



East Lothian & Midlothian
Public Protection Committee

Annual Report

2022-23



**PUBLIC
PROTECTION**

EAST LOTHIAN & MIDLOTHIAN

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Foreword from the Chair

As Chair of East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee (EMPPC), I am pleased to present our Annual Report (2022-2023) that marks the work of our multi-agency public protection partnership.

As the first independent Chair, having taken up position in April 2023 my first duty in this report is to thank the outgoing Chair, Anne Neilson who worked tirelessly as Director of public protection in NHS and since 2014 as Chair for the EMPPC until her recent retirement.

As I settle in to my role, I have been reflecting on the incredible work carried out by all of the partnership staff.

The scope and scale of public protection duties carried out under relentless operational pressures. The safeguarding of well-being, safety and security of the vulnerable and general public through various measures and initiatives encompassing a wide range of activities and sectors. We work with an ever-expanding population, increasing demands, evolving threats and the need for continuous adaptation and innovation.

We face the challenge of balancing proactive prevention measures with reactive response capabilities. We need to allocate resources effectively, collaborate with other agencies and stakeholders whilst intelligence gathering, risk assessing, training and capacity building, public awareness campaigns, community engagement and the development of policies and regulation.

In the past year we have continued as a partnership to recover from the demands of the COVID pandemic. We have taken the opportunity to look at ourselves and consider our true role and have refreshed our EMPPC Vision Statement. We look forward with horizon scanning, looking to better learn from the lived experiences of both the survivor voices; those we serve and protect as well as the experience and learned perspective of our staff to bring about a stronger overall product.

It has been a year with new Child and Adult Protection National Guidance, both of which required a great depth of thought and discussion to ensure we train and support our people giving them the knowledge and the tools to work effectively to implement best practice with governance structures in place. We have had to develop and diversify to support families displaced from Ukraine, and also look to support people through the added difficulties of the cost-of-living crisis and the effects that this has on public protection.

We have looked at new ways to better communicate both with the public through social media and local and National campaigns, and with our staff through the development of our EMPPC Newsletter which has continued to receive great feedback as it further evolves.

We are sad to see some of our key people moving on to pastures new but happy and excited to see them take on new challenges. Iain Gorman, Head of Operations in the East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership moving on, Judith Tait, Chief Social Work Officer and

Chief Operating Officer Children's Services in East Lothian, also moving on, and Veronica Campanile, our Violence Against Women and Girls Coordinator retiring. We thank them for their great work and efforts over the past years.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee and associated sub groups for their continuing support and commitment going forward and express a huge thanks to all staff across all agencies who work so incredibly hard and professionally to protect the people in our communities.

I look forward to continuing our work together this coming year.

Keith Mackay
Chair, East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee

Introduction

An annual report of the work of East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee has been produced since its inception in 2014. Although we are required to prepare an annual report for only one of our areas of business¹ we believe that it is important to bring together all the elements of our areas of activity into one report on an annual basis. This provides the opportunity to give a high level overview of all the areas of our business, and illustrate their connectivity and intersectionality within the context of a lifespan approach.

Our Strategic Structure for Public Protection in East Lothian and Midlothian

Through the **Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG)**, the Chief Officers of our core partners (Council, NHS and Police) 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. Since the inception of EMPPC in 2014 the Chair was Anne Neilson, Director of Public Protection, NHS Lothian, until she stepped down from the role in early 2023. An independent Chair was recruited in the early part of 2023, with Keith Mackay taking up the appointment from April 2023.

The **Learning and Practice Development Sub-group (L&PD Sub-group)** oversees the development and delivery of the Learning and Development strategy, and our multi-agency training programme. Our Chair for the year was Fiona Stratton, Chief Nurse, Midlothian 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 MAPPAs are discharged effectively. The Chair was Judith Tait, Chief Social Work Officer/Chief Operating Officer, Children's Services, East Lothian Council, until she departed from her post in March 2023. The Chair for the coming year will be Lindsey Byrne, Chief Social Work Officer/Head of Children's Services, East Lothian Council.

The **Performance and Quality Improvement Sub-group (P&QI Sub-group)** is responsible for the oversight and governance of the performance framework and improvement plan. The

¹ Annual reporting on the work of Child Protection Committees is one of their core functions ([Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer Responsibilities](#)). There is currently no requirement to provide an annual report on the work of a Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership. Under the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, a biennial report is required on the work of the Adult Protection Committee (Section 46).

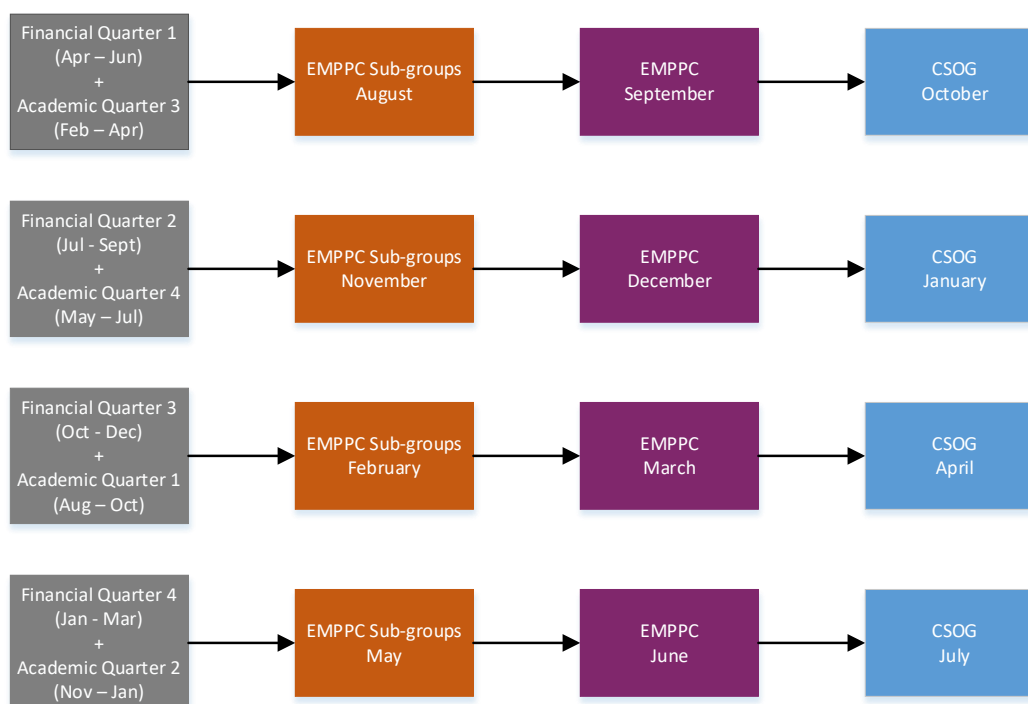
Chair is Joan Tranent, Chief Social Work Officer/Chief Operating Officer Children's Services, Communities and Partnerships, Midlothian Council.

The **Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Group (VAWG Delivery Group)** 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 was Keith Mackay, Detective Chief Inspector, J Division, Police Scotland, until his departure from his role in March 2023. Steve Wood, Detective Chief Inspector, J Division, Police Scotland has taken over as Chair.

The **Learning Review Sub-group (LR Sub-group)** will support the oversight of the progress of Learning Reviews, the development and progress of action plans, and dissemination of learning. The Chair is Keith Mackay, Independent Chair of EMPPC.

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. The reporting of all our other data (ASP, Violence Against Women and Girls, Drugs and Alcohol, MAPPA and Learning and Development) follows financial quarters. All our data reports are reviewed and considered by our P&QI Sub-group, and thereafter are reported to EMPPC. In the coming year, our new Learning Review Sub-group will meet in the same month as EMPPC and report directly to CSOG.

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 facilitating 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 supporting the embedding of learning into practice, policy and guidance; and
- The operational delivery of Marac.

EMPPC Vision

At one of our Committee meetings in the year we took time to refresh our vision and articulate our core values, as follows:

- Everyone has a right to be safe and protected from harm and abuse. We will protect our babies, children, young people and adults in East Lothian and Midlothian by working together and upholding our values.
- Our core values of respect, integrity and commitment underpin our work in supporting and protecting all people who may be at risk of harm in our communities.

<p>Respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For anyone who needs protection and support in all that we do • The contribution that the representative brings to the partnership on behalf of their agency/organisation • The fact that the partners have different responsibilities and constraints within their own organisation • The opinions and ideas of each representative 	<p>Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being honest and trustworthy in our partnership working • Having strong moral principles and doing 'the right thing' • Following through on agreed commitments and being accountable and responsible for the actions • Encourage and respect challenge in our partnership working 	<p>Commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improvement in our work with anyone who needs protection and support • Being prepared for and pro-active in the work of EMPPC • Engaging and participating to drive forward the work of EMPPC • Listening to and acting on the views of the people we work with
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EMPPC Priorities

Our business plan was presented to EMPPC in June 2022, with 38 actions under the following five priorities/high level aims:

1. We will continue to strengthen our leadership arrangements in Public Protection
2. We will provide and support the implementation of multi-agency procedures and guidance for staff working in Public Protection
3. We will continue to develop our performance framework and approach to quality improvement
4. We will promote a learning culture by providing staff with multi-agency learning and development opportunities in Public Protection
5. We will raise awareness of Public Protection through communications and engagement with staff and communities

The narrative that follows in this report provides an overview of the progress of our actions and improvement activities to support effective multi-agency partnership working in Public Protection in East Lothian and Midlothian.

EMPPC was updated by members about the challenging context of the strategic and operational delivery of services within Public Protection. Challenges in recruiting operational staff to services is not just a local issue in East Lothian and Midlothian, but a national one, and there were continued staff absences due to the continuing impact of the COVID pandemic. The budgetary pressures faced by partner agencies and the growing populations within East Lothian and Midlothian make for a challenging landscape when delivering services at all levels, but particularly around prevention and early intervention. In 2022, East Lothian had an estimated population of 108,972, the 21st highest of the 32 Local Authority areas in Scotland. The population is projected to increase by 9.7% (2018 based) to 116,006

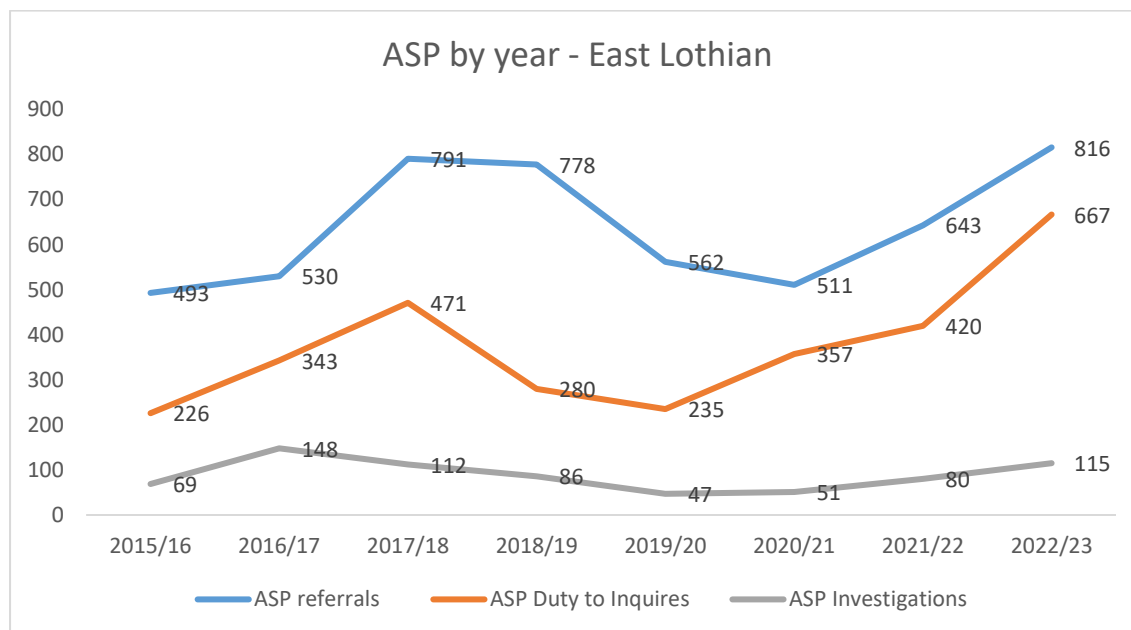
in 2032. This is the second highest increase in Scotland. In 2022, Midlothian had an estimated population of 96,473, the 23rd highest of the 32 Local Authority areas in Scotland. The population is projected to increase by 18.8% (2018 based) to 108,525 in 2032. This is the highest increase in Scotland. An increase in vulnerability for children, young people, adults and families is inevitably compounded by the current cost of living crisis. Notwithstanding this context, EMPPC heard how services continued to prioritise Adult Support and Protection and Child Protection service delivery to support and protect the most vulnerable people in our communities. The operating context and impact on progress of actions within our Business Plan were reported to CSOG for the oversight and assurance.

Supporting Strategic Leadership

To progress some of the activity within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Public Protection (2021), our CSOG began a programme of development to review its existing structure and function, and identify areas for improvement. CSOG have welcomed the support of our EMPPC Care Inspectorate link inspectors who facilitated two of four sessions in the year, using the national Chief Officers Public Protection Induction Resource materials as a framework. This work will continue into the coming year, with improvement actions taken forward through our Business Plan.

Adult Support and Protection (ASP)

Data and Performance Information – East Lothian



The three most common referral sources were:

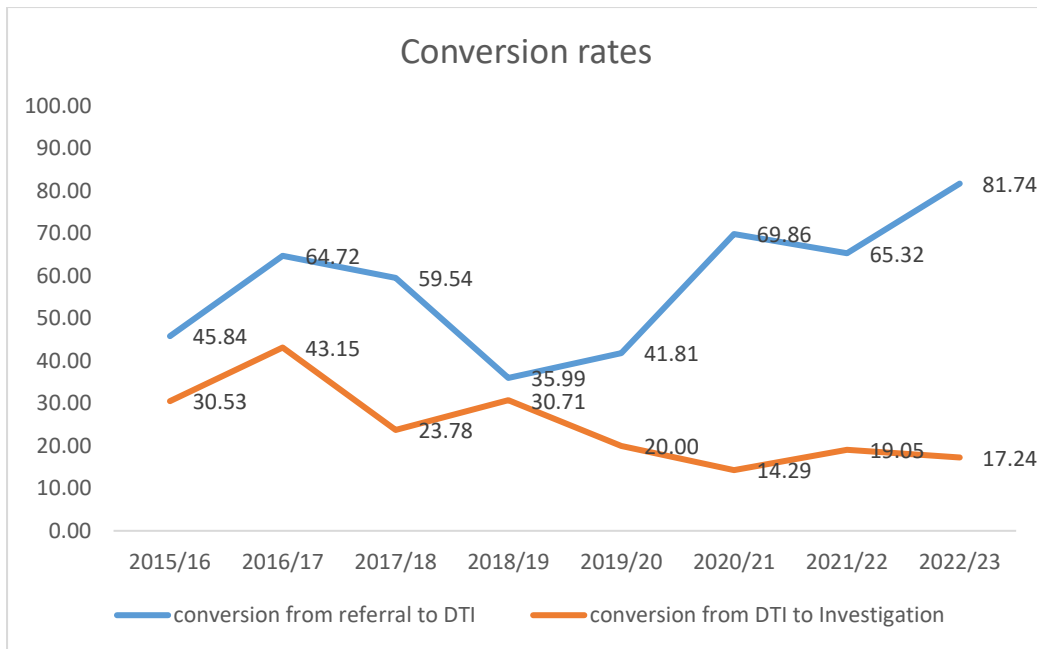
2022-23	Police	46.00%	NHS	16.90%	Social Work	8.70%
2021-22	Police	24.90%	Other orgs	16.50%	NHS	14.90%
2020-21	Police	33.30%	Others	15.30%	Other orgs	18.70%
2019-20	Police	30.20%	Other orgs	18.70%	NHS	12.30%
2018-20	Police	29.30%	Others	20.80%	Other orgs	13.50%

East Lothian saw an increase of 173 referrals in the year, which is a 26.9% increase from the previous year. Over two years, this is a referral increase of 60%. During the year East Lothian changed their counting rules on referrals to include a 'further referral' in an open ASP case (this was in line with what Midlothian was already doing). This only partially reflects an increase in referrals. It may be that we are seeing a natural and expected post-pandemic increase in ASP referrals, as services and supports have become more accessible, with adults at risk of harm being more visible to referring agencies since restrictions eased.

There was an increase of 247 (58.8%) Duty to Inquires in the year.

The highest overall ASP activity was in Quarter 3 (Oct - Dec).

We saw a substantial increase in referrals from Police (↑by 216) and NHS (↑by 48), with Police remaining the most frequent referrer of ASP referrals in East Lothian.



The conversion rate from referral to Duty to Inquire increased substantially over the past year. We should exercise caution in drawing conclusions about the dip to the lowest points of conversion from referral to DTI between 2018/19 and 2019/20 due to the way in which referrals were counted. The increase in conversion from referral to DTI in the past year is considered to be due to strengthened managerial oversight, introducing increased consistency in approach.

Due to changes in the Social Work recording system mid-year, we are not able to report on the 816 referral outcomes. Outcomes reported are based on 880 referrals, of which 64.1% had some form of further action (either ASP or non-ASP action).

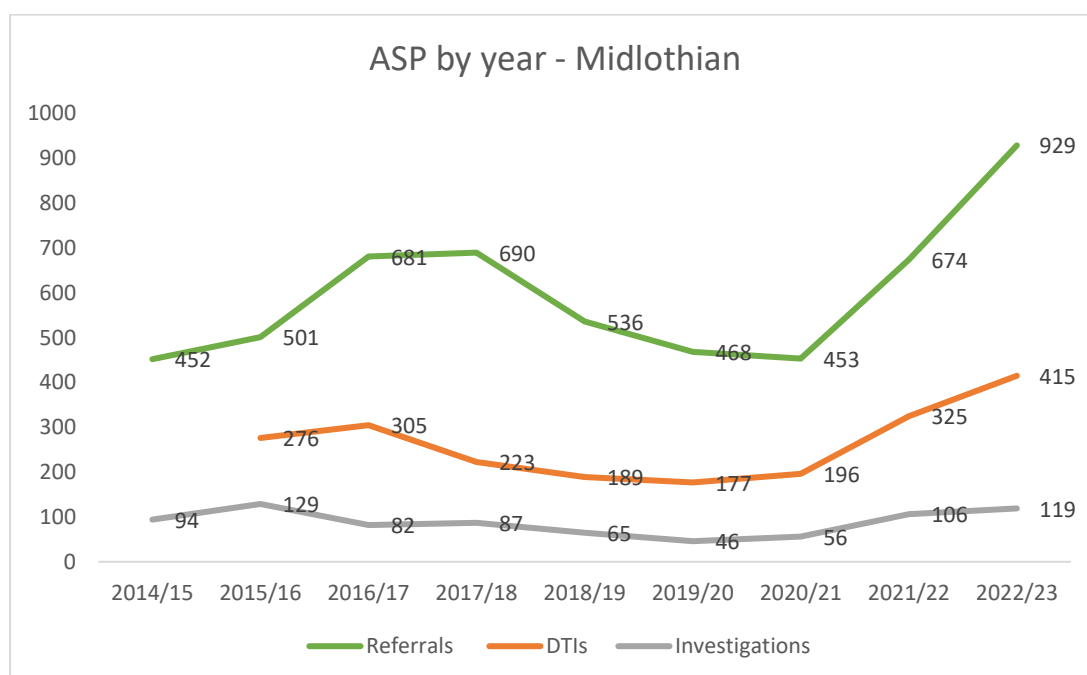
ASP Investigations

- There were 116 investigations in the year, an increase of 36
- 31 of investigations were in the age group 40 – 64, and 28 in the age group over 80
- The most common principal type of harm investigated was identified as ‘other’ (23 cases, which would include a range of issues), followed by financial harm (22) and physical harm (22). We have identified a potential under-identification of self-neglect as a principal type of harm and are currently auditing a sample of cases from Quarter 4 (refer to the Quarterly report for this). Last year the most common type of harm was neglect (which included self-neglect)
- The location of principal harm was own home in 72 cases, 15 in a public place and 8 in a care home
- There were investigations for 44 males and 71 females (based on 115 investigations)
- 31% of investigations led on to further ASP work (based on 115 investigations)

ASP Case Conferences

- There were 80 case conferences in the year, 36 initial case conferences and 44 reviews. This was 29 more case conferences than in the previous year (26 initial case conferences and 25 reviews)

Data and Performance Information – Midlothian



The three most common referral sources were:

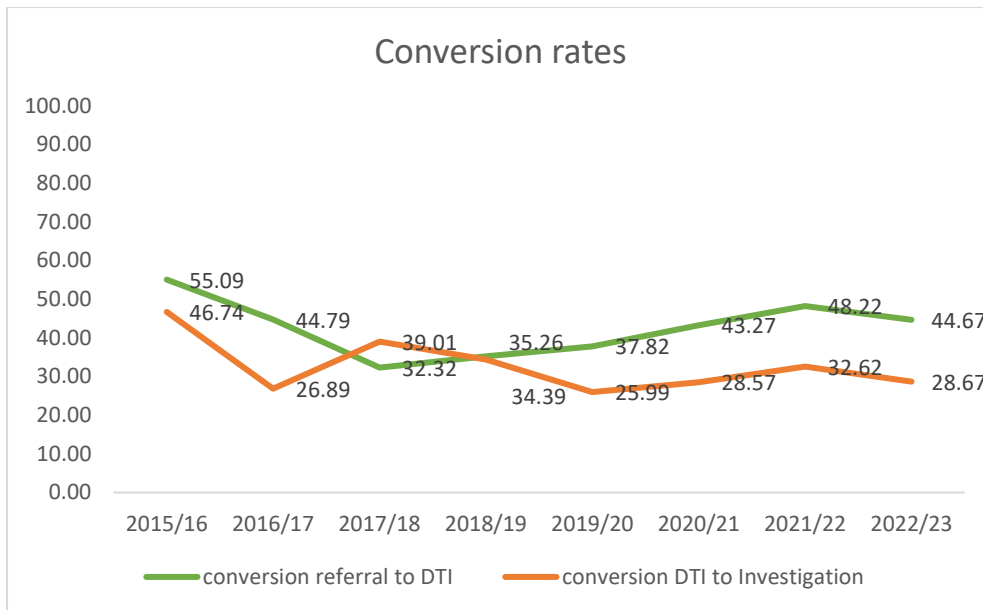
2022-23	NHS	23.79%	Police	22.28%	Other orgs	14.10%
2021-22	NHS	21.4%	Other orgs	19.0%	Police	18.4%
2020-21	Police	29.4%	Other orgs	19.0%	Family	10.8%
2019-20	Police	21.8%	Other orgs	20.7%	Council	13.0%
2018-19	Police	30.6%	Other orgs	15.5%	Others	12.3%

Midlothian saw an increase of 225 referrals in the year, which is a 37.8% increase from the previous year. In the two years since the beginning of the pandemic lockdown, this is a referral increase of over 100%.

There was an increase of 90 (27.7%) DTIs. This had implications for resource management and the need to strengthen the Council Officer duty rota arrangements out with the dedicated ASP team. We will progress plans to increase the support/training and learning opportunities for all Council Officers and their line managers in the coming year to support ASP work.

The highest overall ASP activity was in Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar).

We saw an increase in referrals from Police (↑by 83) and NHS (↑by 77) with NHS being the most frequent referrer for the second year in a row.



The conversion rate from referral to DTI has sat below 50% for the seventh year in a row. A significant proportion of referrals are screened out at the initial stage without progressing to a DTI, however, when we look at the outcomes recorded on referrals, almost all referrals have some form of action, and are referred to other teams/services within the HSCP. It has been agreed that in the coming year we will routinely sample a portion of referrals per quarter that did not progress to a DTI to understand more about what this data is telling us – including about thresholds for decision making, quality of referral information, repeat referrals. There were 929 referrals for 742 adults in the year (we do not have previous year comparative data for this), with a small number of adults being referred on multiple occasions.

ASP Investigations

- There were 119 investigations in the year, an increase of 13
- 31 of investigations were in the age group 40 – 64, and 19 in the age group over 80
- Financial harm was the most common principal type of harm investigated (38 cases); this has been the most common type of harm in six of the last seven years. ‘Other’ types of harm made up 26 of investigations and neglect 18
- The location of principal harm was own home in 80 cases and 15 in a care home – it was not known in 17 cases
- There were investigations for 39 males and 80 females
- 27% of investigations led on to further ASP work, handled primarily by the dedicated ASP team

ASP Case Conferences

- There were 42 case conferences in the year, 20 initial case conferences and 22 reviews. This were 11 more case conferences than in the previous year (22 initial case conferences and nine reviews)

Preparation for national minimum ASP dataset

To prepare for the introduction of the national minimum dataset for ASP, key personnel from East Lothian and Midlothian attended and engaged with the national briefings provided by IRISS and the Scottish Government. A presentation providing an overview of the new dataset was delivered to our P&QI Sub-group and EMPPC. Our ASP Lead Officer and Public Protection Manager met with the local leads in East Lothian and Midlothian to review the implications for practice and changes required to data recording, to support the introduction of the new minimum dataset. Due to the extent of system changes required in both areas, and an ASP inspection in East Lothian, we agreed to implement the new dataset for both areas from Quarter 2, 2023/24.

Supporting Practice in ASP

Analytical Risk Management in ASP

It had become apparent through audit work and from discussion with operational managers that there was a need to improve the analysis and articulation of assessment of risk in ASP. We developed local guidance, called [Analytical Risk Management in ASP](#), which included a framework to support staff to identify and articulate the interaction between types of harm, imminence, likelihood and severity of impact (known as the 'TILS' framework). In East Lothian, changes were made to the Social Work recording system to incorporate this framework into the ASP templates, and thereby support practice improvement. Similar changes are being progressed in Midlothian. To raise awareness, we have incorporated the approach into our Council Officer training/Forums, included an article in our newsletter and the ASP Lead Officer delivered presentations at the P&QI Sub-group and EMPPC. We will further strengthen this over the coming year through the Council Officer Forums and in the implementation of our revised ASP procedures.

Council Officer Forums

Our ASP Lead Officer supports and leads the Council Officer Forum in each area. It provides protected time on a monthly basis to reflect on ASP practice and the opportunity for inputs on key areas of practice relating to ASP, including:

- ASP and professional curiosity, SMART safety planning, Chronologies, Assessing capacity;
- Giving the opportunity to reflect on the transfer of learning from topics covered in the Forum into practice through case examples; and
- Updates on local and national developments.

Attendance at the Council Officer Forum is currently on a voluntary basis, and we have found it has attracted a consistent group of the same Council Officers. During the coming year, we will seek to strengthen the engagement in this Forum to ensure that all Council Officers are motivated and supported to access the learning and development opportunities and peer support it offers.

Pan Lothian Chronology Group

The key messages from the Pan Lothian Chronology Group have been incorporated into ASP training. In particular, the use of the standard template, inclusion of the adult's views and wishes, and regular review of the chronology to ensure it informs the assessment and management of risk.

We will continue to support staff in their practice on the use of chronologies through training, Council Officer Forum and guidance.

Missing People

The charity [Missing People](#) provides consultancy to tackle local professional challenges when responding to missing adults and children, and their families, in order to improve the support and services available. They are delivering a project in partnership with Scottish Government, to support the implementation of The National Missing Persons Framework in local areas across Scotland. East Lothian agreed to participate in this work in 2022. The consultants reviewed policies relating to missing people across services working with children and adults including Adult Protection, Child Protection, VAWG and the Mental Health pathways. They built on this in early 2023 with an event with operational managers from Adult Services and Child Services to map the responses to missing people. A Findings and Recommendations Report has been produced. Further work to develop a plan to support practice in this area and accessing on-line training available will be undertaken and we will share the learning and access to training with Midlothian.

Learning and Practice Development

Building on the positive feedback from our revised approach to Council Officer training, the ASP Lead Officer delivered our second course of eight modules (six taught sessions and two reflective sessions) between September 2022 and February 2023. Inputs were provided from Advocacy organisations and Council Legal Services. 13 Social Workers from East Lothian and Midlothian successfully completed this, which boosted the resources for ASP work. We opened this training to staff from Shetland and Scottish Borders, due to their low numbers of staff requiring trained, and provided three places.

We commissioned an independent trainer to provide a two-day ASP Investigative Interviewing training course to 14 Council Officers in June 2022.

Adult Protection themed Briefings

In the year we introduced one-hour on-line Briefings to raise awareness of ASP topics. The choice of topics was informed by learning from Initial Case Reviews (Home Fire Safety Visits), self-evaluation activity (Advocacy Briefing, role of NHS Public Protection Team) and as a follow up to our ASP Day (Trading Standards). We delivered nine Briefings in the year:

- In May 2022 and February 2023, a Briefing from Advocacy services in East Lothian and Midlothian, on behalf of all three advocacy providers operating in East Lothian and Midlothian;

- In June 2022, Daphne Franks, whose mother was the victim of predatory marriage, delivered a Briefing on her experience and campaigning on the issue;
- In October 2022, a Briefing from Trading Standards in Midlothian on their role in tackling scams and financial harm;
- In November 2022, a Briefing from Trading Standards in East Lothian on their role in tackling scams and financial harm;
- In December 2022 and January 2023, a Briefing from the ASP Lead Officer on the new Escalating Concerns Procedure;
- In January 2023, a Briefing from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on Home Fire Safety Visits; and
- In January 2023, the NHS Lothian Public Protection Team delivered a Briefing on their role in ASP.

Feedback from staff who attended the above Briefings has been very positive, and we will continue to use this method of communication to raise awareness of key issues in ASP.

National Adult Support and Protection Day – 20th February 2023

On 20th February 2023 we hosted an on-line learning event for 320 staff and volunteers from across East Lothian, Midlothian and Edinburgh. We know there was an increase in concerns about self-neglect during the pandemic when adults were being seen less in their home and were more isolated, with concerns only really coming to light once restrictions eased. This informed our focus for the event on self-neglect and hoarding to learn more about the particular challenges around managing these issues. This was supported by a [short campaign video](#) which we shared at the event.

Professor Michael-Preston Shoot, an expert academic from the University of Bedfordshire, presented the evidence base for best practice around self-neglect, from research, safeguarding adult reviews and practice experience. His [presentation](#) was very engaging and informative, and we received positive feedback about the whole event. The keynote presentation was complemented by inputs from:

- Our local Liaison Officer from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, who gave us an overview of their role in recognising and responding to hoarding;
- A senior Social Worker, who provided an input on responding to the issue from an operational perspective; and
- Our ASP Lead Officer, who outlined how ASP can help in cases of self-neglect and hoarding, and how to make a referral for support and protection.

Quality Assurance Activity

Audit of Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) reviewed by the IRD Overview Group

IRD Overview Groups for East Lothian and Midlothian continued to review all adult IRDs on a monthly basis. Chaired by the ASP Lead Officer, participants include a Detective Inspector from the Police Public Protection Unit, Service Manager for Adult Support and Protection and the NHS Adult Support and Protection Advisor. The Group reviews the work undertaken to date and undertakes quality assurance activity of information sharing, risk management and decision making. The IRD Overview Group reviewed all adult IRDs on a monthly basis.

Participants progressed any feedback or recommended action within their own agency as necessary.

The ASP Lead Officer undertook audits of IRDs considered by each IRD Overview Group between October 2021 and May 2022, reporting to the P&QI Sub-group in May 2022. An IRD involves information sharing between Social Work, Police and Health, and discussion to assess risk and make decisions about next steps to protect the adult, including a decision to progress to a Case Conference.

The audit found that it was appropriate to have held almost all of the IRDs undertaken. Strengths included information sharing. Areas for improvement were identified as SMART action planning and the need to take a more analytical approach to risk assessment. These areas of improvement will be progressed in the coming year through implementation of our Learning and Practice Development Strategy.

Audits of the last 20 IRDs in each area up to March 2023 took place, reporting to the P&QI Sub-group in May 2023. These identified on-going strengths in that the IRDs were invariably appropriate to take place and information sharing was effective. Training is planned for Quarter 3, 2023-24 to build on improvements in SMART Interim Safety Planning.

The role of Health in IRDs has been strengthened in East Lothian with dedicated Health Professionals now identified and trained to undertake the IRDs. Midlothian is also seeking to identify dedicated staff for IRDs. We benefit from a shared e-IRD platform (hosted by NHS Lothian) for recording IRDs and sharing information and will continue to review the effectiveness of our IRD processes and practice.

Quality Assurance Activity – East Lothian

The ASP Lead Officer and a Senior Practitioner in East Lothian completed an audit of various aspects of ASP work, including Duty to Inquire, Investigation Reports, Chronologies and Multi-Agency Risk Assessments. Almost all assessments were undertaken within agreed timescales. Investigation Reports positively recognised undue pressure, when present. Strengths in Chronologies included the use of neutral language, written with factual information, not opinion. Areas for development included consistently capturing the adult's point of view in Chronologies. Multi-Agency Risk Assessments were completed on time, and with a logical flow of information. Areas for development included improving the use of SMART risk management plans and the detail of analysis.

Overall, the audit agreed re-design of templates within the Social Work recording system to support stronger analysis of risk was required. It was agreed that the Types, Imminence, Likelihood and Severity of impact framework and SMART risk management planning from the 'Analytical Risk Management in Adult Protection in East Lothian and Midlothian' should be integrated into all ASP templates.

Quality Assurance Activity – Midlothian

In order to align with quality assurance work undertaken the previous year in East Lothian, there was an audit of Chronologies and the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment (completed when

the decision to proceed to review APCC is made) in Midlothian. This was carried out on a multi-agency basis with representation from the ASP Lead Officer, Social Work, Health and Police. There were similar findings to the East Lothian audit. Strengths were that Chronologies were recorded using neutral language, written with information that is factual, not opinion. Areas for development included consistently capturing the adult's point of view in Chronologies. Multi-Agency Risk Assessments were completed on time, were well structured and easy to follow.

Areas for development included improving the use of SMART risk management plans and the amount of analysis in the assessment.

After review of the use of the MARA in both East Lothian and Midlothian, it was concluded that there was duplication of recording in other templates, and the MARA template did not add value to risk management. EMPPC approved the retirement of this template in March 2023.

Preparation for ASP Inspection East Lothian

The ASP Lead Officer worked in partnership with senior operational managers to prepare the Position Statement in advance of the ASP Inspection in East Lothian, using the Care Inspectorate Framework. This built on self-evaluation activity that had been undertaken in the previous year, and provided a good opportunity to identify areas of strength as well as areas for improvement.

Guidance and Procedures

Adult Protection Procedures

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 requires that there be a Code of Practice to guide multi-agency staff in ASP work. In September 2022 the ASP Lead Officer delivered a presentation to EMPPC on the key changes in the Code of Practice. In light of the refreshed [Code of Practice](#) published in July 2022, we drafted revised ASP procedures and commenced a period of consultation. Our revised Procedures will be implemented in the coming year.

Escalating Concerns Procedure

In June 2022, EMPPC approved a new Escalating Concerns Procedure. It was recognised that professionals are often dealing with long-term, entrenched behaviours and complex circumstances of adults. The Procedure was developed to provide guidance on managing cases relating to adults where existing Procedures and legislation are not appropriate or able to reduce levels of risk and where a multi-agency approach may be beneficial. It provides an operational risk management framework for adults (over the age of 16) who have been formally assessed as not meeting the three-point test (which is the criteria for formal, legislative risk management under Adult Support and Protection), but where the agency involved is still concerned that the adult is at risk of harm.

The Escalating Concerns Procedure can also be used when risk is unmanageable using existing ASP procedures, with the process being triggered by the Chair of an ASP Case Conference.

The Escalating Concerns Procedure promotes multi-disciplinary responsibility for risk management, thereby removing responsibility from a single professional or agency. Nominated Service Managers in East Lothian and Midlothian assess the referral to determine if an Escalating Concerns Meeting is needed. The Procedure is aimed at providing an effective, co-ordinated multi-agency response to a 'critical few'. Across both areas, the number of referrals was less than ten, and there were meetings for three adults. In all three meetings, senior managers were able to consider extra-ordinary service responses to address risk.

It is early days in terms of assessing the effectiveness of the Escalating Concerns Procedure, and impact on the adults whose issues are addressed through this, and we will therefore review its use after a year of implementation.

Large Scale Investigations

A Large Scale Investigation (LSI) is a multi-agency response to circumstances where there is concern about an adult, or adults who may be experiencing harm or are at risk of harm. The ASP Code of Practice states a "Large-Scale Investigation (LSI) may be required where an adult who is a resident of a care home, supported accommodation, a 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, a member of staff or some failing or deficit in the management regime, or environment of the establishment of the service".

Following the [Pan Lothian Large Scale Investigation Protocol](#), four LSIs in East Lothian and Midlothian commenced in relation to care homes for older adults. The issues considered within the LSIs included skills and training requirements, staffing levels and leadership. On conclusion of any LSI, EMPPC receives a report which includes reflections on the need for ongoing monitoring to oversee the implementation of improvement actions.

In September 2022, EMPPC received a report from the ASP Lead Officer on a thematic analysis of risk management of care homes under LSIs (between 2018 and 2022). The report recommended that the [Hull Early Indicators of Concern](#) approach be adopted to promote preventative work to address the risk of harm in older people's care homes. The ASP Lead Officer met with relevant staff in East Lothian and Midlothian to agree next steps for implementation which will involve the use of the [Guide](#) to collect and review concerns about a service from different sources. We will progress this in the coming year, and will also strengthen the approach to Multi-agency Strategy Meetings (as the Meeting to determine if there is a need for an LSI).

In the year the Senior Practitioner for ASP in East Lothian delivered a Training for-Trainers event for Managers of Care Homes for Older Adults, to enable them to train staff in ASP (Level 1). Midlothian continued to deliver Level 1 training for staff in Care Homes for Older Adults.

Learning Reviews

We held one Consideration Meeting in relation to an adult following notification of a Learning Review under the [Adult Support and Protection Learning Review Guidance](#). Two meetings took place and concluded that we did not require to proceed to a Learning Review, as we were able to sufficiently discuss the issues and learning arising from the case.

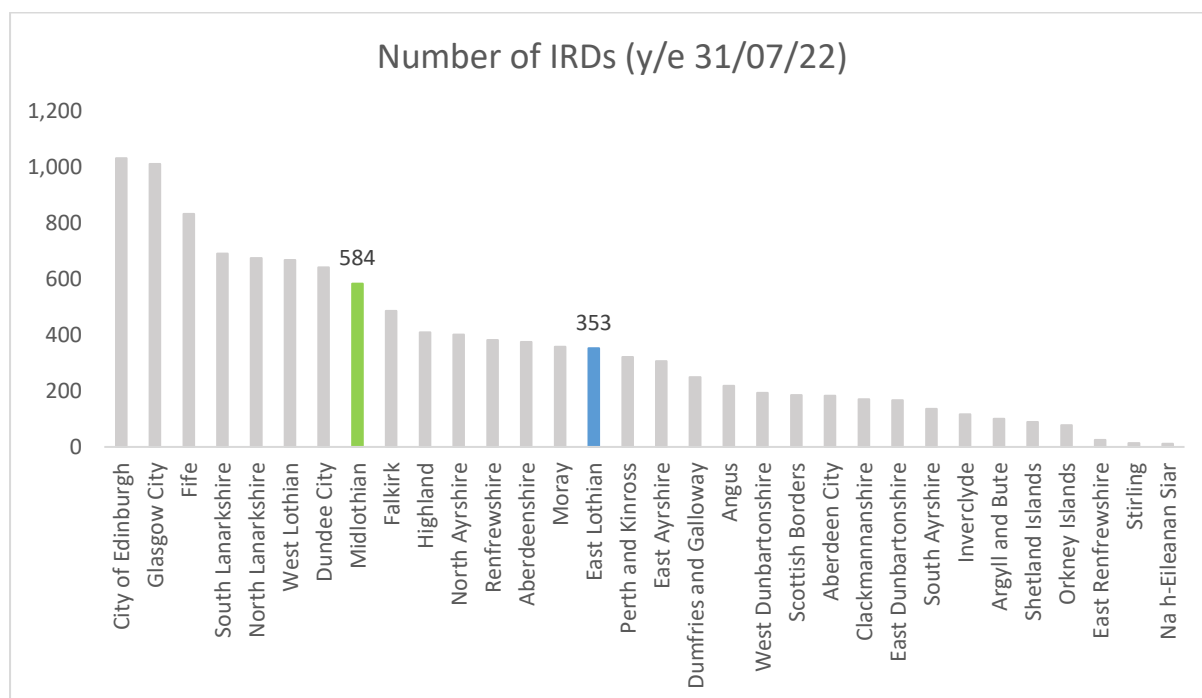
Child Protection

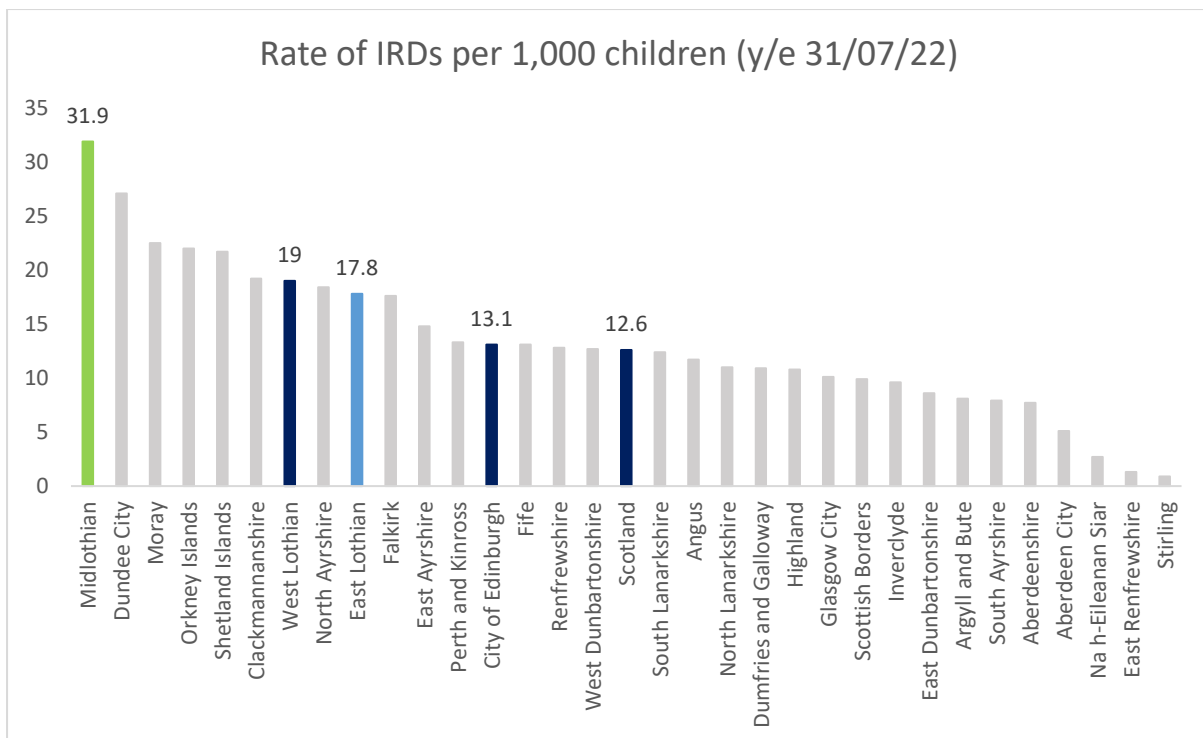
Annual data for year ending July 2022, as published in March 2023

Reviewing the Child Protection data published in March 2023 gives us an opportunity to review our data within the context of the national picture. We review data and performance information for both areas together using the National Child Protection Minimum Dataset, which is now well embedded in both areas.

Inter-agency Referral Discussions

In the year ending 31st July 2022, there were 353 IRDs in East Lothian and 584 in Midlothian. 3.08% of all IRDs across Scotland took place in East Lothian and 5.09% in Midlothian. Midlothian had the highest rate of IRDs per 1,000 children in Scotland, and East Lothian had the ninth highest rate. In the previous year, Midlothian had the third highest rate (27.7 per 1,000 children) and East Lothian had the fourth highest rate of IRDs (22.9 per 1,000 children). Nationally, the rate for the year was 12.6, a slight decrease from 12.8 the previous year.

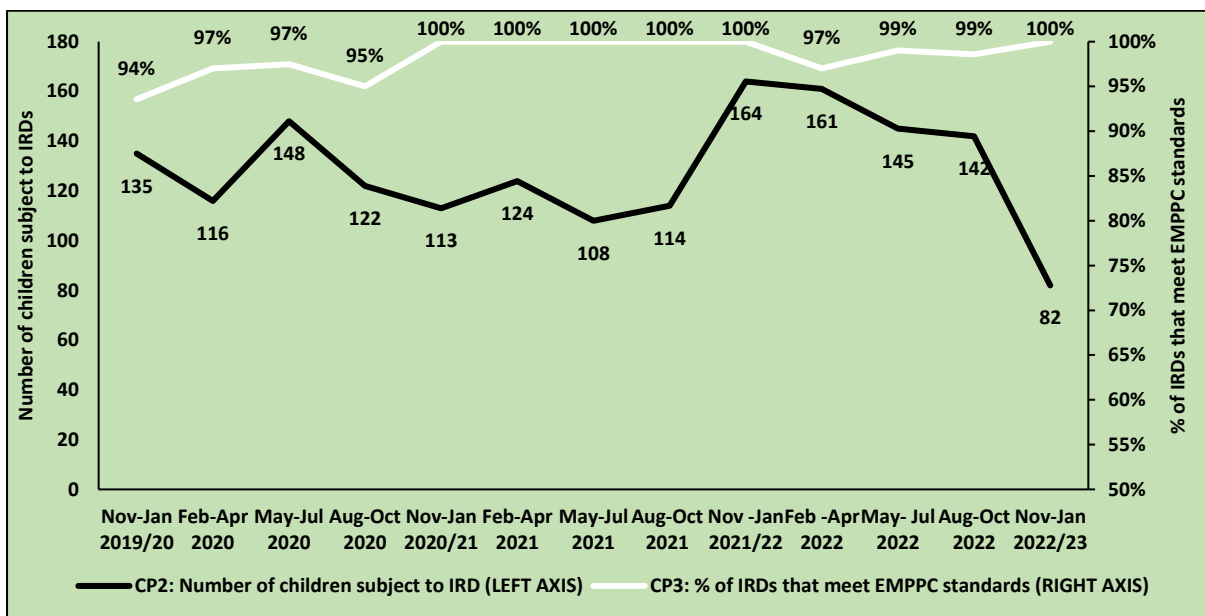
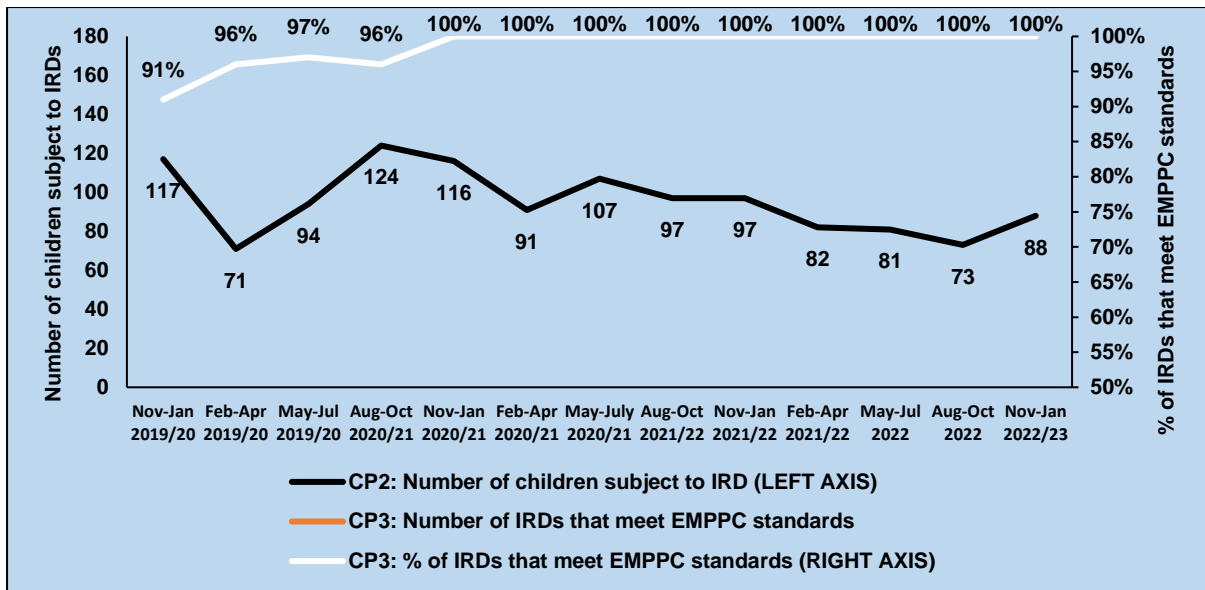




We have been conscious of higher rates of IRDs to other areas for some time now, through our discussions at our quarterly Child Protection Minimum Dataset Sub-group of the P&QI Sub-group, and at the P&QI Sub-group itself. We have recognised that we need to exercise some caution in making firm conclusions about this high rate and comparisons with other areas, as there is an established model of IRDs within the four Lothian Local Authority areas (through our shared multi-agency Child Protection Procedures), and IRDs are demand-driven.

An additional local indicator of ‘the percentage of IRDs that meet EMPPC standards’ has been included in our Child Protection Minimum Dataset for some time now – the measurement of which is agreed through the IRD Overview Group (which operates fortnightly in each area with Police, NHS and Social Work, to support consistency of approach). In the year we have questioned the usefulness of this indicator and will continue to review how we measure effectiveness and ‘appropriateness’ of IRDs within the coming year.

We have worked to strengthen our guidance on thresholds for IRDs, and to support IRD participants to reflect on practice. We can see a substantial decrease in the number of IRDs in the last quarter of this report’s reporting period for Midlothian, but will exercise caution in drawing conclusions from this. We will keep a watching brief on IRD rates and numbers over the coming year, and ensure that our practice remains aligned with local guidance. We have recognised that the model for IRDs within the National Guidance for Child Protection derived from the approach across the four Lothian Local Authority areas.



Child Protection Register

The table below illustrates the number and rate per 1,000 children on the Child Protection Register on 31st July 2022. The rate in East Lothian was slightly below the national rate. We have seen a substantial decrease in Midlothian in the past ten years, and a further reduction in the year prior to 31st July 2022. The greatest decrease of children on the Child Protection Register was Midlothian and Clackmannanshire.

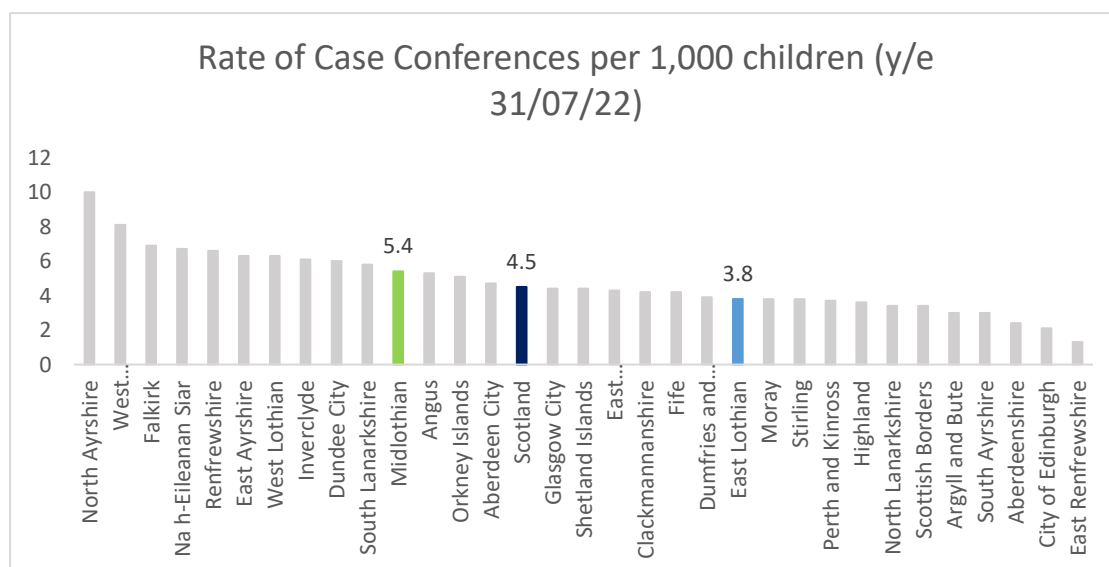
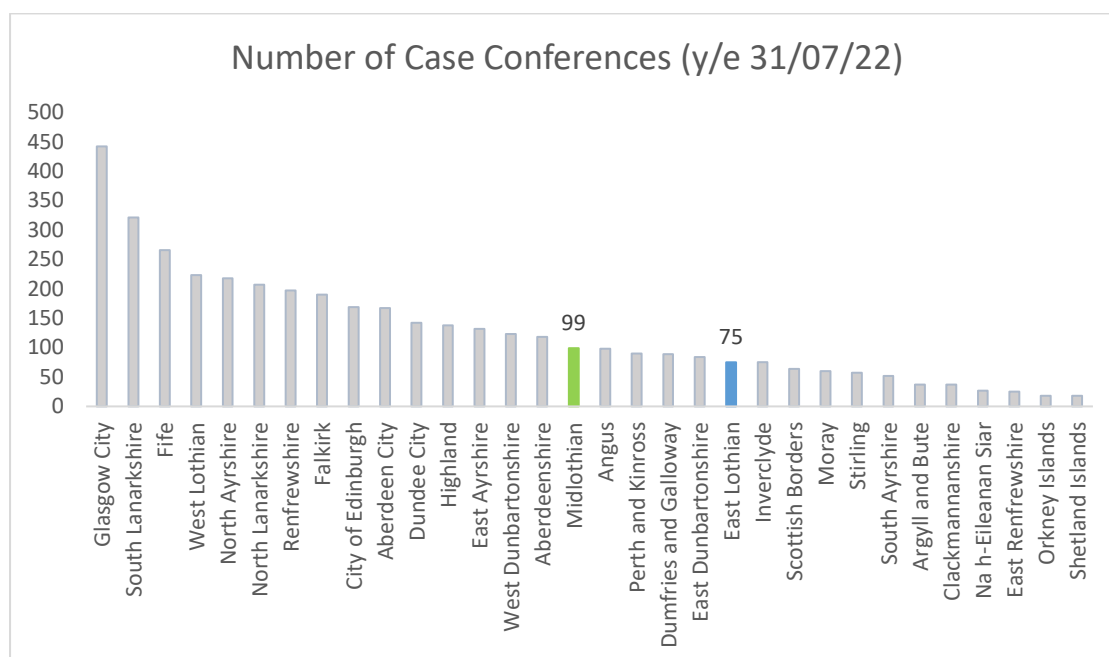
Number and rate per 1,000 children on the Child Protection Register at 31st July 2022

	2012 number	2012 rate	2021 number	2021 rate	2022 number	2022 rate
East Lothian	62	3.3	29	1.5	41	2.1
Midlothian	117	7.5	38	2.1	24	1.3
Scotland	2,698	2.9	2,119	2.3	2,031	2.2

In both areas, the most common reasons in the year were parental drug misuse, domestic abuse, emotional abuse and parental mental health problems. Within Midlothian, the most common reasons in the year were domestic abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and parental mental health problems. This corresponds with the national picture where the most common concerns identified at Case Conferences of children registered during the year were: domestic abuse, neglect, parental substance misuse and parental mental health problems.

Child Protection Case Conferences

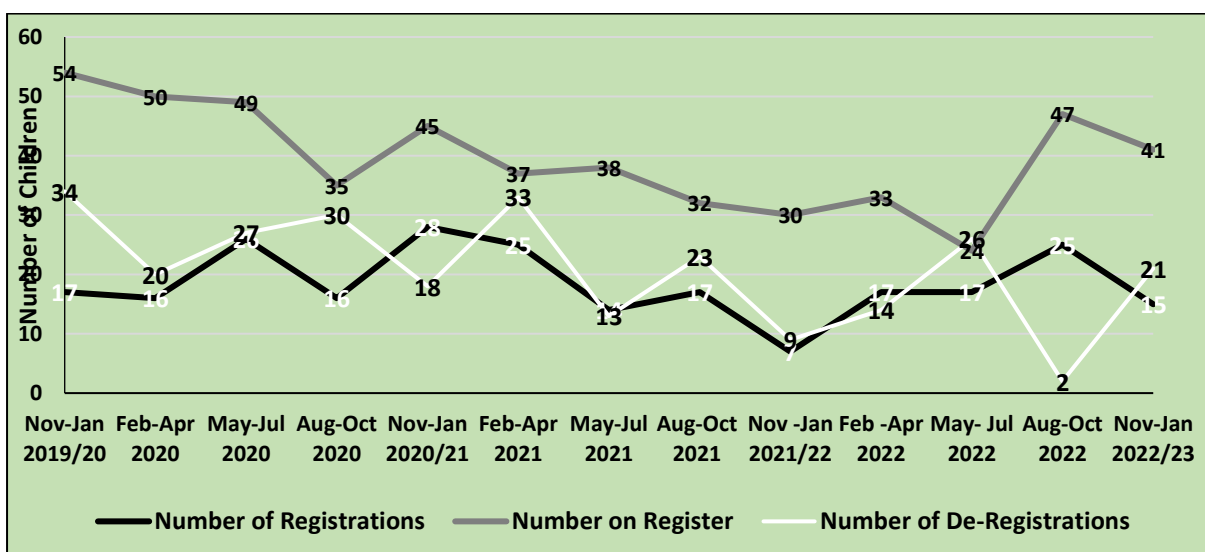
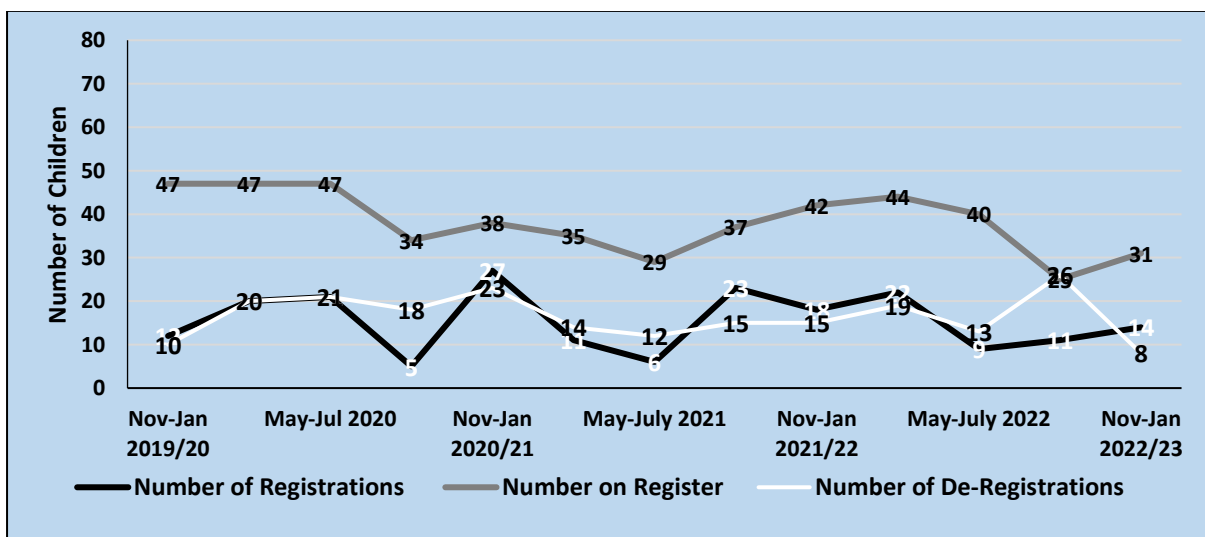
East Lothian held 75 Child Protection Case Conferences in the year ending 31st July 2022 and Midlothian 99. The number and rate in comparison to other local authorities and nationally are depicted in the two tables below.



Child Protection Registrations

The tables below give an indication of activity around Child Protection registrations and de-registrations, and consequent impact on staff resources to ensure this area of protection work was prioritised. Business continuity arrangements existed in East Lothian for a period during the year due to staffing shortages. This meant that a small number of children who were on the Child Protection Register did not always have an allocated social worker for periods with their cases managed within the duty system. There was close oversight from a senior manager within Children’s Services to ensure that risk was appropriately managed for those children.

We routinely review Child Protection Re-registrations within periods of three, six, twelve and twenty four months. We consider that a high number would potentially indicate risk is not being appropriately managed, particularly for the shorter time periods. Over the past year there has only been one case in Midlothian with a Re-registration within a 12 month period, for valid reasons due to domestic abuse, and there have been no cases in East Lothian within that time frame. We take assurance that having no children re-registered within the specified time periods to be positive.



Supporting Practice

Safe & Together

East Lothian and Midlothian have been committed to embedding the Safe and Together approach since 2018. The Safe & Together™ Model is an internationally recognised suite of tools and interventions designed to help child and adult professionals become domestic violence-informed. The model has three practice principles and five critical components to guide assessment, analysis and planning.

Supporting and embedding Safe & Together through core and supervisor training and supporting the work of the East Lothian and Midlothian implementation groups continue to be an EMPPC priority. This is led by the Child Protection Lead Officer, however, we very much recognise the intersectionality of this work across the Child Protection, Adult Support and Protection and Violence Against Woman and Girls agendas.

The implementation groups in both Midlothian and East Lothian are well established, have multi-agency representation, are making progress and are both linked with the Improvement Service and national forum for Safe & Together. Midlothian undertook the Domestic Abuse-Informed Systems and Practice Self-Assessment process which they found beneficial in supporting and enhancing local implementation. The findings were positive, identifying that effective processes were in place to assess the wide-ranging impact of coercive control on children, with effective multi-agency leadership in place to support system change. East Lothian also plan to undertake this self-assessment within the coming year.

In light of the pandemic, the Safe & Together Institute developed a Virtual CORE and a Supervisor programme which cover the same material as the in-person programmes. Videos of live training which include delivery by Safe & Together Model creator, David Mandel. The CORE training includes the same pre and post-tests. This was the agreed method of training throughout the pandemic and has continued in light of challenges around identifying a local 'in-house' accredited trainer. Training continues to be funded by the 'Delivering Equally Safe Fund'.

An annual report on Safe & Together is prepared for and considered by our L&PD Sub-Group. In the year 31 practitioners across East Lothian, Midlothian and Third Sector completed the on-line Core Practice Training. This number is well below the target of 65, which is similar to last year and continues to be associated with staffing issues (including vacancies and staff sickness), staff capacity in both areas and an over-optimistic assessment of the number of staff that would be available to undertake the training. Local Learning and Development leads delivered a 'blended approach' course (where the on-line material was accessed as a group with the support of a facilitator). This approach was well received by colleagues who fed back:

- "I liked being able to discuss the content within the group and this made me understand how to use the approach in practice"
- "The course was really helpful to think about supporting people where domestic abuse is a concern"

- “Wouldn’t have been able to do this myself, my learning style doesn’t suit solo learning”
- “Learnt a lot more from group discussion and mix of professionals etc as I would not have been able to focus for the full 4 days”
- “Sharing ideas and hearing about others experiences was helpful”

Despite the challenges associated with completing the on-line training, discussions with staff within various forums, evaluation and audit activity evidence that training is having a positive impact on practice - both the four day CORE and Supervisors Training. There is more evidence of work with children and young people in relation to the impact of domestic abuse/recovery from trauma, use of mapping and holding the perpetrator to account within assessment and planning. Marac chairs feedback that they continue to see an increase in the use of Safe & Together tools and language within assessments and discussions. The screening tool is embedded in duty/intake teams within Children’s Services in both East Lothian and Midlothian. Midlothian continue to implement the specific practice standards to promote the use of the approach as well as making monthly case consultations available to all agencies to discuss complex cases. Both areas have a Safe & Together ‘Champion’ to support implementation. Midlothian’s Your Chance to Change (voluntary domestic abuse perpetrator programme) has identified that staff are feeling more confident in holding men accountable for any abusive behaviour and there is evidence of good collaboration between Justice and Children’s Services staff to address risk and provide support to women survivors of domestic abuse.

Work to increase understanding of and responses to Neglect

EMPPC is keen to ensure staff are equipped to understand and respond to neglect. This has been influenced by local and national data and research, actions highlighted from Midlothian’s Joint Inspection Children’s Services Plan, learning from local and national Significant Case Reviews/Learning Reviews as well as ensuring practice is aligned to the ambitions of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 in relation to prevention and early intervention.

A multi-agency Neglect working group (consisting of professionals from Health, Education, Social Work, Police, SCRA and Third Sector) progressed its plan throughout the year. The aim of this work was to develop our local approach to identifying and responding to neglect, through the provision of a toolkit, guidance for staff and delivering learning and development sessions. During the year we agreed to use the City of Edinburgh Neglect Toolkit to support consistency of practice, and gained permission from their Child Protection Committee in December 2022. Police Scotland and NHS Lothian are already aware of and using this approach. The Neglect Toolkit was piloted using small tests of change with families across East Lothian and Midlothian, with evidence of effective collaboration and multi-agency working.

A multi-agency staff survey was undertaken in December 2022 to provide a baseline of current knowledge and understanding of neglect, in order to inform the local implementation plan. This survey was targeted towards staff who specifically work with or deliver services to children and young people up to the age of 18, and their families. 188 staff from across Health, Education, Social Work, Police and Third Sector responded. Themes included:

- Thresholds between different services – how to respond and support the family when concerns are raised by services but are not assessed as Child Protection;
- Speaking about neglect with families highlighted challenges for staff around not wanting to damage relationships, not wanting to be seen as judgemental, feeling the word neglect can be emotive and provoke disengagement from families; and
- Staff have a good understanding about neglect but lack confidence or can feel uncomfortable in addressing neglect directly with families.

We promoted the CELCIS ‘Learning about Neglect Series’ across all services, to raise awareness and support learning.

To support the launch of the Neglect Toolkit, we commissioned an external trainer to deliver two Briefings to 185 staff, and have developed a workshop approach to support understanding of how to use the toolkit in practice. This work will continue in the coming year.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour work with NSPCC

East Lothian and Midlothian engaged in support from NSPCC (funded by the Scottish Government) to undertake a Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework Audit. The aim of this framework was to develop and improve multi-agency responses to children displaying harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) in order to provide a coordinated, systematic and evidence-based approach to recognising and responding to the risks and needs of this vulnerable group. There was a good appetite for this work from operational staff across services.

Strategic leads for all services were identified in each area (Social Work, Police, Health, Education and Third Sector) and had a role in ensuring ‘buy-in’ from their service and promote engagement. A readiness questionnaire was completed by both local authorities to help inform the process. An information session and a launch of the framework survey took place to support engagement in the process. The audit survey was completed between December 2022 and February 2023, requiring to be extended in light of staff capacity issues. Engagement in the audit work was generally positive across all services, which supported analysis of the survey, completion of a findings report and action planning to commence. Validation meetings took place with the key representatives and NSPCC project workers in both areas to support analysis of the findings and agree final scores.

We have seen a significant increase in children experiencing and displaying HSB across both local authorities. We have seen a number of benefits from engaging in this work. There have been strengthened multi-agency discussions in relation to HSB in terms of identification and response. There is an increase in awareness raising of HSB across all services and increased demand for places on our HSB Training course. The ongoing support and consultation from the NSPCC Implementation Manager throughout the audit process was helpful. The next phase of the project in the coming year will involve dissemination events in both areas and progressing an action plan.

IRD Participants' Workshop

An in-person Multi-agency Learning and Development session for all IRD participants took place in November 2022. The event included 36 members of staff from Police Scotland, Children and Families Social Work in East Lothian and Midlothian and NHS Lothian.

The session provided a good opportunity for key staff involved in Child Protection to strengthen their working relationships and peer support, and reflect on local IRD practice. The good practice within local IRDs was recognised and acknowledged. It provided an opportunity to reflect on local and national Child Protection statistics. The workshop covered the purpose and function of IRDs, thresholds and good practice. The need for self-care within Child Protection work was highlighted which promoted peer discussion around what is helpful.

Feedback from the workshop was very positive, and we will further develop an IRD workshop approach in the coming year, using the themes arising from the IRD Oversight Group and discussion at the first workshop about what learning IRD participants would find useful.

Learning from a Dissent Case

The Dispute Resolution Protocol was instigated in July 2022. A consensus was not reached at a Child Protection Case Conference and an agency felt strongly that they did not agree with the decision not to register the child. A resolution meeting took place, where senior manager representatives from each agency attended. There was careful consideration and discussion of all the information and a unanimous decision was made to register the child. Suggestions to strengthen the Child Protection Plan were also fed back to the professionals involved in the meeting.

A Multi-agency in-person reflective session was facilitated, with all the practitioners from each agency that had been involved in the Case Conference. This provided valuable learning to take back to agencies. A '7-minute briefing' was developed to support learning from this process and was disseminated across all services. The briefing included information and practice prompts in relation to what is meant by dissent in the context of a Child Protection Case Conference, the importance of maintaining a focus on the child, the importance of preparing for the Case Conference, the value of constructive challenge and expressing professional opinion, the importance of professional curiosity and evidencing decision making.

Guidance and Procedures

Development of the Edinburgh, Lothians and Scottish Borders Child Protection Procedures

During the year, a significant amount of work went into the development of our multi-agency procedures. With the support and input from an independent Social Work Consultant to work with us on their development, we worked in partnership with colleagues from Edinburgh, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders to develop draft Procedures. These Procedures underwent a period of consultation in February 2023. We held two Briefings to introduce the consultation and provide an overview of key changes, which were attended

by 185 staff from East Lothian and Midlothian. Further work to bring these to a final conclusion continues, and we will implement these over the coming year.

Learning Reviews

In the year we concluded a Significant Case Review (under the previous Significant Case Review process) and developed a plan of improvement actions. Our CSOG has decided not to publish this, to ensure protection of privacy of the child involved, but local learning will be progressed via the action plan.

In the year we held meetings to consider the need for a Learning Review for three cases and agreed to progress to a Child Protection Learning Review for each. We will progress these in the coming year, maintaining a proportionate approach in line with the principles in the [National guidance for child protection committees undertaking learning reviews](#). We will use the learning and experience from these cases to develop our local Learning Reviews Guidance and resources, based on the national guidance.

We have identified resource challenges for Learning Reviews and will seek to create a pool of local Chairs and Reviewers in the coming year, with training and skills development. We recognise that this is a national issue and we will engage in discussions via CPC Scotland to advocate for national support for this work.

Quality Assurance Activity

File Audit exploring conversion rates from Initial Child Protection Case Conference to Child Protection Registration - Midlothian

Analysis of the Child Protection Minimum Data Set highlighted conversion rates in Midlothian decreased for two consecutive quarters. An audit was completed by the Child Protection Lead Officer and NHS Public Protection Clinical Nurse Manager to explore the circumstances of eight children from three families cases referred to a Child Protection Case Conference and where the child's name was not placed on the Child Protection Register. The findings highlighted strengths within the early multi-agency sharing of information within the IRD process, however, it was assessed that Registration could have been considered further for all but one case. General themes outlined the need for ensuring the child's voice is heard and considered within the assessment and planning process, limited evidence of SMART plans, more effective use of chronologies, further rationale to evidence decision making and limited evidence of professional curiosity and triangulating information.

File Audit exploring Child Sexual Exploitation referrals to Children and Families Social Work – East Lothian

Our review of the local Child Protection Minimum Dataset identified a need to focus on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) due to very low numbers of cases in East Lothian and Midlothian. A multi-agency audit was undertaken by the Detective Inspector, Police Public Protection Unit, Education Support Officer - Child and Public Protection, East Lothian and

the Child Protection Lead Officer. It was assessed that in five out of the nine cases, a CSE Strategy Meeting should have been considered. Themes included the following:

- Further analysis of information would have highlighted the risk factors and vulnerabilities;
- More detailed information from Education would have helped to inform the assessment further in several of the cases;
- The challenges of responding to incidents of on-line Harmful Sexual Behaviour;
- The need for further multi-agency ownership throughout assessment and planning; and
- Evidence of the voice of the child was not clear at times.

In the coming year we will review our local guidance on CSE and provide learning and development opportunities, to raise awareness of the issues and response to children and young people at risk of CSE.

IRD Themes

The IRD Oversight Group continues to take place fortnightly to provide quality assurance and data collection in relation to decisions made as part of IRD. East Lothian and Midlothian Children and Families Senior Managers use a template to record the discussion and collate the information. The template focuses the multi-agency discussion to consider, clarity on the reason for IRD, any updates in relation to planning, previous IRDs in the last 12 months, whether it meets the standards (EMPPC CP Interim Safety Plan Guidance) and whether it meets the Threshold for IRD (Child Protection Inter-agency Referral Discussion Threshold and Outcome Guidance) as well as noting any learning or further action that is required to reduce risk.

Themes identified throughout the year highlighted a number of strengths in practice in relation to IRD practice. Through our IRD processes in both areas, there are effective multi-agency relationships, timely sharing of relevant and proportionate information and co-ordination. The rationale for decision-making was identified as clear, with appropriate use of the Safe & Together approach, professional curiosity and robust interim safety plans. Areas for further learning and development included the management of repeat IRDs, recording within the IRD process and ensuring that the voice of the child is sought and evidenced throughout the process

Learning and development - Child Protection Themed Briefings

Launch of the Scottish Child Interview Model Briefing

This was an opportunity for staff across all services to hear about the new Scottish Child Interview Model which was rolled out across East Lothian, Midlothian and Scottish Borders from May 2022. There was an emphasis on highlighting what this means for other professionals around the child and an opportunity to disseminate the associated resources developed to support multi-agency understanding of the approach ('7-minute briefing', glossary and flowchart).

Each and Every Child: It is time for change ‘Introduction to Framing and Framing Care Experience’

Ensuring the voice of the child is heard is a central part of assessment, intervention and planning. This Briefing was delivered by Each and Every Child and was an opportunity for staff to gain an introduction to Framing and how our use of language matters when we talk about children and their experiences, how Framing can contribute to a positive shift in public attitudes, and how staff can make the recommendations of the Promise real in day-to-day work.

Child Protection Consultation Briefings

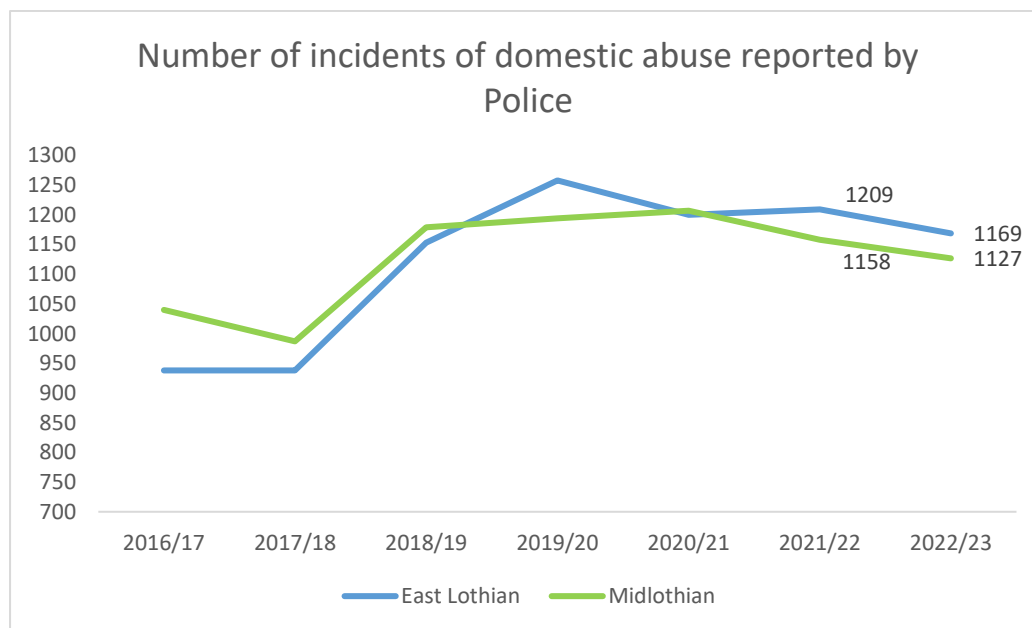
185 staff from services across East Lothian and Midlothian attended two Briefings which were delivered to support the consultation on the new draft local Edinburgh, Lothians and Scottish Borders Child Protection Procedures. They included an overview of the National Child Protection Guidance and key changes, structure and scope of the new local procedures as well as highlighting what they will mean in practice.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Data and Performance Information

Police Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit

The Police Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit continues to target pro-actively domestic abuse perpetrators through various investigative strategies. This includes enforcement of domestic bail conditions to identify and arrest those in breach of Court issued bail conditions, wider pro-active investigations into historical perpetrator abuse through identification of previous partners and potential offending and multi-agency partnership working to address and mitigate risk to vulnerable victims and their families.



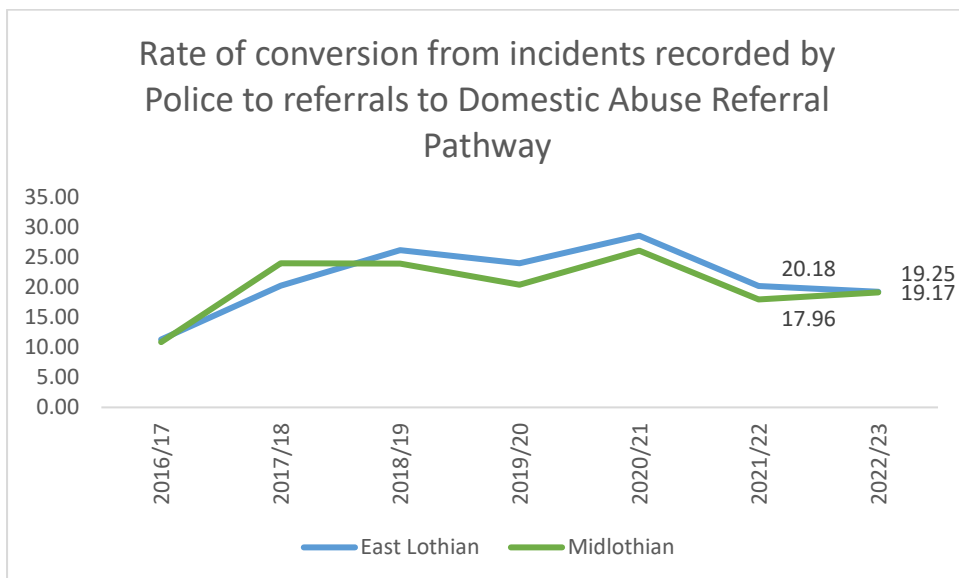
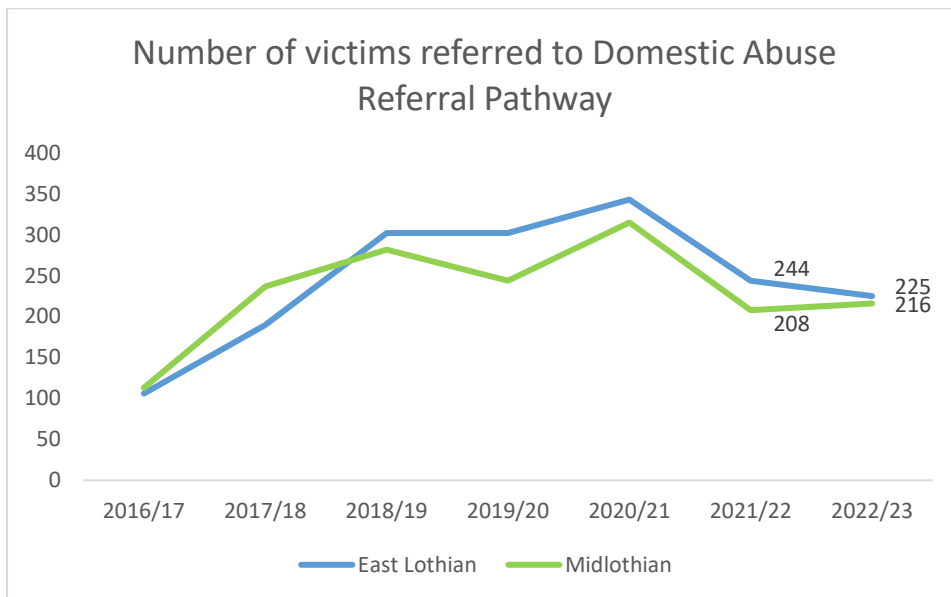
Both East Lothian and Midlothian recorded the same change in terms of domestic abuse incident numbers, with East Lothian reducing by 60 incidents and Midlothian by 31 incidents in comparison to the previous year.

Common assault is the most common type of crime recorded as a result of a domestic incident in both local authority areas overall. The number of offences recorded under Section 1 of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 in East Lothian and Midlothian combined more than doubled from 8 in 2021/22 to 19 in 2022/23, which suggests increased awareness in its provisions.

The Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway (DARP) operates on the basis of consent to referral to a specialist service when Police attend a domestic abuse incident. This is always offered by Police to victims. There was a decrease of 19 referrals in East Lothian and an increase of eight referrals in Midlothian from the previous year.

EMPPO previously co-ordinated the DARP and hosted the Domestic Abuse Service for women survivors at high risk from domestic abuse. During this year the high risk service was relocated within Women's Aid East and Midlothian (WAEML) and renamed the

Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service (DAAS). DAAS continues to support women survivors at high risk referred through the Pathway or Marac or directly to WAEML. The DARP also changed and is now co-ordinated by Police.



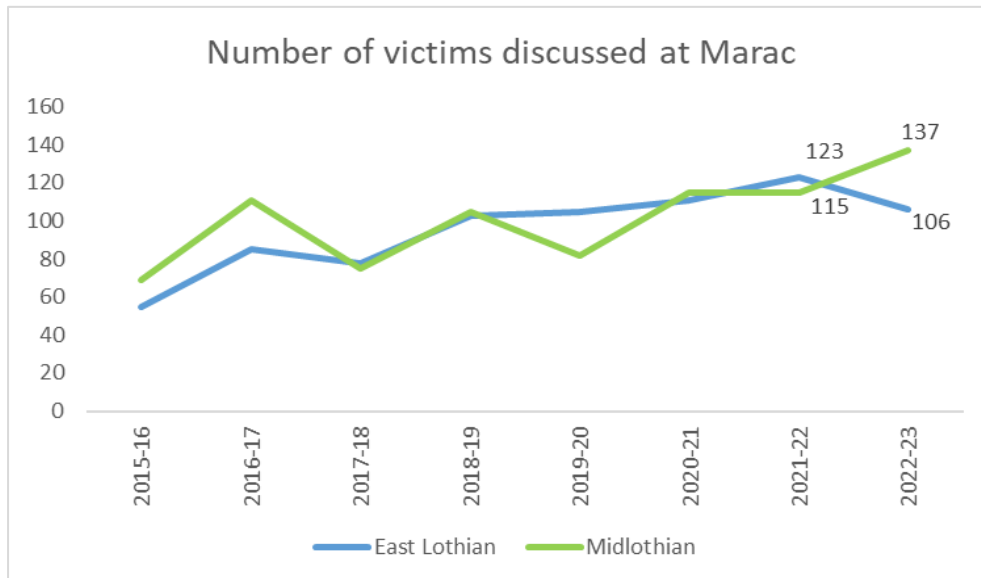
Applications to the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) continue to rise for both aspects. The 'Right to Ask' allows concerned persons to apply for information regarding an individual's abusive past whether that individual is a new partner or the partner of a family member or friend. The 'Power to Tell' allows the Police to disclose relevant information about an individual's abusive past to any new identified partners, involvement in Police attended incidents or through contact with various partner agencies. Relevant information is then disclosed to individuals to allow them to make informed decisions regarding their personal safety.

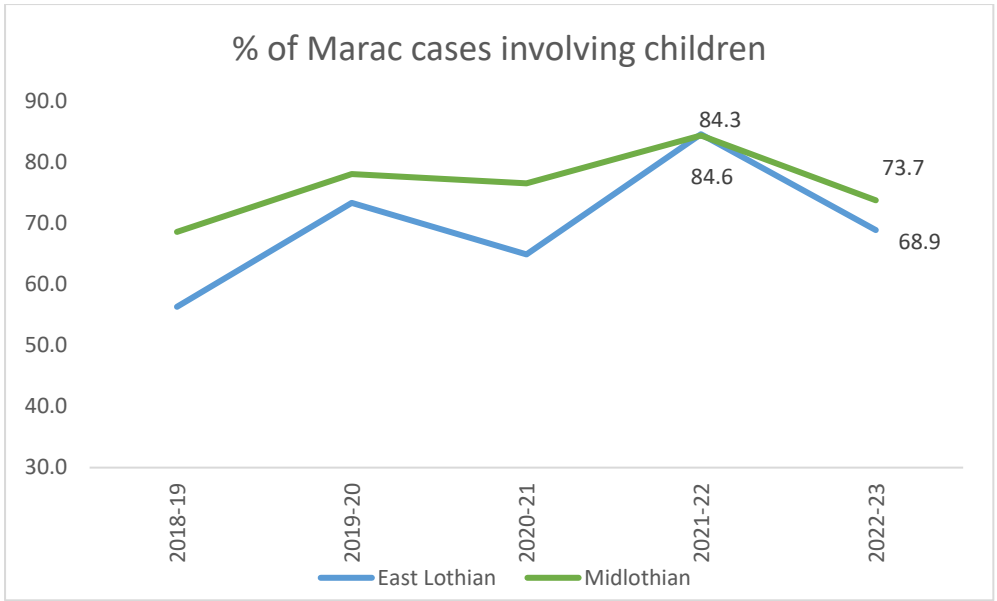
In East Lothian, during the year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 there were 56 applications. This yearly figure is a 27% increase on the same period in 2021/2022 (44). In

Midlothian, during the year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 there were 89 applications. This yearly figure is a 39% increase on the same period in 2021/2022 (64). The increased use of DSDAS in each area highlights the ongoing success of pro-active promotion of the scheme through our EMPPC Briefings and Police social media messaging and showing our commitment to educating on this and all forms of domestic abuse.

MARAC

A Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARACs) is a local meeting where representatives from statutory and non-statutory agencies meet to discuss individuals at high risk of serious harm or murder as a result of domestic abuse. The meeting provides a safe environment for agencies to share relevant and proportionate information about current risk, after which the Chair will summarise risks and ask agencies to volunteer actions to reduce risk and increase safety. The primary focus is to safeguard the adult victim, however links with other agencies will be made to safeguard children and manage the behaviour of the perpetrator. All local authorities in Scotland hold Maracs on a non-statutory basis.

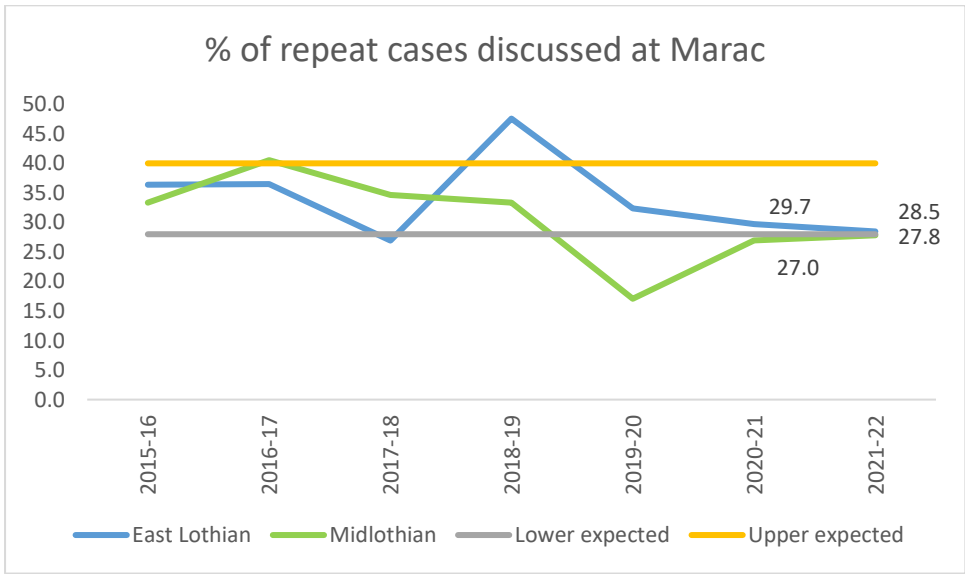




In East Lothian, 106 victims were referred to Marac with 139 children involved; 73 of the cases had at least one child involved. There was a decrease of 17 cases referred from the previous year. There were 40% fewer cases referred than the SafeLives recommendation of 40 per 10,000 adult female population. Taking account of repeat referrals there were 93 individual victims of which 95.3% were females and 4.7% were males.

In Midlothian, 137 victims were referred to Marac, with 229 children involved; 101 cases had at least one child involved. There was an increase of 22 cases referred from the previous year. There were 6% fewer cases than the SafeLives recommendation of 40 per 10,000 adult female population. Taking account of repeat referrals there were 117 individual victims of which 98.5% were female and 1.5% were male.

The rate of Marac actions completed within the three week timescale has significantly increased in comparison to the previous year at 88.8% in East Lothian (an increase from 82.8%) and 82.9% in Midlothian (up from 77.1%). It is likely that additional Maracs particularly over the summer period have a negative impact on reporting of actions.



There has been no significant change in the percentage of repeat cases at Marac from the previous year. East Lothian was slightly below the SafeLives recommended range of 28% to 40% at 25.5% and Midlothian was within range and just above the lower control limit at 29.9%.

MATAC

MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination) is a Police led initiative to identify and manage the most harmful, repeat domestic abuse perpetrators. We have well-established local partnership arrangements for managing this process. In East Lothian there were five referrals in the year, an increase of one from the previous year. In Midlothian there were no referrals to MATAC in the year and none the previous year. There is work underway within the Police to look at the criteria for referral to MATAC and seek to increase the number of referrals, particularly given the increase in referrals to Marac.

Women's Aid East and Midlothian (WAEML) services

This year we have expanded reporting on our local domestic abuse services for women, children and young people, which are primarily provided by Women's Aid East and Midlothian, as shown below.

WAEML data	East Lothian	Midlothian
Number of women supported	371	401
Number of new referrals from women	271	266
Number of women referred	222	226
Number of children supported	119	117
Weekly average number of women waiting for an outreach service in each quarter	Q1 42 Q2 56 Q3 60 Q4 50	Q1 64 Q2 59 Q3 61 Q4 53
Weekly average number of children waiting for an outreach service in each quarter	Q1 31 Q2 27 Q3 30 Q4 30	Q1 27 Q2 32 Q3 35 Q4 32
Average number of days women were waiting for an outreach service in each quarter	Q1 63 Q2 41 Q3 54 Q4 55	Q1 110 Q2 51 Q3 54 Q4 55
Average number of days children were waiting for an outreach service	Q1 69 Q2 62 Q3 59 Q4 59	Q1 90 Q2 75 Q3 59 Q4 59
Number of women supported by the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service (DAAS) Oct-March	27	28

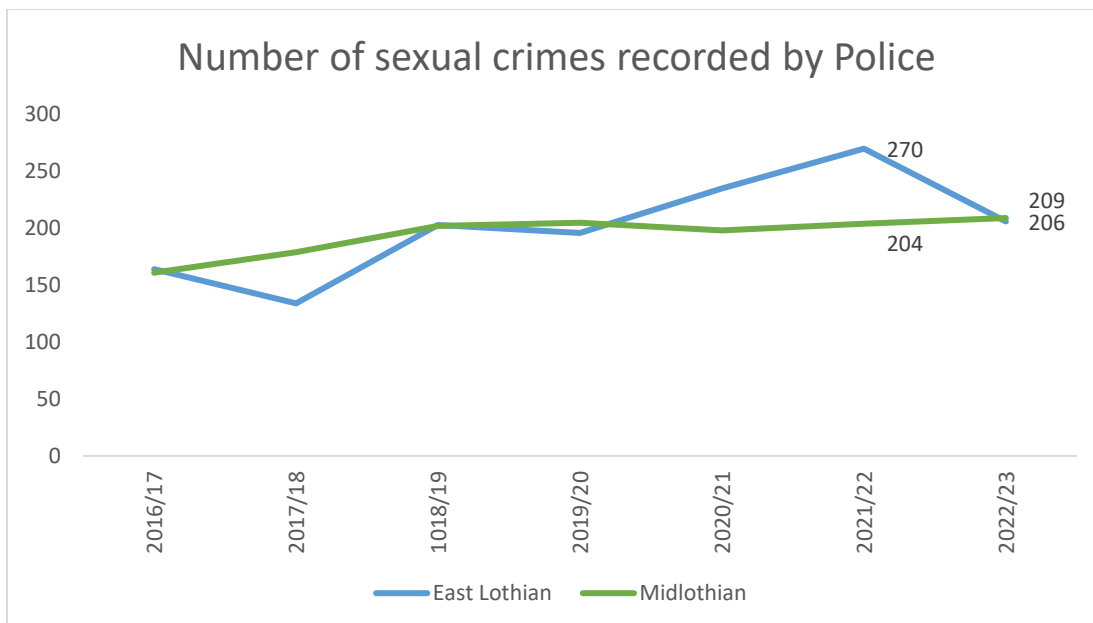
Women’s most common support needs identified

Mental health & wellbeing
Safety
Housing
Financial Support

A key concern for us has been to monitor demand and reduce the waiting lists and waiting times for support for women and their children, which had been accumulated due to the impact of the pandemic.

All service users on the waiting list received ad hoc/triage support a minimum of every 10 days which includes risk assessment so that those at high risk are prioritised for support. Funding has been levered in to increase staff capacity and retention in the outreach services and the re-establishment of the high risk service from October 2022 has begun to have a positive impact.

Sexual crimes

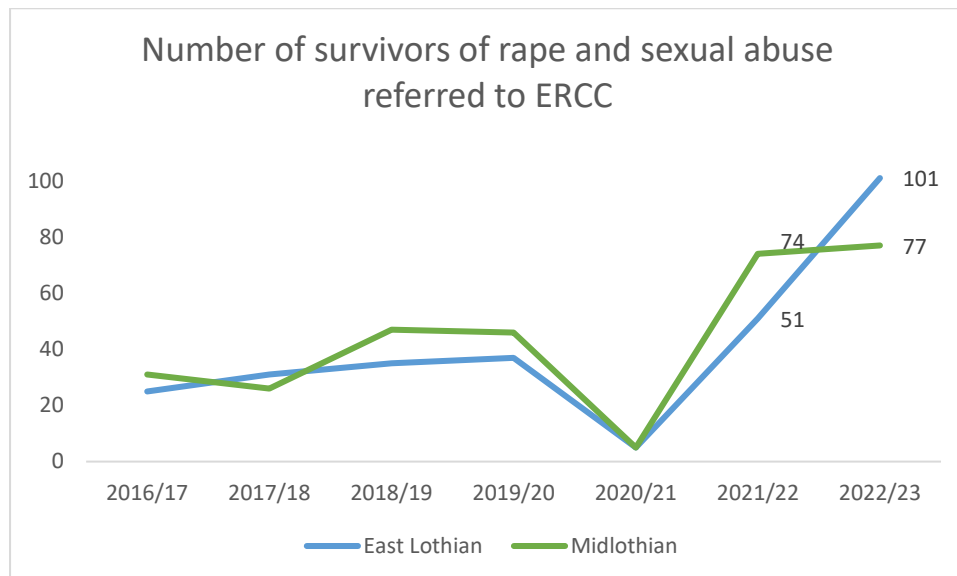


The number of sexual crimes recorded by Police is not a count of victim or perpetrator – could involve multiple offences relating to the same victim or perpetrator. It also does not provide a breakdown by type or by historical/recent offences. The reported figures for 2022/23 are provisional and will be revised if necessary following their Official Statistics publication later in the year.

In East Lothian, there has been a significant reduction in the number of sexual crimes reported from the previous year. Data over the previous five years shows that 2021/22 was an outlier in terms of volume, and therefore the total for 2022/23 was a return to more average levels of recorded crime, below that of two years ago (2020/21). The trend of increasing numbers of non-contact sexual offending since the pandemic is apparent in East Lothian in 2022/23 in terms of Communicating Indecently and Threatening/Disclosure of Intimate Image offences. The volume of Sexual Exposure offences also increased during

2022/23, primarily as a result of one repeat male offender who was charged with a number of other sexual crimes including voyeurism and sexual communication offences.

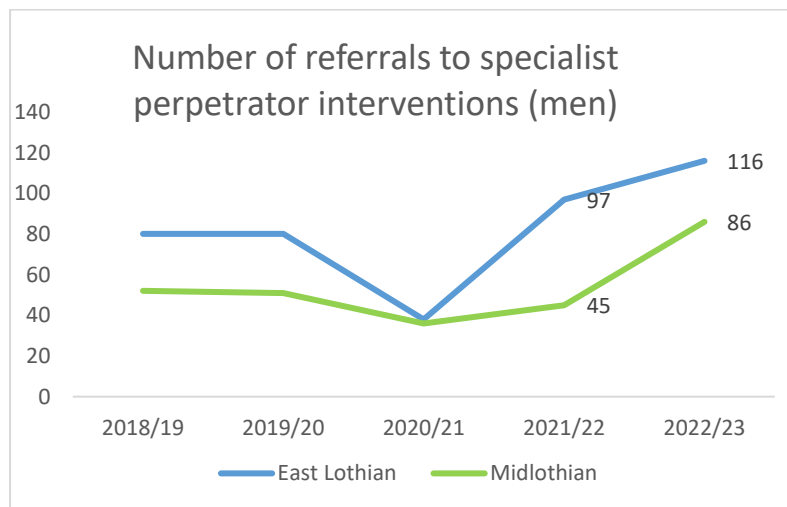
There has been very little change to overall numbers in Midlothian in the past few years. In terms of trends, there is similar pattern to East Lothian, with the proportion of sexual crime attributable to the non-contact offence of Communicating Indecently doubling since pre-pandemic years. This has also been mirrored with regards to crimes of Threatening/Disclosing of an Intimate Image which increased during the pandemic and has remained at elevated levels.



Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre saw a significant rise in the number of referrals in East Lothian, and a slight increase in referrals for Midlothian. Increased staff capacity in both areas helped to reduce average waiting times for short term here and now sessions. At the end of the last quarter of 2021-22, survivors were waiting 16 weeks for a session but the average for the year in 2022-23 was six weeks. Similarly in Midlothian, the average waiting times reduced from 16 at the end of the last quarter to five weeks for a 'Here and Now' session. Waiting times for long term support were significantly longer, averaging to 12-16 weeks in both areas.

The increase in referrals for East Lothian was directly proportional to increased engagement with the community and professionals in East Lothian including greater visibility in the community. ERCC also saw an increase in engagement with both their services generally as they were able to meet access costs for survivors particularly travel and child care costs. One of the outreach locations in East Lothian is able to offer child care on site and this has helped with survivor engagement.

Perpetrators



In East Lothian the increase from 97 to 116 is probably representative of the resumption in Court ‘business as normal’ post pandemic, as well as a continued focus within East Lothian Justice Social Work to pro-actively screen in men for perpetrator interventions.

Similarly in Midlothian the increase from 45 to 86 is representative of the resumption in Court business. In addition, Midlothian Justice Service has introduced changes including: assessing all men convicted of domestic abuse offences for the Caledonian Men’s Programme, whether requested by the Court or not; when this is not possible Justice Social Workers are required to complete a ‘screening’ questionnaire for all men subject to a Court report for domestic abuse offence to consider his suitability for further assessment; and renewed promotion of Your Chance to Change which is the voluntary service for perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Supporting Practice

Marac is key to Public Protection VAWG activity. This year we have completed 72% of our Marac Improvement Plan actions (approved December 2021). The key actions achieved were:

- Improved support for victims at high/very high risk from domestic abuse by relocating the specialist support service and appropriate funding within Women’s Aid East and Midlothian, including recruitment of three specialist staff;
- Offered briefings on Equally Safe and Marac for key services and for the wider workforce;
- Provided a Marac developmental session focusing on creative action planning facilitated by SafeLives which was very well attended by our Marac representatives;
- Recruited two further Marac chairs to reach a pool of seven chairs. This is key to being able to cover all 26 planned Maracs and any additional ones required to meet demand. Most chairs are now participating in national Marac chairs meetings. This is testament to our shared commitment to Marac;
- Agencies improved their internal processes in relation to Marac by completing our Marac agency form; this ensures staff are aware of their service’s role in Marac and supports effective preparation, participation and reporting actions within timescale

- Agencies improved their understanding of risk in relation to Marac with more of them undertaking our Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Abuse risk assessment and safety planning training;
- Re-established the Marac Steering Group for governance and leadership with further work underway to ensure continuity; and
- Strengthened business capability with new automated Marac agendas and improved reporting through our specialist database.

Equally Safe in Practice (ESiP)

We are delighted to have become an early adopter of Equally Safe in Practice (ESiP). ESiP is a new national training framework designed to build the capacity of the workforce to understand the dynamics of violence against women and girls and the causal link with gender equality. ESiP is key to delivery of the Equally Safe national strategy at local level. Scottish Women's Aid delivered a presentation on ESiP and some of our L&D Sub-group members tested out the three modules within the Level 1 part of the framework. Level 1 is aimed at the general workforce, with three modules on gender equality, domestic abuse and sexual abuse. Feedback was positive with an interest in taking this forward locally in the coming year. Our CSOG has agreed to implement Level 1 across both Councils and for us to explore the Level 6 part of the framework which is for Leaders. In addition, NHS Lothian and Fire Service colleagues are looking into introducing EilP into their agencies.

VAWG Themed Briefings

This year we introduced online Briefings which have proved very popular and have quickly become embedded into our Learning and Development calendar. In VAWG our core programme of Briefings now include:

- Understanding Marac provided by EMPPO;
- The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DS DAS) provided by the Police;
- Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Experience of 'Honour' Based Abuse provided by Shakti Women's Aid; and
- Understanding the Impact of Rape and Sexual Violence provided by Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre.

This year we also laid the foundations for other less visible aspects of VAWG such as Commercial Sexual Exploitation in relation to poverty and human trafficking and the sex industry as well as transforming masculinities.

We have recognised that Briefings are a bite-sized accessible way to reach a much wider audience including management from across the workforce and elected members and they help to raise awareness of wider issues with a cross policy approach. We have greatly expanded our distribution list for Briefings and Newsletters, which help to deliver our core message that '**Public Protection is everyone's responsibility**'.

Developments/improvements

This year each Council made a commitment to developing their own Equally Safe Strategy and Plan, acknowledging the benefits of a holistic approach across all services within each Council area. It is recognised that gender equity is key to preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls, as well as ensuring services are in place for survivors and to challenge perpetrators. This year we worked with the Council leads and the Improvement Service on the approach and timetable. Midlothian's Equally Safe Leadership group was formed with the first meeting held in April 2023. East Lothian put in place new governance arrangements locating Equally Safe as a sub-group of the Community Safety and Justice Partnership. This work will progress in the coming year.

Our partnership VAWG Prevention Plan was completed and approved in principle by EMPPC. It was agreed to divide the Plan into three areas of responsibility: Public Protection, East Lothian and Midlothian, so that latter two could inform the Equally Safe developments described above.

We developed a VAWG Service Gaps baseline document covering services for people of all ages and genders, funding, capacity and policy. The VAWG delivery group will monitor the status of VAWG Service Gaps every six months. This document will inform service pathways work which will be part of each local authority's Equally Safe implementation.

Our partnership project 'Delivering Equally Safe in East Lothian and Midlothian: Embedding a gender-informed effective response to VAWG' is funded through the Scottish Government's Delivering Equally Safe Fund. Our project focuses on domestic abuse covering the high-risk Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and Safe & Together virtual training in Core practice for staff (equivalent to four days) and for Supervisors (equivalent to two days). This year we were able to make use of an underspend to support an additional 1.5 outreach staff from Women's Aid East and Midlothian seeking to reduce the waiting list for support. The Scottish Government has extended this funding until March 2025 in time for commencement of the refreshed national Equally Safe strategy from 1st April 2025.

Sustainable funding models/approaches

The East Lothian and Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnerships, with support from EMPPC, undertook a joint review of funding, commissioning and governance arrangements for local VAWG services on behalf of the Critical Services Oversight Group. This, along with the Service Gaps document, will also contribute to the Equally Safe strategies discussed above.

'Honour' Based Abuse (HBA) is one of the lesser understood aspects of VAWG. In previous years we ran training on HBA which had limited uptake. This year we focused on integrating HBA into existing training and information, for example, within the Introduction to VAWG and Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment and Safety Planning trainings, our Marac Briefings and Newsletters and widening our reach by running periodic HBA briefings which are well attended. We set up an HBA short life working group led by Shakti Women's Aid and Edinburgh Rape Crisis to identify what else would assist; there is an intention to provide supporting information for staff such as guidance and a '7- minute briefing'.

The Restorative Justice (RJ) Programme within Community Justice Scotland, was launched in May 2022, and is being piloted in our Sheriffdom. There has been a national discussion and concern about the appropriateness of RJ for cases where VAWG is involved. The VAWG Co-ordinator and members of the VAWG delivery group have been actively engaged in national forums on RJ and in relation to this concern as well as through our local RJ stakeholder group. The national lead for Restorative Justice and Thriving Survivors delivered a presentation to the VAWG Delivery Group on the Restorative Justice service for survivors of rape and sexual assault that is being piloted in Midlothian. The VAWG Delivery Group received regular updates on local activity including recently published local research on the voices of those who have caused harm and Restorative Justice. We will continue to review progress in the coming year through our VAWG Delivery Group.

[Your Vision: Support for Young Women in East Lothian](#) was published in November 2022. Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) and Women's Aid East and Midlothian (WAEML) commissioned this research with East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership funding, to understand how many young women and non-binary people in East Lothian have experienced abuse or harm in their own relationships, and how many have experienced sexual assault. It looks at where they go for support currently, if there are barriers to getting support, and what kind of support is needed. YWCA Scotland carried out the research alongside the Young Women's Research Collective, made up of eight local young women aged 16 – 25, who designed the project. The survey collected 110 complete responses. The results reported that 31% of respondents had been in a relationship with someone who was abusive or harmed them physically or emotionally, and 36% of survey respondents had experienced sexual assault.

The research was launched at an on-line event during our 16 Days of Activism programme which 76 people attended and it has also been widely promoted. In line with the report findings ERCC and WAEML are adapting their services, and services connected to young people in our communities plan to undertake Zero Tolerance's Under Pressure training to improve the experience for girls and young women. We are hopeful that other local services will evolve to better suit the needs of young women in the local community.

Contributing to the consultation on national commissioning of funding

We have remained active in the National VAW Network providing a local perspective on national Equally Safe actions and those of many other policy areas. A key focus this year has been on contributing to the [Independent Review of Funding and Commissioning of Violence Against Women and Girls Services in Scotland](#), which reported its findings on 5th June 2023. The principal role of the review was to develop a more consistent, coherent, collective and stable funding model that will ensure high quality, accessible specialist services across Scotland for women, children and young people experiencing any form of violence against women and girls. We participated at different points throughout the process including a dedicated session with the Independent Chair and responding as a partnership to the public call for evidence. We share the Network's work through the VAWG Delivery Group and members are regularly invited to contribute to national roundtable discussions and we bring key developments to the attention of into EMPPC.

Contribution to co-working – Midlothian Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)

We have worked closely with the Midlothian Community Justice Board and Working Group to take account of the experiences of victims and also to develop the approach to delivering Equally Safe Priority 4² linking with prevention and early intervention work. This collaboration is reflected in our 16 Days of Activism to end VAWG launch event which focused on bringing men and boys on board and included key inputs on transforming masculinities. It is also evident across the new Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan 2023 which makes a commitment to integrating a gender analysis across all services as well as developing and delivering a Priority 4 Pathway.

Guidance and Procedures

We developed a Marac Information Sharing Protocol with support from our Information Governance Manager in East Lothian. This provides guidance for staff on key principles around information sharing, GDPR and data protection. We will bring this to conclusion in the coming year.

Our Marac Operating Protocol was reviewed and updated in line with service changes and developments.

Awareness raising/communications

The 16 Days of Activism to end VAWG is a key campaign led by the VAWG Delivery Group within the VAWG Prevention Plan. For our 2022 Programme, our partners ran 24 events, reaching more than 1,300 people, and many more through our collective media campaign – this does not include other initiatives that took place in local services and communities.

Our focus was to ‘bring men and boys on board to end VAWG’. Our launch event on Friday 25th November, entitled ‘What next? Time to get our men and boys involved’ was attended by 74 people across East Lothian and Midlothian – staff, volunteers, local Councillors – it was great to see so many people who used the 16 days background on the MS Teams call – a really powerful message to us all!

² Equally Safe Strategy Priority 4: Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response. Objectives: Justice responses are robust, swift, consistent and coordinated. Men who carry out violence against women and girls are identified early and held to account by the criminal and civil justice system. Relevant links are made between the experience of women, children and young people in the criminal and civil system.

MAPPA

EMPPC's local sub-group, EMMG, provides the opportunity for multi-agency partnership oversight of the arrangements for MAPPA. MAPPA brings together professionals from the Police, Social Work, Housing, Health and the Scottish Prison Service in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders. These agencies are known as the 'responsible authorities'. While the arrangements are co-ordinated by a central unit based in Edinburgh, the practical management of offenders remains the responsibility of these agencies at local level. Within MAPPA there are three risk management levels:

- Level 1 - routine risk management by the 'responsible authority'
- Level 2 - Multi-agency risk management
- Level 3 - Multi-agency Public Protection Panels.

Individuals subject to MAPPA processes include those subject to Sex Offender Notification Requirements (SONR) and those considered to pose an 'Other Risk of Serious Harm', more informally referred to as MAPPA category 3 individuals.

Through EMMG we reviewed performance reports for both area on a quarterly basis. This provides an overview of MAPPA performance with 51 indicators. The majority of these indicators are reported on a national basis.

Within East Lothian the total number of sex offenders subject to MAPPA at quarter period end-date ranged from 60 to 75 in the year, with the majority living in the community. All were being managed at MAPPA Level 1 (ordinary Agency management, where the offender can be managed by the lead agency in consultation with other agencies involved). Through the performance oversight, we identified throughout the year that the multi-agency Public Protection arrangements for the management of registered Sex Offenders were functioning effectively and efficiently.

Within Midlothian, the total number of sex offenders subject to MAPPA at quarter period end-date ranged from 52 to 55 in the year, with the majority living in the community. Almost all were being managed at MAPPA Level 1, with a very small number managed at Level 2 (where there is inter-agency management, planning and reviewing between Police and other agencies). Similarly to East Lothian, we identified throughout the year that the multi-agency Public Protection arrangements for the management of registered Sex Offenders were functioning effectively and efficiently.

The oversight and governance of the effectiveness of multi-agency working arrangements within Midlothian continues to be reviewed on a quarterly basis through random selection of cases managed by Police and Justice Social Work. A programme of audit is in place, supported by the MAPPA Co-ordinator for Lothians and the Scottish Borders. It was agreed that there should be four Level 1 MAPPA case file audits, with each audit focusing on one Justice Social Work and one Police managed case from each local authority area. The Justice Social Work Managers for East Lothian and Midlothian Councils, Detective Inspector, Sex Offender Policing Unit, NHS Lothian MAPPA Liaison Officer and the MAPPA Co-ordinator undertake the audits. A report was considered by our EMMG in August 2022. Significant areas of strength around inter-agency working, were identified:

- All cases contained very detailed offending histories and all relevant information was appropriately recorded;
- The use of approved risk assessment tools is clearly evident and the review panel supported the overall assessment of risk in each case;
- MAPPA risk formulations demonstrate a clear understanding of the risks and provide future scenarios for offending; and
- There was good evidence of real time information sharing and decision making between Housing, Health, Adult and Children's Services, Police and JSW.

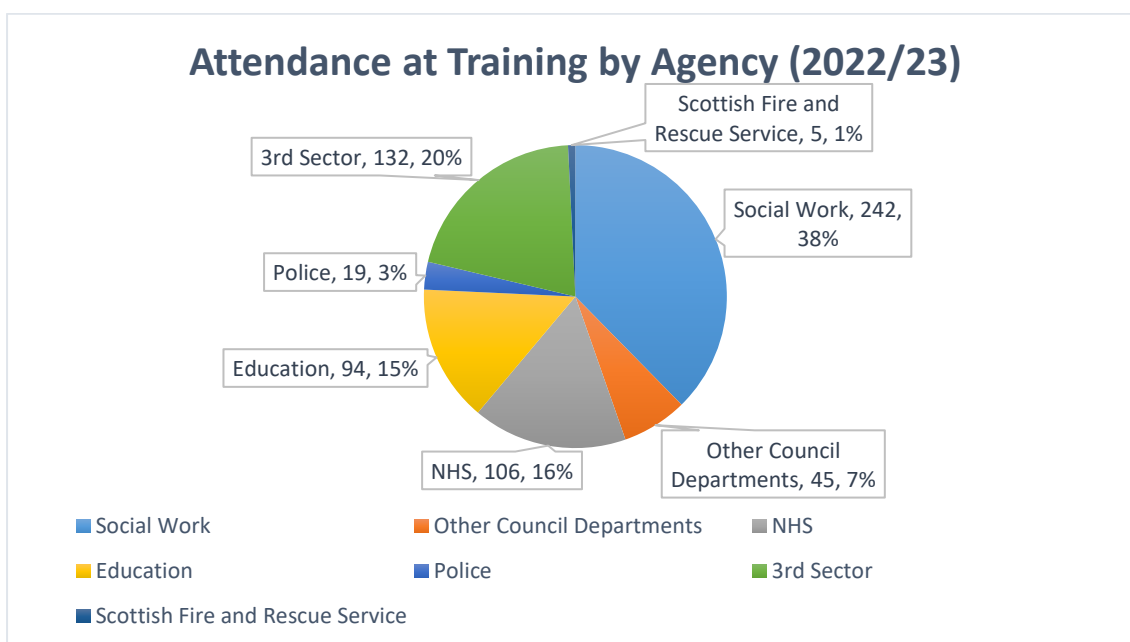
The Justice Service Managers who are representatives on our P&QI Sub-group delivered a presentation to the November 2022 meeting to support discussion on and understanding of MAPPA performance. This was useful in highlighting the context of this work, recognising that MAPPA and the Caledonian programme are proportionately a very small part of the work carried out by Justice Services. In the coming year, we will take steps to raise awareness of MAPPA and its processes, to provide assurance about the level of monitoring, management and oversight of this area of work.

Learning and Development

- We delivered 27 multi-agency training courses over 174 hours, seven more than last year and three more than 2020-21;
- 689 staff, volunteers and carers from East Lothian and Midlothian attended training courses, which was an increase of 41.8% from the previous year;
- We introduced on-line Briefings to provide additional learning and development opportunities in a bite-sized, accessible way;
- We delivered 22 on-line Briefings and Learning Events, including a Launch Event for 16 days of activism in November 2022 and for Adult Support and Protection Day in February 2023;
- 1214 staff, volunteers and carers from East Lothian and Midlothian attended our on-line learning events and Briefings over three quarters of the year;
- We delivered Council Officer (ASP) training for 14 Social Workers and one Health Professional;
- Three courses were delivered in-person – all other courses and learning events were delivered on-line; and
- 54.3% (349 of 643) of attendees at training provided feedback, with almost all reporting that they had increased their knowledge as a result of attending.

Training Courses (excludes Council Officer training)				
Time period	Number of courses	Change from last year	Number of attendees	Change from last year
Quarter 1, Apr - Jun	7	↑4	189	↑131
Quarter 2, Jul - Sept	6	↑3	134	↑66
Quarter 3, Oct to Dec	8	↑1	208	=
Quarter 4, Jan to Mar	6	↓1	158	↓2
Total	27	↑7	689	↑223

Briefings and Events		
Time period	Number of Briefings/Events	Number of attendees
Quarter 1, Apr – Jun	4	Did not collate
Quarter 2, Jul – Sept	3	88
Quarter 3, Oct to Dec	6	259
Quarter 4, Jan to Mar	9	867 (968 including Edinburgh staff)
Total	22	1214



Course	Number delivered	Partners involved in delivery
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
Child Protection Refresher Training	1	Lead Officer, Public Protection Office, Education – East Lothian
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)	4	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)	5	Public Protection Office
Trauma, Domestic Abuse and Children and Young People	1	Caledonian Service
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
Harmful Sexual Behaviour	2	Community Safety and Justice, Midlothian
Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness	2	Barnardo’s
Children Affected by Parental Substance Use	1	MELDAP and Public Protection Office

Training evaluation

All courses were evaluated by way of an on-line survey sent to participants after each course. The questions in the on-line survey include a mix of quantitative measures and

opportunities to provide comments about what attendees liked and what would be even better. Our Learning & Practice Development Sub-group reviewed the reports from each training evaluation.

54.3% of attendees completed the on-line survey after training. This was a reduction from the previous year. 96.3% of attendees reported an increase in their knowledge as a result of attending the training, and 94.8% reported they had enough information to put their learning into practice. This was a reduction from 60.5% who completed an on-line evaluation last year.

We routinely receive positive feedback about the multi-agency involvement in training delivery and we thank our partners for their ongoing commitment to supporting the development of content for and delivery of our learning and development activities.

Feedback from training

“I really liked this training. It was a fab mix of interactive and learning info. It was varied and absorbing. I learned things that I did not know and I realise how important this area is to address and consider in my work. I loved having discussions in small groups as it afforded the first opportunity to network that I have done in two years with other agencies. All very well thought through” **Adult Support and Protection Roles and Responsibilities (Level 2)**

Informative. Varied amount of information - hearing from other professionals & their experience was good. Highlighting the importance of collaborative working. Delivered at a level that everyone could understand **Adult Support and Protection Roles and Responsibilities (Level 2)**

“It was detailed & thorough, explaining clearly the processes, procedures & responsibilities of personnel before, during & after initial CP referral. It was helpful to have representation/presentations from people across the sectors” **Child Protection – Risk Assessment and Processes (Level 2)**

“The training offered a really good balance between information sharing and opportunities to discuss/collaborate with peers. The pace was good, and there was a clear link across all presenters which helped reinforce learning” **Child Protection – Risk Assessment and Processes (Level 2)**

“Interactive, informative and evidence based. Paced well with breaks and over 2 days allowing time to reflect. Non judgemental” **Understanding VAWG and Spotlight on Domestic Abuse (Level 1)**

“The content was very clear and concise , which made understanding of a very sensitive issue easier to process” **Understanding VAWG and Spotlight on Domestic Abuse (Level 1)**

“I feel as though it provided a toolkit for safeguarding which I can use easily now if my offices safeguarding lead is unavailable. Going forward I will also be more vigilant in flagging clients potentially at risk to the relevant authority where I may not have considered these

before, believing there was not enough 'evidence'" **Public Protection is Everyone's Responsibility (Level 1)**

"Break out groups gave interesting insights in to other workers concerns and thought processes" **Public Protection is Everyone's Responsibility (Level 1)**

Reflections on our training

Detailed reports of feedback from training were reviewed at our L&PD Sub-group. We aimed to return to more in-person training in the year, but saw competing demands for training venues, and therefore offered only three courses on an in-person basis. Whilst some staff indicated they wished to return to in-person training, others indicated they welcomed the flexibility of being able to attend on-line. Going forward we will have a hybrid approach to training, whilst recognising that some courses may be more suited to being delivered on an in-person basis, and we will therefore keep the delivery methods under review via our L&PD Sub-group.

EMPPC Newsletter

We continued to develop our EMPPC Newsletter over the year, which we disseminate and publish on a quarterly basis – in the year, we published editions in May 2022, August 2022, November 2022 and February 2023. These are available on the [EMPPC Website](#) and are aimed at providing learning and reference materials, as well as information about the work of EMPPC and its Sub-groups. In each edition we include a Spotlight on a specific topic of common interest across all services. We recognise that one of the purposes of our Newsletter as a learning and development tool, and will seek to ensure it has a wide audience-reach and continues to be promoted through our various local networks.

Looking forward

We will see some changes in 2023-24 in the membership of EMPPC and its Sub-groups. For the first time we will have an Independent Chair of EMPPC as Keith Mackay steps into the role. We will hold a developmental session for EMPPC later in the year, and identify themes for continuous improvement in how we work together to deliver on our shared priorities for Public Protection.

As the developmental work our Critical Services Oversight Group started in 2022-23 comes to conclusion, we will take forward an improvement plan with actions included in our Business Plan.

We are introducing a Learning Review Sub-group, which will be a Sub-group of EMPPC. Keith Mackay, our Independent Chair will chair this group. The remit of this will be to:

1. Maintain an overview of the progress of Learning Reviews – to ensure timescales for completion are on track and consider if any escalation is needed to address any drift/delay;
2. Oversee the development of action plans;
3. Monitor action plans arising from any Learning Reviews; and
4. Ensure plans are progressed to disseminate learning from any learning reviews.

Two of our current Sub-groups will have new Chairs – our VAWG Delivery Group will be chaired by DCI Steve Wood, Police Scotland, and our EMMG will be chaired by Lindsey Byrne, CSWO/Head of Children’s Services, East Lothian Council.

Across all areas of our business, we will continue to develop our approach to performance improvement, through multi-agency quality assurance activity, use of data. We will take steps to gather and learn from the views of and feedback from the children, adults and families who come into contact with our key processes to manage risk and harm. We will also work with partners locally and nationally to see how we can improve how we understand and measure the impact of all that we do.

Adult Support and Protection Priorities

We will finalise and implement our revised Adult Support and Protection Procedures. Alongside this, we will introduce the Adult Support and Protection Minimum Dataset of performance indicators. We will develop and progress the improvement plan arising from the East Lothian Inspection. We will undertake multi-agency self-evaluation and engage in a joint inspection in Midlothian which will take place at some stage in the coming year.

Child Protection

We will finalise and implement our multi-agency Child Protection Procedures. We will introduce the second iteration of the Child Protection Minimum Dataset of performance indicators. We will continue to develop our approaches to harmful sexual behaviour and child sexual exploitation. We will undertake multi-agency self-evaluation and engage in a joint inspection in East Lothian which will take place at some stage in the coming year.

Violence Against Women and Girls Priorities

In the coming year, we will see each local authority area develop their own Equally Safe Strategy and Plan, to ensure that the four priorities of the national [Equally Safe Strategy](#) are progressed across all services. Consequently, we will revise our VAWG Delivery Group terms of reference to ensure there is alignment with the work with the two areas to support the development of their local Strategies.

MAPPA

We will ensure our Sub-group is well aligned to the Lothians and Borders MAPPA Operational Group and Strategic Oversight Group.

Appendix 1 – Business Plan Priorities

What will we do (our high level aims)	What we are working to achieve	What difference will it make (outcome and impact)
<p>Continue to strengthen our leadership arrangements in Public Protection</p>	<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"> • Children, young people and adults receive the right support at the right time to prevent harm and reduce the impact of harm • Child and adult protection concerns are recognised and responded to in a trauma informed way (with compassion, care and protection) • We are meeting and improving our agreed performance standards in key processes and practice • Staff are competent and confident in recognising risk and harm and responding appropriately
<p>Provide and support the implementation of multi-agency procedures and guidance for staff working in Public Protection</p>	<p>To lead and guide staff in their practice</p> <p>To promote a collaborative and integrated approach to reducing harm</p>	
<p>Continue to develop our performance framework and approach to quality improvement</p>	<p>To ensure that we are collating and analysing the right type of information to support performance monitoring and continuous improvement</p>	

Appendix 1 – Business Plan Priorities

What will we do (our high level aims)	What we are working to achieve	What difference will it make (outcome and impact)
<p>Promote and support a learning culture by providing staff with multi-agency learning and development opportunities in Public Protection</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>	
What will we do (our high level aims)	What we are working to achieve	What difference will it make (outcome and impact)

Appendix 1 – Business Plan Priorities

We will raise awareness of Public Protection through communications and engagement with staff and communities

To ensure that our work is informed by the experiences and rights of children, young people and adults

To ensure that our work is informed by the experiences of staff

To ensure that staff across services know how to raise concerns about child and adult protection and access support

To ensure that appropriate information about Public Protection is provided to the public, and that members of the public know how to raise concerns about Child and Adult Protection, and seek support