

APPENDIX C

PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

1. Fostering and Adoption

Adoption is a positive route for a child where it is apparent that he or she is unlikely to be able to safely return to the immediate or extended family. There is a strong body of evidence to indicate that permanent and/or stable long term placements, including adoption, lead to better outcomes for the child where these placements can be put in place early enough to enable the child to form solid attachments with the carers. This is especially crucial in the early years of 0-3.

In the year to March 2014 there were 7 children adopted, which is broadly in line with previous years. This reflects the focused work being done on permanence planning.

Senior managers have identified a need to focus on robust decision-making for permanence cases to avoid drift and delay. A multi-agency Permanence Planning Group has been established to lead good practice in permanence planning.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Children adopted during the reporting year	9	9	7
Children placed with prospective adopters at end of year	9	7	7

The Chief Social Work Officer is also the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) in terms of Fostering and Permanence decisions – Regulation 12 Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

It is the ADM's responsibility to make decisions based on recommendations by the Fostering or Permanence Panels. In Scottish Borders Council these panels are held on a monthly basis and consider the following:

- Fostering assessments
- Kinship Care Assessments
- Foster carers reviews
- Assessment of Prospective Adoptive Parents
- Children being considered for Permanence (Long term fostering and Adoption)
- Matching of children with prospective adopters or long term foster carers
- Advice & guidance on complex situations that may be considered for permanence

The ADM receives minutes of the meetings, meets with the chair of the meeting, if required, and makes decisions based on the recommendations.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Foster Carers approved	8	13	10
Foster Carers de-registered	10	4	2

Foster/Short Breaks Carers reviewed	37	26	35
Long term (permanent) foster carers approved	2	0	4
Children registered for permanence	9	7	14
Prospective adopters approved	8	6	8
Prospective adopters not approved	0	0	0

Kinship care is a desirable outcome for children who are unable to be looked after by their birth parents, and enables children to remain and be cared for within their extended family and community, with clear benefits for their identity and sense of belonging as they develop. This reduces the need for local authority foster carers and promotes better outcomes for the children themselves.

While workers will always consider all options for a child's care and will seek to make use of a child's family strengths and supports, at times it is not possible to place children in their own community. In particular some complex cases require us to place children in specialist placements outside the area. The Scottish Borders has seen a cohort of young people emerging with extremely high needs in 2013/14, who cannot be maintained in a family-based placement but require specialist support and care.

The number of children placed outside of the Scottish Borders has increased over the reporting year, but is still at lower levels than previous years.

	2012	2013	2014
LAC placed outside areas as at 31 March	46 (27%)	32 (22%)	41 (25%)
Kinship placements as at 31 March	37	30	34

The total number of children & young people who are Looked After has increased slightly, but remains at lower levels than in the period up to 2012. This mirrors the national trend, although figures for Scotland are not yet available for 2014.

	2012	2013	2014
Looked After Children as at 31 March (SBC)	211	186	199
Looked After Children as at 31 July (Scotland)	16,248	16,041	tba

To allow for comparison, these figures can be expressed as a percentage of the population aged 0-17, which shows that Scottish Borders has many fewer Looked After Children than the general population for Scotland.

% of pop. Aged 0-17	2012	2013	2014
Looked After Children as at 31 March (SBC)	0.9	0.8	0.9
Looked After Children as at 31 July (Scotland)	1.6	1.5	tba

2. Child Protection

The number of children on the child protection register remains low at 31, which is well below the national average rate per head of population.

The proportion of children who have been re-registered within 2 years has been maintained at a low level with none of the children on the register at the end of the reporting year having been previously registered within the last 2 years. This indicates that the decisions to de-register children are appropriate and not leading to further risk for children.

The average age of children on the register has risen slightly, with 58% of registered children now being aged 4 or under.

The length of time that children spend on the register has remained steady, and is currently lower in comparison to 2011-12, down to 28 weeks from 32 weeks.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Children on the Child Protection Register (<i>31 March</i>)	34	28	31
Children re-registered within 2 years (<i>31 March</i>)	3%	4%	0%
Children registered during the year	61	58	55
Children de-registered during the year	57	64	52
Children on register aged 4 or under (<i>31 March</i>)	59%	64%	58%
Average number of weeks registered	32	28	28

3. Secure Orders

Two children were the subject of a Secure Order by the Children's Hearing process during 2013/14, which is an unusually high number for Scottish Borders.

Secure Orders are used very infrequently in Scottish Borders, and more early-intervention and community-based support packages are considered to be a better approach to these complex cases. The use of these orders reflected the significant risk these young people placed either to themselves or others.

One significant case review was undertaken during this period and actions resulting from this were implemented and monitored.

4. Adult Protection

A total of 190 Adult Protection Adult Protection Concerns were received in 2013-14, similar to the level in 2012-13 and a decrease on 2011-12. An Adult Protection Concern is where there is a referral reported that an "adult is at risk of harm" as defined under the Adult Support and Protection Act.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Adult Protection concerns	292	189	190

Clients with a Learning Disability and Older People (excluding people with dementia) are the largest client groups being referred, accounting for 21% and 23% of the referrals received respectively.

When reviewing adults at risk by service user group, two particular groups stand out, these being older adults and adults with a learning disability. Financial harm through scams and bogus callers has been an area of concern for older adults in Scottish Borders. Some of the steps taken locally have included stronger and more effective links being made with Trading Standards and Police Scotland. Social work and Trading standards have also sent out information and advice to previous victims of financial harm and scams, and given key advice given on keeping safe from further harm. The next annual period will see further work around public awareness along with work with banks and building societies and a campaign to advertise locally which will raise the profile and highlight the importance of keeping safe from harm.

The area of learning disability has had different challenges, the rise of social media and internet enabled phones, has seen a rise in harm through social media and internet dating sites. For some adults with a learning disability, there have been particular concerns about relationships and the setting of safe and appropriate boundaries. The digital age and technology will continue to be a challenge for social work and social care staff well into the future.

The reasons for Concerns are quite diverse, with, financial/material harm (29%), physical harm (26%) and Psychological abuse (13%) being the most common, but significant numbers of Concerns for; Acts of omission/neglect (9%), self-harm/neglect (6%), sexual abuse (5%) and Domestic abuse (5%) and also being recorded.

When we review the types of harm reported in Scottish Borders financial/ material harm, continues to be the highest grouping. However when we compare this to last year the figures are very similar.

On reviewing the figures for Physical harm, figures from last year have increased by 20%. Extensive training to partner agencies and the third sector has contributed to better awareness and an increase in reporting. This would be a similar picture for domestic abuse, which has also seen an increase by 25%. In the case of domestic abuse, a Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) has been implemented which is a robust support system to record, support and tackle this issue.

Self harm remains consistent on last year's figures, and sexual harm has reduced by 40% on last year's figures.

5. Adults with Incapacity

There has been a large increase in the number of Private Welfare Guardianships, although the number of Welfare Guardianships for which the Chief Social Work Officer has responsibility has only risen slightly.

As at 31 March	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Private Welfare Guardianships	37	41	64
Chief SW Officer Welfare Guardianships	14	20	22

6. Mental Health services

The Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 came into effect in October 2005. The Act enables medical professionals to detain and treat people against their will on grounds of mental disorder. This term is used to cover mental health problems, personality disorders and learning disabilities.

The Act allows for people to be placed on different kinds of compulsory order according to their particular circumstances. There are three main kinds of compulsory powers:

- Emergency detention
- Short-term detention
- Compulsory Treatment Order (CTO)

The use of emergency and short-term detentions has increased since 2011-12, while compulsory treatment orders have dropped slightly.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Emergency detentions	14	19	18
Short-term detentions	55	70	62
Compulsory treatment orders	34	28	27

This slight reduction may be impacted on by the increased effectiveness of the psychiatric liaison service and crisis service.

7. MAPPA

Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) is the framework which joins up the agencies who manage sex offenders. The fundamental purpose of MAPPA is public safety and the reduction of serious harm. The introduction of MAPPA across Scotland in April 2007 gave a consistent approach to the management of offenders, providing a framework for assessing and managing the risk posed by some of those offenders.

There are three levels at which risk is assessed and managed under the MAPPA.

- Level 1: ordinary risk management
- Level 2: local inter-agency risk management
- Level 3: Multi-agency Public Protection Panels (MAPPA)

In Scottish Borders we have agreed that there should be two operational panels that meet monthly - MAPPA Panel Level 1 and MAPPA Panel Level 2. The MAPPA Level 3 Panel is arranged as and when required.

The Level 1 and Level 2 panels are very well supported by all partner agencies and are regularly attended by members of staff with decision making powers. Specific staff, such as case managers or support workers will be invited to attend as required.

The number of discussions held at level 1 in 2013-14 was at the same level as in 2012-13, significantly lower than 2011-12, while those at level 2 were increased, with no level 3 discussions taking place.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Level 1 Discussions	151	128	123
Level 2 Discussions	28	28	47
Level 3 Discussions	2	2	0

From April 2013 to March 2014 the overall number of sex offenders subject to MAPPA within the Scottish Borders was 86 out of a total across Lothian and Borders of 804. 83 of these cases were managed at level 1 and 3 at level 2 with no cases being managed at level 3.

CARE INSPECTORATE GRADES

Quality improvement is at the core of much of the improvement work across Social Work services. We are aided in this process by the work of the Care Inspectorate who have responsibility for inspecting all Social Work services in Scotland and ensuring that care providers meet the Scottish Government's National Care Standards.

In the period April 2013 to March 2014 the Care Inspectorate carried out inspections on 16 services provided by Scottish Borders Council, as well as 27 private care services and 41 in the voluntary/not-for-profit sector. These consisted of both announced and unannounced inspections.

The inspections covered a range of services, summarised as follows.

Service Description	Local Authority	Private	Voluntary / Non-profit	Total
Adoption	1			1
Adult placement	1			1
Care Home	6	15	9	30
Fostering	1	1		2

Housing Support		4	17	21
Support Service	7	7	15	29
Total	16	27	41	84

The inspections are based on quality themes and grade each service on a scale from 1 (Unsatisfactory) to 6 (Excellent).

Quality Themes:

- Care and Support
- Environment
- Staffing
- Management

Quality Grades:

1. Unsatisfactory
2. Weak
3. Adequate
4. Good
5. Very Good
6. Excellent

Not all services are graded for every theme. For instance, the Adoption service does not provide services in any particular premises and therefore is not graded for Environment.

Overall, 72% of services were rated as 'Good', 'Very Good' or 'Excellent'.

Quality Theme	Quality Grading					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Care and Support	1	10	9	34	23	0
Environment	1	4	9	17	5	2
Staffing	0	2	16	33	24	2
Management and Leadership	1	7	13	36	19	1
Total	3	23	47	120	71	5
	1%	9%	17%	45%	26%	2%

Notably there has been some fluctuating concerns identified over the quality grades in Older People's Care Homes, with many of the lower grades occurring in these services. A range of actions have been undertaken to support this sector, including additional training in dementia and the introduction of a risk management process, and this will be kept under review during 2014/15.