th May and a number of focus groups have been arranged during this week.

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