



East Lothian and Midlothian
Public Protection Committee

Staff Newsletter November 2024



Welcome to East Lothian and Midlothian Public Protection Committee's latest staff newsletter. Our articles contain hyperlinks to connect you to online resources.

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emppc.co.uk

Message from Keith Mackay, Chair of EMPPC

“Observations of an ever-changing picture!

As Chair of the EMPPC I was having a think back at our year and the services we have supported and helped to provide, and I realised that life working in this sector is most definitely a moving feast. Nothing stays the same, our procedures and processes are evolving, and we are always trying hard to keep up with a fast-moving world. If we sit back and enjoy the glow of success from our endeavours, we are probably falling behind as new issues and policy appear over the horizon to shape our next year ahead.

It is probably the evolving challenges that keep us fresh and on our toes and make our variety of jobs all interconnected through the root base of a public protection partnership.

Our strength and growth comes from our abilities to work together and share and learn from one another.

It has been an interesting year of adaptation and embedding in of our Multi Agency Child Protection Procedures and Adult Support and Protection Procedures. We have risen to the challenges of multiple Joint Inspections and the additional work that they bring whilst embracing the learning that we can take from the findings. Our understanding of the Learning Review national processes has expanded and been rewarding as we completed our first review and embark on our second. We have begun the journey of sharing the learning both locally and nationally and are seeing the importance of how this shapes our working behaviours and future proofs them.

It's clear to me that we can only get stronger by listening to lived experiences of those we serve but also the voices of our staff who are the eyes and ears on the ground. We often discuss the merits of well written chronologies but there is no doubt that the best predictor of the future is looking at the past.

Message from Keith Mackay, Chair of EMPPC

If we all consider our own employment challenges and think about what makes our daily working life easier but also more effective and then hold that thought and then build those areas that strengthen our outcomes into our daily routines; then the system will be stronger for those who follow on behind us.

How do we pull together the lived experiences of those we work with and more importantly what do we do with them to improve our process and how do we measure the impact? Interesting questions that we all need to ask ourselves and consider asking those who we work with. As we go forward towards the end of 2024 and start planning for 2025 this should be an area of importance that we challenge ourselves with, as this will be a measure of how we are evolving with the changing pictures within public protection.

We developed our structure of EMPPC this year to include Adult Support and Protection and Child Protection Sub-Groups, and this

area of lived experience will be a challenge for both groups to work towards a stronger position and set us new standards. They will not be able to do this in isolation so they will be coming and looking for your thoughts and ideas so don't be backward in going forward and speak up and share your thoughts.

The ever changing picture I see includes our own ability to communicate. As with all communication it's a two way process so please feed back to us what you like and what could be better and anything or a resource that would strengthen the site. 2025 will be a year where we at EMPPC will be taking a deeper look at how we Communicate with both you and with our communities as we adapt and keep up and strengthen.

Enjoy our Newsletter, as always it is full of interesting and helpful information.

Best wishes as we move towards the festive period".

Meet the Committee - in this edition we meet Jonny Wright, DCI in the Public Protection Unit, Police Scotland.

“I have been Detective Chief Inspector for Child Protection, Adult Support & Protection and Concern Hub for the Lothians and Scottish Borders since July 2024.

During my 21 years in the Police, I have worked within various roles in the public protection and criminal investigation arena within Edinburgh and the East of Scotland. Prior to transfer to my current role, I retained national responsibility for the harm prevention portfolio within our Partnerships, Prevention and Community Wellbeing Division.



Within my current role, I retain management oversight of policing response to all matters of concern in respect of child protection and adult support & protection within East and Midlothian, ensuring effectiveness within investigations and supporting the safeguarding of everyone within our communities.

I hold additional responsibility for management of our Divisional Concern Hub, who triage concern reports submitted by Police Officers from those that they encounter in our communities, identify areas of risk and work with partners to seek to mitigate that risk and implement appropriate safeguarding measures.

I am hugely passionate in keeping our communities safe and have always believed that partnership and listening to our communities is the key to ensuring the wellbeing of all. I am delighted to be working in East and Midlothian and would always encourage any feedback or reports to be made with the knowledge of commitment from myself and my colleagues to ensure the upmost professionalism and dedication to provide a quality of service which all should expect³ and deserve”.

Meet the Committee - in this edition we meet Brian Sutherland, DCI in the Public Protection Unit, Police Scotland.

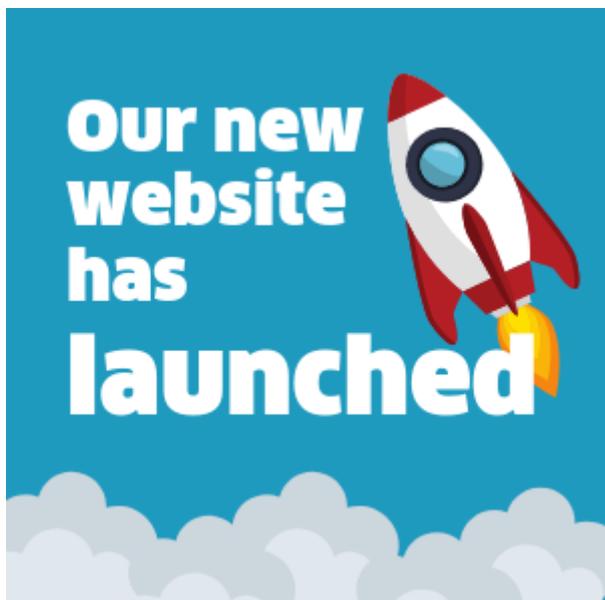
Brian tells us “I assumed the post of Detective Chief Inspector within J Division on 1st July 2024. 24 years into my policing journey, I am extremely proud to have eventually secured a posting in the Lothians & Borders Division. I was born and raised within the division and as I continue to reside here, I am pleased to say my family will also benefit from all that the area has to offer.

My motivation for pursuing a career in Policing is simple, I enjoy helping people. Public Service is a privilege and in particular, the Public Protection arena provides opportunities to positively impact the lives of the most vulnerable people in our communities. Whilst this work can at times be traumatic, it is also hugely rewarding.

I have responsibility for day-to-day divisional management of rape/sexual crime, domestic abuse, and sex offender policing. As part of my Public Protection Committee duties, I perform chair duties of the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) delivery group.

I have learned throughout my career that the complex issues facing our communities cannot ordinarily be resolved by a single agency and have come to value and appreciate the professional relationships formed through partnership working arrangements. With that in mind, I am really looking forward to collaborating with committee members and wider stakeholders”.





You can find us here
emppc.co.uk

We were excited to launch our new website on 7th October. We hope you are finding it helpful and informative. It includes guidance documents and procedures, and the sections under [Public Protection](#) include some frequently asked questions – click on + to open and close the answers.

Over time we will gather analytics to help us see how many hits we are getting, what pages are most popular and what searches are being made.

In 2025 we will be looking at how we can strengthen our communications with you and the wider public in East Lothian and Midlothian.

Alongside our new website we have launched our new Logo – we hope you like it!

Let us know what you think about our website here.



[Contact us | emppc.co.uk](https://emppc.co.uk)



In this edition, we say farewell to Davy Girrity, who has represented Scottish Fire and Rescue on our EMPPC for a number of years. Thank you, Davy, for your support and advice!



Welcome to two new EMPPC members. Bec Hooton has taken up post as Head of Children's Services in Midlothian Council. We will also shortly welcome Steve Oliver who will take up the post of Group Commander with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Training update

The logo features a colorful, abstract geometric pattern in shades of blue, purple, and green. The text 'Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font over the pattern.

Centre of
expertise
on child
sexual abuse

Between now and March next year, CSA is running a series of free one-hour webinars on sexual abuse. Eileen Marnoch, our Child Protection Lead Officer highly recommends them as essential learning for anyone working with children and families. Click on the links below to register.

[Supporting parents / carers when their child may have been sexually abused](#) on Wednesday 13th November at 16:00

[Speaking to children about sexual abuse](#) on Tuesday 19th November at 09:00

[Responding to harmful sexual behaviour in education settings](#) on Tuesday 3rd December at 15:45

[Spotting the signs and indicators of child sexual abuse](#) on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 09:00



The training page on our website has all the up-to-date information on our upcoming training. You can find out more about how to book on any of our learning offers which are free to staff who work in East Lothian and Midlothian, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. [How to book on our training and briefings.](#)

Adult Support and Protection

What is neglect and what could it look like?

Neglect is when someone who should be caring for the adult does not do so at all or does to a poor standard. This could be by a paid carer or an informal unpaid carer. It can involve deliberately withholding care or not providing adequate care due to lack of awareness of the need to do so and/or lack of skills. Self-neglect is when an individual does not look after their own needs to the extent their wellbeing suffers. The SSSC [Adult Support and Protection App](#) lists the signs to watch out for:

- Not maintaining their preferred level of personal cleanliness.
- Not attending medical appointments.
- Not having enough to eat or drink.
- Not having social contact with others.
- Not being supported to move around (for example, being left in bed).
- Not resetting a night alarm or buzzer.
- Inadequate heating or nutrition, isolation and abandonment, withholding key essentials, denying access to social or educational services.
- Leaving the person alone and at risk.
- Failure to give the person dignity and privacy.
- Failure to take an adult at risk to medical appointments or administer medication.

Symptoms that someone may experience from neglect include:

- A deterioration in overall health and wellbeing.
- Loss of dignity and self-esteem.
- Isolation and loss of contact with family and friends.
- Loss of motivation.
- Reduced levels of independence.

Neglect can happen anywhere, including in the adult's home, in supported accommodation or a care home. The impact on the adult can be severe, so if you are at all concerned an adult is at risk of harm due to neglect, please report your concerns promptly.

Adult Support and Protection



An estimated 1 in 40 adults under 55 experience hoarding. For those over 55, it is roughly 6% of the population, although that may be a conservative estimate according to academics. Hoarding goes beyond mere clutter. It becomes a disorder when the accumulation of items disrupts daily living and when rooms can no longer serve their intended purpose. It is a condition that can be triggered by loss, trauma, or mental health issues. Hoarding disorder was officially recognised as a mental health condition in 2013 yet understanding and awareness is limited.

Read one man's story here ['It's my hoarding mess, but it's who I am' - BBC News](#).

Iriss (The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services) is working with a mix of strategic and local partners to co-design a better and more joined up approach across Scotland to hoarding - a hidden and often misunderstood mental health issue that impacts on people who hoard, their families, communities and workers. The programme lead from IRISS said "We will continue bringing more partners into the group and our ambition is to develop a pan-Scotland, pan-agency approach to hoarding. People are keen for national guidelines and practice resources based on evidence and lived experience to manage risk, and better serve individuals who hoard and their families, communities and workers". A worker from Adult Services from East Lothian is on the working group so we will keep you updated on this work. You can read more about the launch of the task force [here](#).

Adult Support and Protection

Iriss

ASpire hub

A place to share resources and good practice in Adult Support and Protection



Iriss launched the ASpire hub on 28th August, an online place for everyone working in Adult Support and Protection in Scotland to access and share resources. It brings together practice-based resources from partnerships around the country and those developed by IRISS, and will be regularly updated with new materials, so make sure you check in regularly. It has 26 different categories of resources that you can access [here](#), including:

- [Participation](#)
- [Risk assessment](#)
- [Hoarding](#)
- [Trauma](#)
- [Learning Reviews](#)

The Adult Support and Protection Code of Practice states we must make a referral within 24 hours of being aware there is a concern. Making a good referral is as important as making it within that timescale. Sometimes referrals come into the local Social Work Contact centre which are more detailed than others. Occasionally they contain simple statements suggesting the adult is at risk of harm with very little other information. The less informative the referrals, the more time Social Work staff must take to establish if it is an Adult Support and Protection concern and what support and protection the adult requires. This can involve phone calls and e-mails to clarify the situation. Wherever possible, outline what types of harm you are concerned about, how imminent they are, how likely they are and the severity of harm they pose to the adult. These factors might not be clear to you upon referral but say what you can about them.

The more informed the referral, the sooner those that need support and protection will get it.

Adult Support and Protection



The Adult Support and Protection Code of Practice tells us that choice is one of the key principles of a trauma informed approach in ASP work. Why is it so important? When we sense we are deprived of choice, most of us do not like it, but can usually deal with the situation. Those who have trauma can experience this very differently.

Your autonomic nervous system is a network of nerves throughout your body that control unconscious processes. These are things that happen without you thinking about them, such as breathing and your heart beating. [Janina Fisher](#), Psychotherapist states “when choices are limited or when there is a feeling of being trapped, the autonomic nervous system senses danger and enacts a survival (fight or flight) response.” This can mean adults apparently overreacting, withdrawing from discussions, or seeming to ‘shut down’.

The basis for broaching the ‘difficult conversations’ can be getting the smaller, but still important things right. Then the trauma survivor is more able to think and discuss the concerns. Trauma can replace the need for connection with the need for protection from potential threat, at the adult’s expense. In your work with trauma survivors, where possible, planning should include how to provide opportunities for the adult to exercise choice.

The [Roadmap for creating trauma-informed and responsive change](#) provides prompts and guidance at Appendix A on how to design the physical environment of a service to be accessible, safe and welcoming. To support engagement, be flexible about appointments. In meetings, give the adult choice about where the adult would like to sit. Ask the adult what their priorities are. Planning the groundwork for meetings with vulnerable adults can pay dividends. It builds the foundations for work that feels safer for the adult, increasing the likelihood of better outcomes.

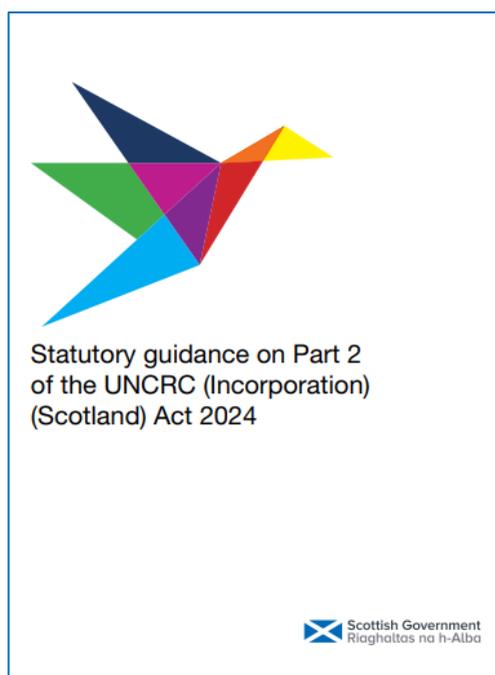
Child Protection

The One Good Adult Job Description

As part of the work of the [Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Joint Delivery Board](#) the Scottish Government, NHS Education Scotland and Education Scotland launched 'One Good Adult Job Description' on 11th September. This was written by children and young people and sets out what they say they need from the adults around them to support their mental health and wellbeing.



You can read the One Good Adult Job Description [here](#). There is supporting [Implementation Guidance](#), where you can read how the pilots in Aberdeen and North Ayrshire were used in schools and the wider community.



How aware are you of your duties and responsibilities under the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024?

The Scottish Government published guidance in September which supports public authorities to understand and fulfil their duties under section 6 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Act. Section 6 came into force in July of this year. The guidance has really good information on the background to UNCRC, and a helpful flowchart at page 16 to aid decision making about taking a children's human rights approach.

Child Protection



NSPCC Learning has published a briefing on young people's experiences of online sexual extortion, or 'sextortion'. Drawing from contacts to Childline and the NSPCC Helpline in 2023/24, the briefing explores: how sextortion occurs and how it can escalate, the impact on young people's mental wellbeing, how to spot the signs, and how to talk to young people who may be at risk. It also provides guidance for reporting and preventing incidents of sextortion. You can read the report [here](#).

Key messages from the report

- In 2023/24, Childline provided over 900 counselling sessions to young people relating to blackmail or threats to share sexual images online. The NSPCC Helpline handled over 150 contacts from adults concerned about this issue.
- Some young people were being blackmailed for money after someone they had met online threatened to release sexual images or videos of them.
- Some were being threatened with images that had been stolen from their devices, or with so-called 'fake nudes' created of them by perpetrators.
- Some were being forced to send more explicit imagery to an ex-boy/girlfriend, to prevent further sharing.
- Sextortion can negatively impact a child's mental wellbeing; for some, this had caused feelings of shame, guilt, anxiety and fear. Some even had thoughts of self-harm and suicide
- Some adults contacting the Helpline wanted practical advice around reporting incidents of sextortion involving children and mitigating the impact of harm, while others wanted to know how to talk to their child about this issue.

Child Protection

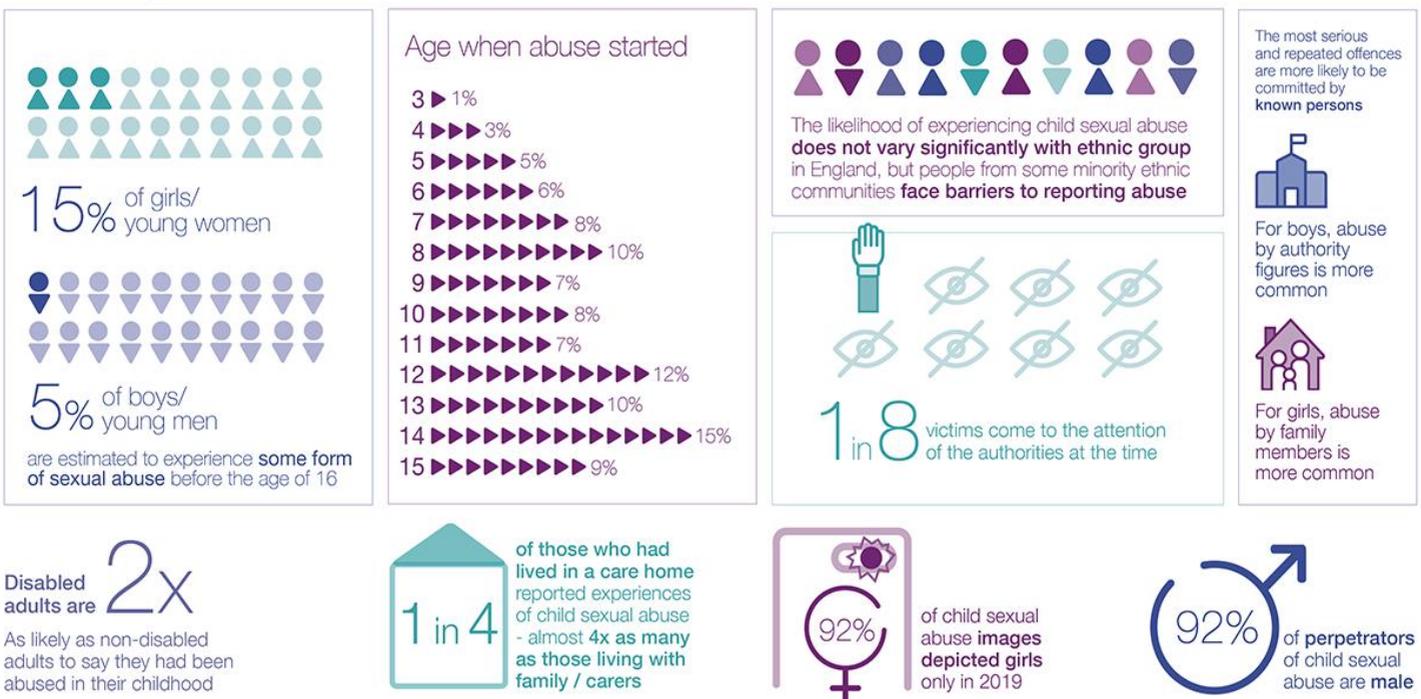
Child Sexual Abuse – the tip of the iceberg

Child sexual abuse is one of the most hidden forms of child abuse. Every year far more children are sexually abused than agencies identify. It is important to recognise the vulnerabilities in the child's environment which increase the opportunities for abuse to occur. The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse identify that:

- Children who live in conditions of neglect are **five times more likely** to be sexually abused than those with no experience of neglect
- Children who spend time in residential care are **four times more likely to be** (or have been) sexually abused than those who live only in a family home
- Disabled children are at **least twice as likely** as non-disabled children to be targeted by abusers.

A snapshot of child sexual abuse

Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse



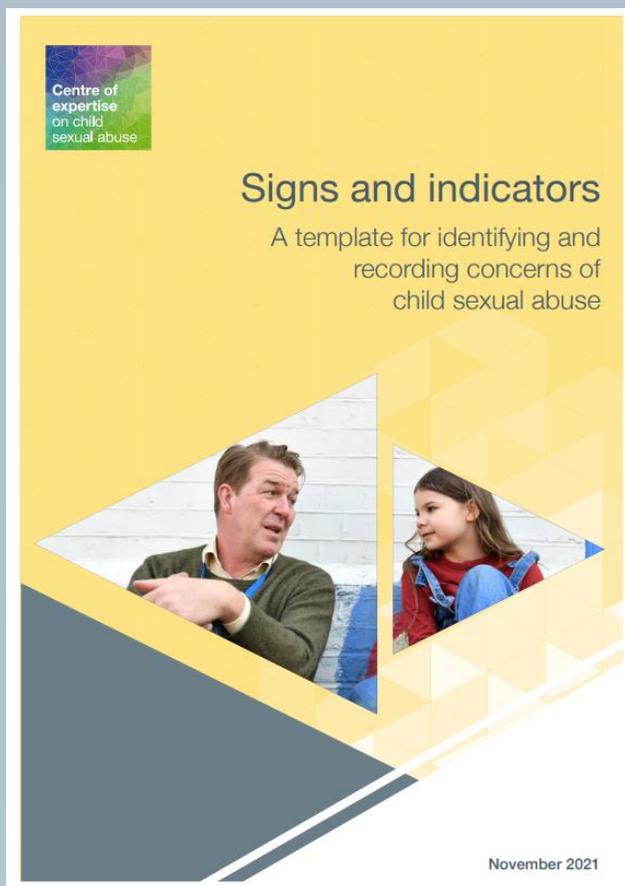
References: Department for Education: Characteristics of children in need: 2019 to 2020. Home Office Police Recorded Crime and Outcomes, year ending March 2020, updated 28 October 2020. Calculated using single-year prevalence estimates by age group (Radford et al, 2011, Childhood abuse and neglect in the UK today) and the Office for National Statistics 2019 population estimates. To read the full report - The scale and nature of child sexual abuse: Review of evidence 2021 - visit www.csacentre.org.uk

Child Protection

Child Sexual Abuse – the tip of the iceberg

Children find it incredibly difficult to tell someone they have been sexually abused. A small proportion will tell or try to tell a family member, some will tell people in authority, some will tell a professional or support worker, adolescents are more likely to tell a peer but the majority will never tell anyone at the time of the abuse. That is why it is so important that anyone working with children must be alert to spotting the signs and indicators of child sexual abuse.

Check out the [CSA Signs and Indicators template](#) which is designed to help professionals to gather the signs and indicators of sexual abuse and build a picture of their concerns. Click [here](#) to watch this 3-minute video introducing the template and how to use it.



[Research](#) indicates that just **1 in 3** children who had been sexually abused by an adult told anyone. For those abused by another child this was even less, with **5 out of 6** not speaking to anyone.





It's Not Love: teaching resources about positive relationships

NSPCC Learning has published new teaching resources exploring the themes of healthy and unhealthy relationships. The resources include three films and accompanying lesson plans that follow four characters experiencing interpersonal domestic violence, in familial, friendship and intimate partner relationships. The resources are aimed at 11 to 14-year-old school children and seek to prevent harmful sexual behaviours and coercive control. Watch the short video [here](#) and access the resources [here](#).

Suicide Prevention – Why Language Matters

NSPCC Learning has published a Why Language Matters blog exploring how the language we use to talk about suicide can make it easier, or harder, for children and young people to share how they are feeling and access support. The blog discusses how the language of suicide can be accusatory and sometimes minimises what children and young people are going through. It highlights how rethinking language choices can help to reduce the stigma around suicide and support children who are struggling with suicidal thoughts or feelings.

You can read more here [Why language matters: rethinking the language of suicide](#).

Click [here](#) to sign up for the free Self-Harm Network learning events.

Violence Against Women and Girls

From 'Serial Victim' to 'Serial Survivor': Reframing Our Approach to Domestic Violence



Read this [new blog](#) from David Mandel, Chief Executive Officer of the Safe & Together Institute. David says that for too long, the professional discourse around domestic violence has been 'mired in a deficit-based view', with a focus on trauma, vulnerability and the potential for revictimization. He says that whilst these concerns come from a place of "genuine care, they can inadvertently cast survivors as passive victims rather than active agents in their own lives. But what happens when we flip the script"?

David comments on the remarkable changes "when we look at a survivor who has left multiple abusive situations and ask, "What incredible strength did it take to leave not just once, but multiple times? What skills and resources did she develop and use? How can we build on these strengths to support her future safety and well-being?" It opens up a world of possibilities".

Abortion services: Safe Access Zones

Safe Access Zones (sometimes also called 'buffer zones') aim to protect women and staff accessing and providing abortion services by preventing activities which could influence or alarm them around hospitals and clinics. They came into force on 24 September 2024. Click [here](#) to read more from the Scottish Government about what Safe Access Zones are and what they cover.

Violence Against Women and Girls



Have you ever wondered
what 16 days is all about
and why 16 days?
[Find out here!](#)

And look out for our
learning events!

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls
in Scotland
25th November - 10th December

Around **four out of every five**
incidents of domestic abuse had
a female victim and a male accused.



Source: Scottish Government, Domestic Abuse: statistics recorded by the police in Scotland – 2022/23

Do you know what
White Ribbon is?

[Find out here!](#)



Violence Against Women and Girls

Gender and the Housing Emergency: A Joint report by Shelter Scotland and Engender

This [report](#) published in October by [Shelter Scotland](#) and [Engender](#) explores the experiences and impact of Scotland's housing emergency in relation to women's equality. The report shines a spotlight on the gendered aspects of the housing emergency by showing how women's experiences of housing and homelessness differ from those of men. It includes a series of recommendations to address women's inequality in access to safe, secure and affordable housing, and to ensure women are able to realise their housing rights.

The report says that "Women's access to housing is fundamentally shaped by structural gender inequality and other intersectional forms of marginalisation. Specific groups of women are more likely to experience housing instability, poor housing, homelessness, or negative treatment by services. This includes women in poverty, disabled, women of colour and refugee women, LGBTI women, older and younger women, women who sell sex, single parents and women who are unpaid carers.

Women's access to safe, secure and affordable housing is restricted and directly shaped by their experiences of economic inequality, unequal access to power and resources and of male violence. Housing and homelessness services often have not been designed to respond appropriately to women's specific needs. They can fail to address the additional barriers which exist for women accessing these services and lead to their housing rights not being realised.

Shelter Scotland and Engender advocate for an equality and rights-based approach to housing, underpinned by international human rights".

Violence Against Women and Girls



Zero Tolerance is a Scottish charity working to end men's violence against women by tackling its root cause: gender inequality. It has been in existence since 1992.

The research “breaks new ground by investigating the literature and directly engaging two groups of disabled survivors through a participatory approach, shedding light on how disabled women's experiences of men's violence are inseparably intertwined with ableism”.

The project found, both from the literature and from participants, that disabled survivors experience VAWG in ways that are specific to their impairment and that emanate from society's general attitudes to and response to disabled women and non-binary people. Discrimination from ableism made it difficult for them to receive their rights and services, and to participate fully in society. Ableism in policies, services, and culture increased vulnerability to violence and created barriers to support. Tackling this discrimination is vital.

Some hard-hitting messages that are [essential reading](#) for all of us.

Men's violence disproportionately affects disabled women, yet we have a limited understanding of the societal barriers that contribute to this violence and its specific forms. Prevention work rarely addresses disabled women's unique needs or the intersection of gender inequality and discrimination against disabled people. Zero Tolerance, and Scotland's national disabled people's organisation, Inclusion Scotland, conducted participatory research with disabled women on their experience of men's violence.

Violence Against Women and Girls



Forced marriage is illegal

On 4th October, the Scottish Government published [Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance](#). It recognises forced marriage to be a form of violence against women/gender-based violence and, where children are victims of forced marriage, child abuse. It may be associated with other forms of domestic abuse and ‘honour base’ abuse. Forced marriage can impact both men and women, however most cases typically involve younger women and girls between the ages of 15 and under and 30. There are patterns of victimisation which are vital to be aware of, however, it is likely that every individual case will be different.

Some cases may take place solely in the UK, while others involve a prospective partner coming from overseas or a person being sent abroad. The Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011 defines a forced marriage as a marriage conducted without the full and free consent of both parties, and where “force” is a factor. It is important to note that in the case of children and young people under 16, and some adults, full and free consent cannot be given.

There are some really helpful factsheets for different services.

[responding-forced-marriage-working-adults-factsheet.pdf](#)

[responding-forced-marriage-working-children-families-factsheet.pdf](#)

[responding-forced-marriage-police-factsheet.pdf](#)

[responding-forced-marriage-health-professionals-factsheet.pdf](#)

[responding-forced-marriage-education-factsheet.pdf](#)

Violence Against Women and Girls

Fact Women are 27 times more likely than men to be harassed online

Fact 1 in 5 women have experienced online harassment or abuse.

Fact Black women are 84% more likely to receive abusive or problematic tweets than white women.



The organisation **End Violence Against Women** has launched a partnership **campaign** to protect women online. You can read more about the campaign and one woman's story about how someone turned photos of her into deepfake pornography [here](#).

The term 'deepfake' usually refers to an AI-generated video, image or piece of audio content that is designed to mimic a real-life person or scene. The content might be created from scratch, or pre-existing content may have been manipulated.

Read more [here](#) including how to make a report about use on social media platforms at page 21.

Spotlight on Defensible Decision Making

What is defensible decision making?

Defensible decision making is not making the 'correct' decision as we do not have the benefit of hindsight. If we can justify a decision, it will be defensible. When a defensible decision has been made, we will see evidence that all reasonable steps have been taken to support and protect the child or adult. It is:

- A decision that is based on evidence, using all the information available to you at the time (while at the same time being aware that we rarely have all the information)
- Where the information has been thoroughly evaluated and analysed
- Where the different options and potential outcomes have been weighed up before making a decision
- Where the rationale for the decision is evidenced, including anyone consulted
- Where policy and legislative responsibilities/duties have been followed
- Recorded in a way that evidences all the above.

Why is defensible decision making important in social care?

When we think about the term 'defensible' we might be thinking about internal scrutiny carried out by managers or external inspections. Perhaps the most meaningful lens with which we would want to review our decision-making and record keeping is through the eyes of the child or adult we are writing about. Practitioners are making decisions that impact on people's right to a private and family life. We need to be accountable for the decisions we make, and they need to be understood by the people we are working with (even if they do not agree with the decision that was made).

Spotlight on Defensible Decision Making

It is important to understand and be able to explain why certain decisions were made. Think about the following scenarios:

- An adult wants to understand their childhood and family involvement with services and asks why they had been removed from their parents' care as a child.
- You are going to be giving evidence in a court proceeding and are going to be asked why you removed a child from their parents' care.
- You have been asked why no further action was taken after concerns had been raised.
- You are a new worker with a family and need to understand the reasons behind actions taken by previous workers, so that you can think about what support might be the most effective.
- You are supervising a worker and want to understand why an Adult Support and Protection inquiry was started.

What can help me in assessing evidence?

Wonnacott's Discrepancy Matrix encourages practitioners to reflect on what is known about a case and what is unknown or not yet known – a vital aspect of working with uncertainty. It supports the practitioner to tease out the information they hold into four types: evidence, ambiguous, assumption, and missing. Watch this six-minute video [here](#) to see how this works in practice. It helps you to ask:

- What do I know?
- What is ambiguous?
- What do I think I know?
- What is missing?

It also helps you to hypothesise and test – to ask what might happen, identify gaps and think about where you might find out more information.

Spotlight on Defensible Decision Making

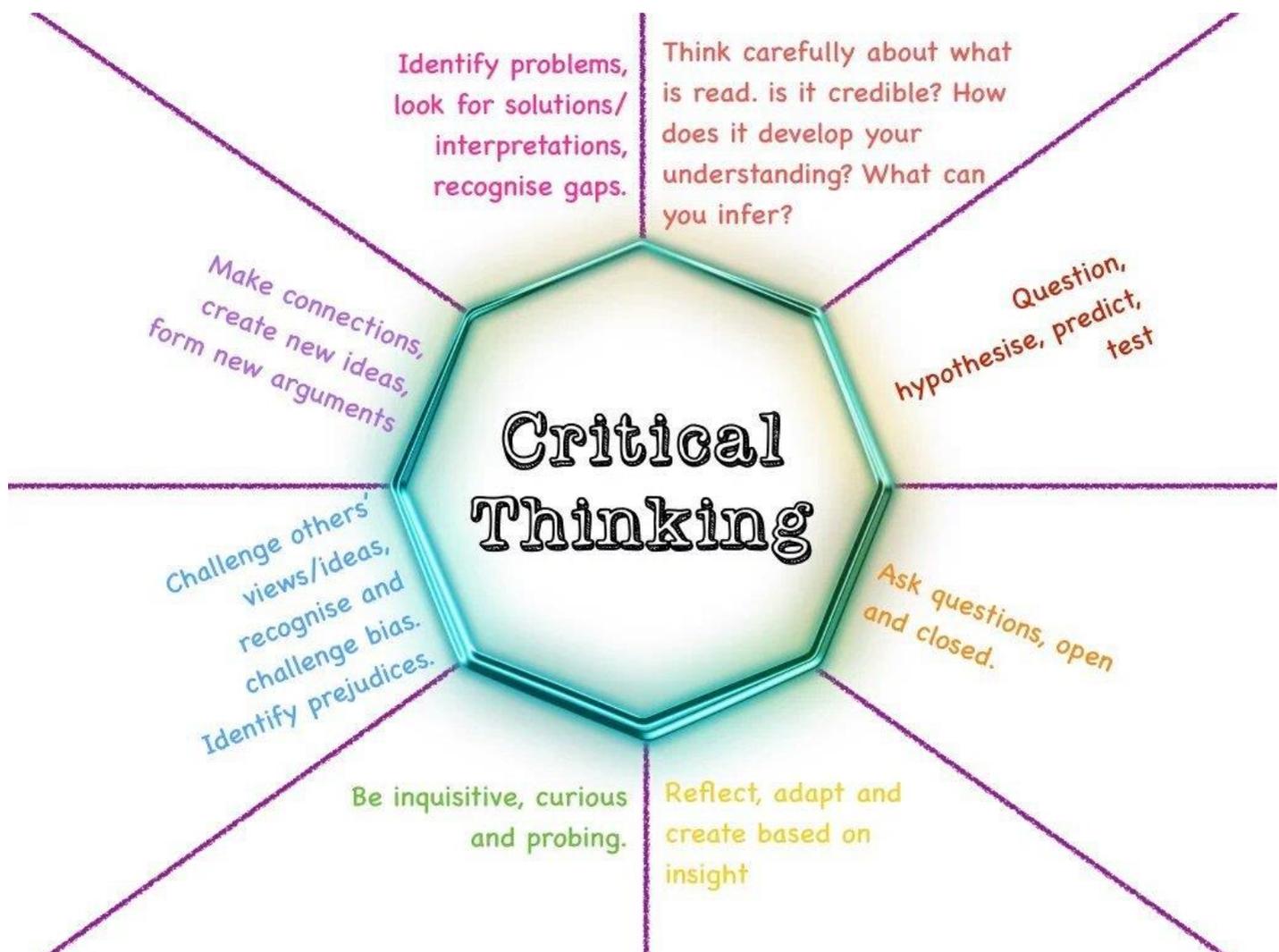
Where can I learn more?

[Decision making and social work in Scotland: The role of evidence and practice wisdom](#)

[Time, the Written Record, and Professional Practice: The Case of Contemporary Social Work](#)

[Using professional judgement and language in writing](#)

[Defensible decision-making in children's social care](#)



Contact us

Our Lead Officers support the work of EMPPC and you can contact them for more information about anything in this newsletter, or about their role:

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Jenny Mair, Co-ordinator - Protecting Women and
Girls Against Violence

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What would you like to see in a future newsletter?

Please get in touch with us at

emppo@eastlothian.gov.uk



Find out more about us at
emppc.gov.uk