

# Scottish Borders Public Protection Committee

Annual Report 2019-2020



## Our Vision

**All children and adults at risk in Scottish Borders are supported and protected from harm, and are enabled to live their lives as safely and independently as possible.**

## Our Commitment

**Everyone in Scottish Borders has the right to live free from abuse, harm and neglect.**

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# **1. Message from the Independent Chair of the Public Protection Committee, Michael Batty**

1.1 I am pleased to introduce the first Annual Report of the Scottish Borders Public Protection Committee (PPC).

1.2 The work of the Committee and its predecessors, the Adult Support and Protection Committee (APC) and the Child Protection Committee (CPC), has been dominated by two main issues during 2019/20. The first of these was the establishment of the PPC in January 2020, which represented the culmination of planning and preparation over the previous year, in pursuit of an even more 'joined up' approach to working with vulnerable children and adults, recognising that some of them are in the same families.

1.3 The second was the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has inevitably had a major impact on all of the partners involved in public protection, and has - naturally and quite properly - been the main focus of much of the multi-agency work since March 2020. It has placed additional demands on, and presented extra challenges to, all the partners, so I am more than usually grateful to all those colleagues who have stepped up to meet those challenges and demands. It has been particularly pleasing to see that in Borders the level of weekly contact with children on the Child Protection Register has been maintained consistently at 100% throughout the pandemic.

1.4 My thanks are due to all members of the PPC and to former members of the APC and CPC for their contributions over the periods covered by the Report, and to the members of the Scottish Borders Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) - the Chief Executives of Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders, and the Divisional Commander for Police Scotland - for their support and constructive challenge. My special gratitude is due to Jim Wilson, who served as Convenor for the APC from 2014 until the end of 2019, and worked with me to develop the new arrangements, for all his advice and support both during my time as Independent Chair of the CPC (since August 2017) and latterly while fulfilling the same role for the PPC.

1.5 The bringing together of the Adult Protection and Child Protection functions has highlighted the fact that Child Protection has been historically better resourced than Adult Protection - this has been true across Scotland, as well as in the Borders - and I salute the willingness of the partners to devote additional resources to Adult Protection, at a time when they were all facing major and continuing resource pressures, including the recent (September 2020) agreement to appoint a part-time Audit & Improvement Officer for Adult Protection. I also applaud the achievements made by Scottish Borders Council in 'mainstreaming' important elements of local services for domestic abuse, following the expiry of time limited funding from the Scottish Government and Lottery.

**Michael Batty**

**Independent Chair**

**Scottish Borders Public Protection Committee**

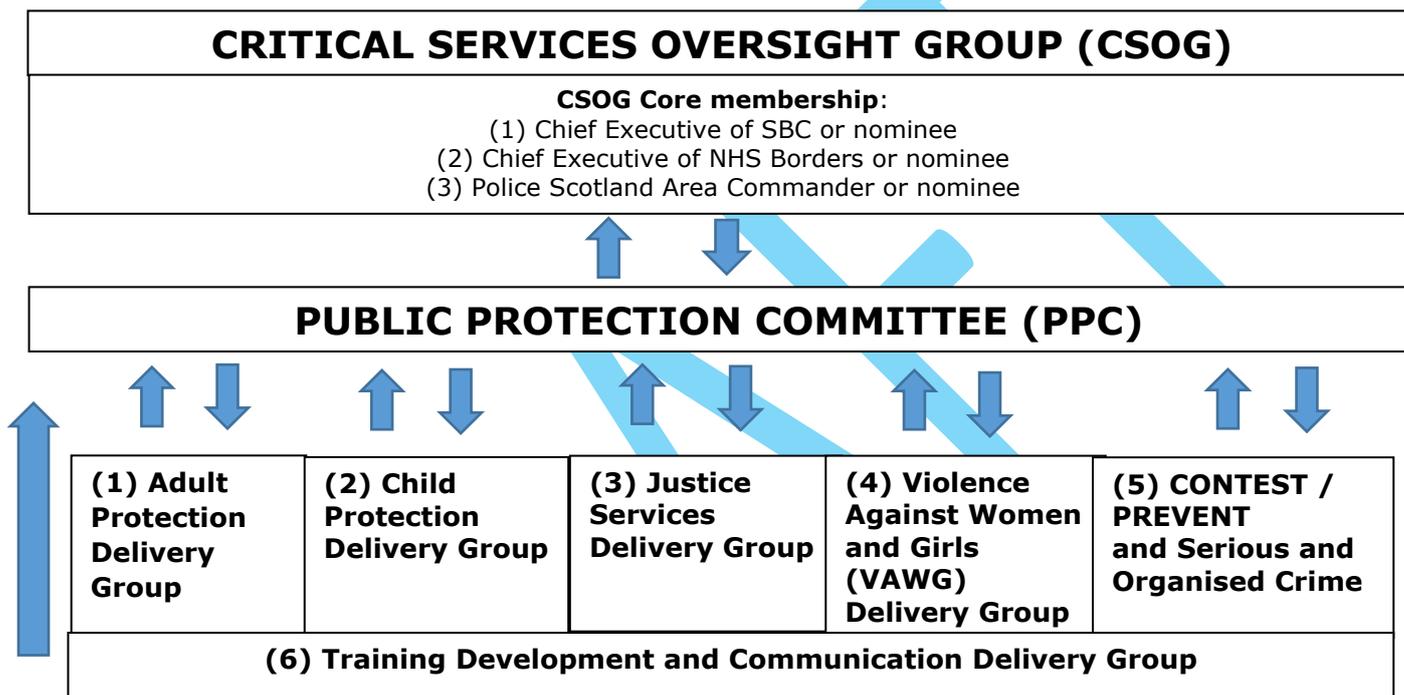


## 2. Introduction to the Public Protection Committee

2.1 The Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) instructed a review and redesign of Public Protection Services within Scottish Borders to improve how Adult Protection and Child Protection Services respond to risk on a multi-agency basis. Adult and Child Service inspections identified the need to improve practice, streamline processes, to improve communication and to work more collaboratively to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable in our communities. A "Think Family" approach will be incorporated into all elements of Public Protection practice.



### Governance structure from January 2020



The Public Protection Committee fulfils the statutory roles of both Adult Support and Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee.

### Scottish Borders Public Protection Committee Membership

- Michael Batty, Independent Chair
- Nicky Berry, Director of Nursing, National Health Service (NHS) Borders
- Dan Blake, Operations Director, Berwickshire Housing Association
- John Butcher, Lead Education Advisor, SBC
- Christina Donald, Managing Solicitor, People & Court, SBC
- Stuart Easingwood, Chief Social Work and Public Protection Officer/Interim Service Director of Children & Young People (Vice Chair of PPC and Chair of Justice DG)
- David Girrity, Group Commander, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- Bill Halley, Area Manager, Scottish Ambulance Service
- Graham Jones, Safer Communities & Community Justice Manager, SBC
- David Kemp, Homelessness and Financial Support Manager, SBC
- Peter Lerpiniere, Associate Director of Nursing for Mental Health, Learning Disability & Older People, NHS Borders (Chair of APDG)
- Louise MacLennan, Chair, Violence Against Women Executive Group (VAWDG)
- Fraser Matheson, Procurator Fiscal
- Robert McCulloch Graham, Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Integration, SBC
- Kim McPartland, Group Manager, Justice Services, SBC
- Lesley Munro, Service Director Young People Engagement and Inclusion, SBC (Chair of TD&CDG)
- Gillian Nicol, Child Protection/Adult Protection Lead Officer, PPC
- Anna O'Reilly, Assistant Director, Children 1<sup>st</sup>

Matthew Paden, Detective Chief Inspector, Police Scotland (Chair of CPDG)  
Brian Paris Chief Officer, Adult Social Work, SBC  
Tim Patterson, Director of Public Health/Chair of Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP)  
Rachel Pulman, Nurse Consultant, Public Protection, NHS Borders  
Lesley Siewert, Locality Reporter Manager, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration  
Jenny Smith, Chief Officer, Borders Care Voice

The Justice Delivery Group has a different relationship to the PPC from the other Delivery Groups, as it is primarily accountable for the delivery of MAPPA arrangements to the MAPPA Edinburgh, Lothians, & Scottish Borders Strategic Oversight Group and reports to PPC for the purposes of information sharing and co-ordination. The Violence Against Women Delivery Group is based on the pre-existing VAW Partnership Executive, and the Counter Terrorism, Preventing Violent Extremism and Serious & Organised Crime Group meets as necessary.

During the reporting period the following were also members of the APC: Jim Wilson (Independent Chair), David Powell (Adult Protection Co-ordinator), Gwyneth Lennox (Group Manager, SC&H Operations, Gordon Forsyth (Borders Care Voice), Oonagh McGarry (Community Learning & Development Team Leader) and Christine Proudfoot (Service Charge Nurse, NHS). The following were also members of the CPC: Dawn Moss (Nurse Consultant Vulnerable Children, NHS) and Michelle Strong (Chief Officer Education Services).

### **3. Introduction**

3.1 In January 2020 Scottish Borders moved from a separate Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee to a Public Protection Committee (PPC) which the diagram (Item 2, page 4) depicts. In order to bring the Annual Report together the timescales for both previous Committees have been brought into line; as a result Child Protection information covers 12 months from August 2019 – July 2020 and Adult Protection covers 16 months from April 2019 – July 2020. Justice Services and Violence Against Women and Girls timescales are August 2019-July 2020. There is still a statutory requirement to prepare a Biennial Report for the APC functions, covering the period April 2018 to March 2020.

In order to ensure this report is a manageable length it has been necessary to focus on key areas and not to provide the amount of detail in previous year's individual reports. For some sections it is possible to provide the information in an integrated format. For others, the specific nature of the work has necessitated a more individual approach.

3.2 In addition to this major change in structure the Public Protection Committee has also been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in some meetings taking place using remote working technologies and the Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) significantly increasing the frequency of its meetings from the usual quarterly, with a focus on the challenges of continuing to provide these services during this crisis.

3.3 National AP and CP meetings have continued to be attended by the Independent Chair and Lead Officer. Some meetings have been held virtually as a result of Covid-19. In addition the Public Protection Committee has supported national public information initiatives. There has been considerable sharing of strategies and plans within all of the national groups during this time and both the Independent Chair and Lead Officer have filtered and shared relevant information. The VAW Partnership Coordinator is a member of a number of national groups, chairs the national CEDAR Advisory Partnership and represents the Scottish Borders at national events in relation to violence against women and girls. The Public Protection Committee continues to look outwards for learning and to contribute to the national agenda to the best of our ability.

## **4. The work of the Adult Protection Committee (APC)**

4.1 The Scottish Borders APC (in place until December 2019) had a good interface between the Adult Protection Unit (APU), Justice Services, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Domestic Abuse and Children's Services. The APC reported to the Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) where there was senior corporate oversight and scrutiny of a range of public protection issues including multi-agency public protection arrangements and Child/Adult Protection.

4.2 Following the 2017 inspection of Adult Services improvement work continued; risk assessment, chronologies, risk management plans and quality assurance tools have all been reviewed. A follow-up inspection took place in November 2019 and the Care Inspectorate were pleased to see revised AP risk assessment tools, improved oversight of cases by APU alongside Team Leaders, increased use of AP Risk Assessment and chronologies, quality assurance tools in place for AP and non AP cases and closer work with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service in appropriate hoarding or fire safety cases. Areas noted for the need to further improve were timescales, the monitoring and improvement of performance, the need to evidence views of service users and their families, and the quality recording and evidencing of all agencies and this is part of the improvement agenda being led by Adult Protection Delivery Group (APDG) within the new arrangements.

4.3 The APC had three standing sub committees although the sub committees were wound up as of January 2020. In the new Public Protection model these are replaced by the Adult Protection Delivery Group.

### **The Adult Protection Audit Group (APAG)**

4.4 The APAG met twice between March and December in 2019. Over this period their key areas of work included focus on specific audits and quality assurance. This group also monitored Large Scale Investigations, Initial Case Reviews and Significant Case Reviews which are commented upon in Item 7. This Group also ensured that learning from reviews was disseminated.

### **The Adult Protection Inter-agency Operational Group (APIOG)**

4.5 The APIOG was a multi-agency group with good representation across service delivery areas, the key partners, SBC contracting and the third sector. This Group met twice over the period and the focus was to monitor Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as part of quality assurance and audit. Many of the findings of the Adult Inspection were overseen and taken forward by this Group to provide oversight and input to improvement plans which included further chronology training, and the linking of the training and development plan to chronologies, risk assessments and case recording. A review was undertaken of the Vulnerable Young Persons (VYP) Protocol and work was identified to be done to improve those transitioning at 18 years of age from Children's Services to Adult Services. It was noted that the Learning Disability Service had used "Talking Mats", which is an enhanced tool to improve communications with service users. Work on a risk management process for people who do not meet the criteria for AP intervention was begun and passed to the APDG for sign off and dissemination.

## **The Adult Protection Learning and Development Group (APL&D)**

4.6 The ASP L&D Group had responsibility for providing a framework for multi-agency training at 4 levels, from induction through to specialist and advanced knowledge. Additionally bespoke training was delivered throughout the multi-agency partnership as required. The Scottish Borders ASP L&D Training Matrix also included a 'Train the Trainer' model for Level 1 training. Further details of training sessions delivered can be seen in Item 8.

4.7 An Adult Support and Protection (ASP) e-Learning module continues to be mandatory for all staff employed by Scottish Borders Council and SB Cares to complete with 100% pass rate required in the assessment every two years. NHS also have a Public Protection e-Learning Module which is also mandatory for all staff.

## **The Scottish Borders Adult Protection Unit (APU)**

4.8 The Scottish Borders APU is co-located with other public protection services in Galashiels. Adult Protection Officers (APOs), Child Protection Reviewing Officers (CPROs), Police Scotland and Health colleagues are all on site. This particular model is seen as a major strength as it encourages closer working relationships, partnership and communication between agencies. This has led to new local AP procedures being developed, with the addition of guidance notes to support staff with the improved practice expectations. In late 2019 the APU was strengthened significantly by SBC, increasing from a part-time Team Leader and two Review Officers to a full-time Team Leader and four Review Officers, which is helping to ensure greater consistency in decision-making.

## **5. Violence Against Women (VAW) Partnership: Work to progress Equally Safe 2019/20**

5.1 During 2019/20, the VAW Partnership, which doubles as the VAW Delivery Group of PPC, has committed to the fourth Action Plan extracted from the Equally Safe Delivery Plan (2016-21). Following a restructure of the partnership to Executive and Delivery groups, the direction of travel for Equally Safe lies with the Executive, and the operational aspects with the Delivery Group. The VAW Partnership continues to have a broad membership of statutory and third sector partners, with commitment from partners to Chair each group; there is no administrative support for the groups, and the VAW Coordinator is responsible for the effective function and support of the partnership along with the coordination of activity identified in the Delivery Plan.

In 2019/20, the VAW Partnership has initiated, or supported:

1. Development and introduction of Scottish Borders Forced Marriage Interagency Guidance
2. Establishment of a White Ribbon Working Group and commitment from partners to progress to White Ribbon Status
3. Continuation of support for the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme locally through provision of a staff resource to deliver the MVP programme in schools
4. Delivery of a range of gender based violence training
5. Scottish Borders Council's role as a Shadow Group in the Close the Gap programme, to address gender equality in local authorities
6. Submitted written responses to ten consultations
7. Development of the Safe and Together model in Scottish Borders with membership of the Oversight Group and support for delivery of training

8. The sustainability of Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in Scottish Borders by committing resources to its effective delivery. The DAAS service coordinates the MARAC process by provision of a dedicated MARAC coordinator from the existing staff team. MARAC is a multi-agency forum which discusses, every four weeks, the highest risk cases of domestic abuse in Scottish Borders with the aim to mitigate risk of further harm through information sharing and creative action planning.
9. Strengthened relationships with the wider gender based violence network e.g. engaging with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and ensuring representation on COSLA working groups
10. Delivery of the new forensic examination suite in Scottish Borders
11. The 2019 Scottish Borders VAW Award and 16 Days of Action to End Violence Against Women in Scottish Borders; the VAW Award is given to someone in the Scottish Borders in recognition of their efforts to tackle gender based violence.
12. Sustained the future of Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDAA) services in Scottish Borders by 'mainstreaming' its funding.

## **6. The Work of the Child Protection Committee (CPC)**

6.1 The CPC met three times in 2019 during the relevant period from August 2019 to December 2019. As a result the need for an overview of children at risk, reinforced by recommendations from the Care Inspectorate, it was decided to complete a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for the Scottish Borders multi-agency arrangements and a document has been published.

6.2 Scottish Borders Council's (SBC) data team developed an advance set of household data going beyond the usual Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). This allowed mapping against smaller areas to identify poverty indicators. CPC requested that this be used to map children subject to Inter-agency Referral Discussion (IRD) and on the Child Protection Register. This provided a better understanding of where our families with most needs are and as a result we have taken action to ensure that staff are considering income maximisation in their work with families. The Quality Assurance & Improvement Group, CPC and CSOG were made aware of this work. Arising from this work is the recommendation from the CPC that economic development work needs to be more firmly linked to problems with alcohol, drugs, and mental health, (as key drivers of both poverty, child abuse and neglect) was taken up by the Council's Chief Executive. Social Work and Health have systems in place to ensure they check whether families are in receipt of benefit and recommend the services of Citizens Advice where appropriate. The understanding of the role of poverty in neglect is also reflected in the Neglect Toolkit.

This is an area which is also reflected within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and in which the PPC agreed to prioritise the following issues in its Child Protection work: domestic abuse, alcohol, drugs, poor mental health, neglect, and internet safety (potentially leading to Child Sexual Exploitation - CSE).

6.3 Work was also completed with partner agencies on drafting a guidance document for a Treatment Option Pathway for Child Sexual Exploitation and a draft document has been produced.

6.4 As part of the Scottish Government's Child Protection Improvement Programme to develop robust data sets, a new national minimum dataset has been produced and the Scottish Borders CPC agreed to implement this. At the time of writing three quarterly reports have been produced, since in August 2019.

6.5 An online Practitioner Survey was conducted in November to gain multi-agency practitioners' views and experience relating to Child Protection practice in the Scottish Borders.

Three hundred and sixteen (316) practitioners from a range of services including education, social work, health and others, completed the on-line survey between mid-November 2019 and mid-January 2020. Although the majority of responses came from Educational practitioners, there were similar themes in terms of feedback from the variety of practitioners/services.

Key findings from the survey included:

- Overall, practitioners have confidence in the Child Protection structure and pathways in the Scottish Borders.
- The majority of respondents indicated that they are able to access appropriate information, support and training. There appears to be some difficulty in accessing more specialist and/or high level training for some staff groups. A review of Level 1 multi-agency training has commenced in response to comments received.
- The general perception is that services are under pressure and that there is a lack of early intervention services and capacity in general. Practitioners expressed concern that this could potentially lead to more children and families experiencing Child Protection interventions.
- All respondent groups indicated that communication across agencies generally works well.

6.6 A multi-agency Pre-Birth Seminar was held in November 2019 to ensure the importance of early planning for pregnant women. Group discussions were held in relation to risk factors, challenges and areas for improvement. Feedback has been considered by the Pre-Birth Oversight Group and the learning has highlighted the need to strengthen good partnership relationships along with re-emphasising the importance of active planning and assessment from the point of referral.

### **Quality Assurance & Improvement Group (QA&I)**

6.7 The CPC's QA&I Group met four times in the period from August 2019 to December 2019. Discussions were held on specific areas highlighted for insight into child poverty in the Scottish Borders and members and colleagues were consulted at the former Child Protection Operational Managers Meeting (CPOMM) to decide upon any need for actions.

6.8 It was agreed that a Neglect Audit would take place to view the impact of the use of the Neglect Toolkit on outcomes for our children and young people. A short survey was produced for practitioners who have used the Neglect Toolkit and focus groups of staff were undertaken. Parents were also approached to provide views: while not forthcoming, one parent was willing to provide feedback which was very positive, and staff were able to feed in views of parents which had been expressed to them.

6.9 The QA&I Group also agreed upon a change to the format of the existing survey for parents to complete after having been in the child protection process. The challenge was to try to increase responses to this survey.

6.10 Regular Audits were reported to the QA&I and this ensures monitoring and auditing of specific areas such as timescales for internal child protection processes, the existence, provision and maintenance of essential records by social work staff and partner agencies, the number of child sexual exploitation strategy meetings and the number of child deaths.

6.11 A practice review was undertaken and learning about the sharing of historical records, use of Reflective Meetings around the Child (MACs) and the use of the Escalation Policy was gained and disseminated.

6.12 A Missing Children from Home audit took place to ensure that the protocol is fit for purpose and consistently used. The audit identified some work around needing to better embed the protocol. Consequently a further review will take place to evidence that this protocol is fully integrated into practice. The review may be later than originally planned because of the impact of Covid-19; with schools being closed and potentially less children going missing during lockdown. Discussions with Education, however, are ongoing.

6.13 In the previous year it had come to light that Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) had been taking longer than expected so this has been monitored and regular reports are sent to the relevant managers. This approach has produced improvement and will be continued.

## **7. Justice Services - Scottish Borders Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs) Overview**

7.1 Multi-agency Public Protection as implemented by the Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2005 provides a management framework for the risk posed by individuals convicted of sexual offences and restricted patients. In 2016, the criteria was expanded to include category 3 individuals, those assessed as presenting a serious and imminent risk of harm, primarily due to conviction for domestic violence. The arrangements maintain a focus on public protection and the reduction of the risk of serious harm, through a multi-agency approach.

7.2 Throughout 2019-20, Scottish Borders MAPPAs arrangements have continued to work together with the Scottish Government, Responsible Authorities and governing Strategic Oversight Groups (SOGs) to deliver the ongoing recommendations of the Joint Thematic Review of MAPPAs in Scotland (November 2015) and the follow up Progress Review published in June 2017. Both reports are available on the Scottish Government's website.

7.3 The annual Edinburgh, Lothian & Borders MAPPAs Report is available on the Scottish Borders Council and Scottish Government's websites.

The management of individuals subject to MAPPAs arrangements should sit at the lowest level, proportionate to the assessed level of risk and correlating Risk Management Plan.

### **Level 1: Routine Risk Management**

Level 1 management is applied to the vast majority of cases. At this level the assessed level of risk posed can be managed by a single agency, with the support of ongoing information sharing and collaboration, as required. Level 1 cases are reviewed annually, however should the level of risk change or concerning behaviours be noted, the case may be reviewed at any time and referred to the level 2 panel for discussion.

### **Level 2: Multi Agency Risk Management**

Level 2 is utilised where the active involvement of multi agencies is required to manage and actively reduce the risk of serious harm. MAPPAs 2 panel meetings are arranged by the MAPPAs Co-ordinator. In the Scottish Borders partnership the Co-ordinator is based with Police Scotland, Edinburgh and ensures transparency and accountability for a MAPPAs partnership that comprises of Scottish Borders, East, Mid and West Lothian and Edinburgh City. The MAPPAs panel consists of representatives from the "responsible authorities"; Local Authority Social

Work, including the Justice Service, Adult and Child Protection, Police Scotland, NHS Borders, Housing and the Scottish Prison Service. The panel is chaired by either Police Scotland at Detective Inspector level or the Justice Social Work Group Manager. Other agencies relevant to the management of the individual being discussed may be invited to attend the Level 2 meeting, to inform the discussion.

### Level 3: the "critical few": Multi Agency Public Protection Panel

Level 3 management is used where the assessed level of risk of serious harm is considered to be imminent and high or very high. Individuals present complexities that require a multi-agency approach with oversight at a senior management level. Level 3 meetings are chaired by either the Chief Social Work Officer or a designated senior ranking police officer.

Risk assessment and Management Plans are based on one of four possible levels of likelihood of risk of serious harm and imminence: Low: Medium: High: Very High.

### Category 3

Individuals referred under the criteria for category 3 management, will following assessment, present High or Very High risk of serious harm and be managed at either Level 2 or 3.

### **PREVENT (preventing violent extremism)**

7.3 Scottish Borders Council continues to work with partners with regard to Prevent and specifically Police Scotland and the East of Scotland Prevent Unit based at Police HQ, Fettes, Edinburgh. Regular attendance is maintained at the Lothian & Scottish Borders CONTEST group where Prevent issues are discussed with the multi-agency partners who attend this meeting. Prevent works by identifying individuals who may be at risk of being exploited by violent extremist narratives and drawn into terrorism; assessing the nature and the extent of their vulnerability, and, where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to their needs and is one component part of the wider CONTEST Strategy

## **8. Public Protection Committee – Adult Protection and Child Protection Delivery Groups**

8.1 PPC gave considerable thought to membership and chairing of the AP and CP Delivery Groups. Key agencies are represented at senior management level alongside managers from agencies, stakeholders, advocacy and organisations that represent the views of service users where appropriate. Work is at an early stage and monthly meetings started in February 2020.

8.2 Since February 2020 the APDG has focussed on:

- Updating the AP procedures to reflect the important role of the Adult Protection Officers (APOs);
- Considering the previous AP Business Plan and suggested the most important items for the PPC Business Plan;
- Creating a Dissemination Strategy to ensure all relevant staff are aware of the work of the Group;
- Introducing a survey from the APO to assist the quality assurance role. A survey has been developed which considers both compliance with procedures but also captures the views of the adults involved. Although this is ready to be implemented, it is now on hold

due to the additional workload created by Covid-19 but will be reported to the APDG regularly;

- Considering learning from the 2018 Care Inspectorate report and progressing any actions;
- Monitoring referrals and changes within AP at the Public Protection Unit;
- Sharing and agreeing contingency plans for service delivery during Covid-19;
- Developing effective engagement in IRDs from the Health sector.

The APDG will continue these themes and over the next year develop the data suite to accurately reflect the Adult Protection service.

8.3 Since February 2020 the CPDG has focussed on:

- Providing three key items to the Public Protection Business Plan: to demonstrate an improved use of the Neglect Toolkit, to demonstrate more consistent and assured use of chronologies and to demonstrate an increase in the range of ways to gather the views of young people and parents.
- Creating a Dissemination Strategy to ensure all relevant staff are aware of the work of the Group;
- Finalising the agreement of a new dataset to capture the child protection data contained within the National CP Minimum Dataset;
- Finalising the JSNA document and agreeing how the information in the JSNA can benefit the work of the PPC;
- Seeking sign off for the CSE Pathway document;
- Reviewing reports on the Neglect Audit (feedback on the impact and use of the Neglect Toolkit) and the Parents Survey (feedback from parents who have been in the child protection process);
- Receiving update on the Pre-Birth process – a Pre-Birth Group was set up to identify vulnerable pregnancies before 28 weeks of pregnancy;
- Monitoring referrals and changes within CP at the Public Protection Unit; and
- Sharing and agreeing Contingency plans for Covid-19.

## **9. Audit & Improvement of key processes**

9.1 The Adult Protection Large Scale Investigation (LSI) process is designed to meet larger issues of harm in any care settings. The Community Care Review Team will work in partnership with professionals and the care provider to maintain quality and standards within registered care homes. Here in the Scottish Borders a nominated Social Care and Health Reviewing Officer is attached to each of the care homes. Within the twelve month period (April 2019 to March 2020) there were 2 full LSIs which had 6 Review LSI meetings.

9.2 Adult and Child Initial Case Reviews (ICRs) are undertaken where there has been a death or a near miss of an adult with support needs or vulnerability or a child. The outcome of an ICR determines if a Significant Case Review (SCR) is warranted or whether the case has learning for all agencies. As a result of AP ICRs learning led to a better understanding and communication of case transfers between teams and of clarification of AP Procedures at Inter-agency Referral Discussion. Good practice has also been recognised.

In addition to the formal ICR process SBPPC encourages reviews where particularly good or concerning practice could support wider learning. Learning from a CP Practice Review was gained in relation to the sharing of historical information, the sharing of reports, the need to make better use of Reflective MACs, the improvement of Parent Assessments, and the use of the Escalation Policy and integrated chronologies.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy meetings take place where a referrer has concerns that sexual abuse is as a result of exploitation. A CSE Strategy Meeting Protocol is in place to ensure information sharing and protection in this complex area.

Whilst there have been a number of Prevent cases that have raised concerns, only two cases have been discussed via the formal Prevent Professional Concerns process.

**This table highlights the number of ICRs, SCRs, practice reviews, appeals and strategy meetings in the appropriate time frames.**

	Child Protection (August 2019 to July 2020)	Adult Protection (April 2019 – July 2020)	VAW (April 2019 to March 2020)	PREVENT (August 2019 to March 2020)
ICRs / SCRs	0	3 ICRs/0 SCRs		
Practice Reviews	1	0		
Appeals	0	0		
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy meetings	7	-	-	
Prevent Professional Concerns process	-	-		2
MARACs			13	
MARAC Cases			102	

### 9.3 Child Protection Audits

As of 1 January 2020 all auditing work is reported into the Child Protection Delivery Group (CPDG). The dissemination of auditing learning and actions is important and shared through a variety of channels, including Newsletters, briefing papers and team meetings. Practitioners are encouraged to provide feedback via their CPDG member.

Auditing and Improvement work is divided into two categories:

#### 1. Regular Audits

Regular audits, in respect of critical information about the child protection process including ICR/SCR and CSE meeting appeals, are reported on a three monthly basis to keep abreast of numbers, emerging patterns and trends. More in-depth audits can then take place to clarify whether the reason(s) for the instances are wholly explicable, or if there has been an oversight, or other issues around practice, systems and/or culture need further consideration. When cases are looked at in more detail the practitioner(s) and their team leader will always be contacted by the Audit and Improvement Officer.

## **2. Specific Audits**

A range of audit work has been undertaken.

The following is a sample of these audits along with some examples of the associated learning:

- Missing Children from Home (ensuring protocol is fit for purpose and consistently used)
- Parent and Children's Views from Case Conference (ensuring parent's views are reflected in CPCC minutes)
- Status of children prior to Registration (informing the JSNA)
- Neglect and the use of the Neglect Toolkit (supporting a more consistent use of the Toolkit to promote earlier identification and a more robust response to childhood neglect)

### **9.4 Other related work**

**Multi-agency chronologies** - a re-draft of the initial referral form to the duty team of any CP referrals has been amended to include a request for the chronology from health and education colleagues at the time of, or as soon after, the initial referral as possible. This will allow the social work team to begin to collate chronologies in initial MACs providing a holistic picture to better inform action at MACs to better coordinate support for children and families.

### **9.5 Adult Protection Audits**

Samples of Adult Protection Referrals and interventions took place during 2019. The audits explored the following domains:

1. The chronology was in place and was to the quality and standard required
2. There was complex risk assessment in place, and the quality was to the required standard
3. There was evidence of Team Leader overview and adherence to timescales
4. There was a clear outcome within the episode and that all actions were addressed

By regularly auditing the above, Adult Protection Officers were able to work alongside Team Leaders to ensure improvements.

There has been no AP Audit activity undertaken since January due to there being no resource within the PPC team and the significant impact of Covid-19 on Adult Services staff. We are currently preparing an inter-agency audit methodology which will be undertaken once capacity is available.

### **9.6 VAW Partnership Improvement Work – Equally Safe Quality Standards and Performance Management Framework**

The Equally Safe Quality Standards were published by the Scottish Government, COSLA and the Improvement Service in May 2018 (and updated in April 2019), in close collaboration with the National VAW Network and other stakeholders.

The Equally Safe Quality Standards respond to the expectations set out in Equally Safe: Scotland's Strategy for Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls and in the Violence Against Women Partnership Guidance (VAWPG), in relation to effective performance management.

The Quality Standards aim to:

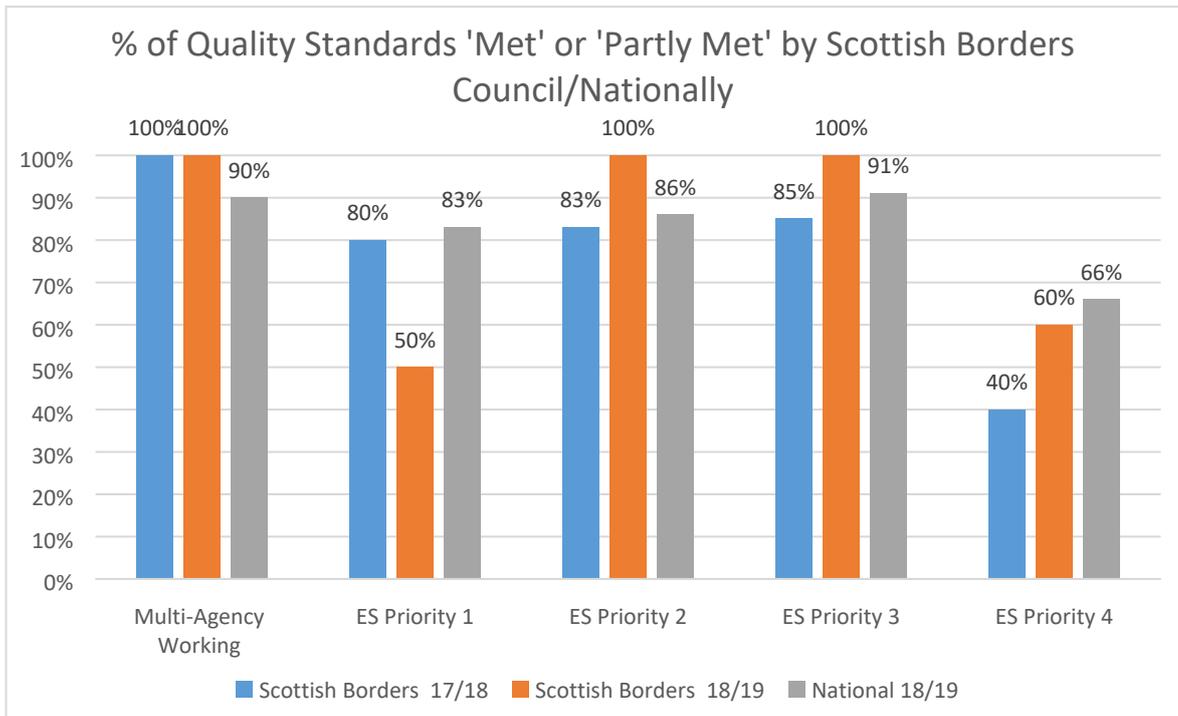
- Highlight the types of services, policies and processes that are most effective in tackling VAWG and capture data on the extent to which they are currently being delivered across Scotland
- Highlight what good practice looks like when supporting women and children affected by VAWG and provide a benchmark of excellence that can be worked towards
- Identify areas for improvement and help to increase capacity and capability to identify and respond to women and children affected by VAWG

The Equally Safe Quality Standards are designed to help local VAW Partnerships work towards the four priorities in Equally Safe, namely:

1. Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect and rejects all forms of VAWG
2. Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically
3. Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people
4. Men desist from all forms of VAWG and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response

The Scottish Borders VAW Partnership, with support from the Safer Communities Analyst, have submitted data to the Equally Safe Quality Standards since their introduction. The following summarises the findings from the Improvement Service's Local Equally Safe Quality Standards Report for 2017/18 and 2018/19. The report for 2019/20 is still being developed by the Improvement Service. The Scottish Borders VAW Partnership have considered both local reports and developed and Improvement Plan to address the Partially Met, or Not Met Quality Standards. There was a strong commitment from all partner agencies to submit data and contribute to the submission.

*"Overall, Scottish Borders' results are very similar to the national averages and surpass the national average by some margin in terms of Equally Safe Priority 2, and Priority 3, and Multi-Agency Working. Priority 1 has seen a slight decline from Scottish Borders' 2017-18 report however some of this can be attributed to the constraints of Scottish Borders' rural setting and population size, and there is still effective work being undertaken in this priority area"* (Improvement Service Scottish Borders Report 2018/19).



### 9.7 Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Overview: April 2019 – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

	EDIN NORTH	EDIN SOUTH	MID	EAST	WEST	BORDERS	HEALTH/ Restricted Patients	TOTAL
<b>Level 1</b>	355		40	53	161	95	32	736
<b>Level 2</b>	4	6	2	2	5	5	0	24
% managed at level 2:	2.7%		4.8%	3.6%	3%	5%	0%	3.2%
% of level 2s per head of population:	0.002% (popn = 498,810)		0.002% (popn = 87,390)	0.002% (popn = 103,050)	0.003% (popn = 178,550)	0.004% (popn = 114,030)	0.0000% (popn = 981,830)	0.002% (popn = 981,830)
<b>Level 3</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total RSOs</b>	<b>365</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>760</b>
% of RSOs per head of population:	0.07%		0.05%	0.05%	0.09%	0.09%	0.003%	0.08%
CAT 3 Offenders	4		2	1	1	0	0	8

Scottish Borders has a disproportionately higher number of Registered Sex Offenders being managed under MAPPA in comparison to neighbouring partner authorities, 0.09% per head of population. This poses challenges for social work and statutory partners including Police Scotland and housing due to the resource intensive nature of this work. Reasons for this are complex and likely to result from a number of factors, including the geographical location of the authority and rurality that often attracts people to migrate to the area away from urban locations where they fear they may be identified and are restricted in opportunities to move on with their lives.

Performance Indicator	Q1 April - June 19	Q2 July - Sept 19	Q3 Oct - Dec 19	Q4 Jan - March 20	Q1 April - June 20
Total Number of Sex offenders subject to MAPPA	98	104	104	104	100
Number of Sex offenders managed at MAPPA 1	95	102	102	98	95
Number of Sex Offenders managed at MAPPA 2	2	2	2	6	5
Number of Sex Offenders managed at MAPPA 3	1	0	0	0	0
Number of Restricted Patients	1	1	1	1	1
Number of Offenders Managed as Category 3	0	0	0	0	0
Registered sex offenders (RSOs) who reoffended :					
a. sexual crimes	0	0	2	2	1
b. registration	0	3	0	2	2
c. breach of order	0	0	0	1	1
d. crimes of violence	0	1	0	2	2
e. Other crimes	1	5	4	2	1
Number of RSOs subject to statutory supervision	35	32	27	30	23

Assessed level of harm	Q1 April - June 19	Q2 July - Sept 19	Q3 Oct - Dec 19	Q4 Jan - March 20	Q1 April - June 20
High	6	8	8	7	8
Very High	0	0	0	0	0

Meetings:

Type of meeting and number of cases discussed	Q1 April - June 19	Q2 July - Sept 19	Q3 Oct - Dec 19	Q4 Jan - March 20	Q1 April - June 20
Risk Management Case Conference	13	4	6	11	7
Level 2 Panel	4	5	5	7	
Level 3 Panel	0	1	0	0	0

Initial Case Reviews (ICRs)/Serious Incident Reviews (SIRs)

Within the reporting time frame two ICR/SIR notifications were submitted, as required following national guidance to the MAPPA Critical Service Oversight Group and the Care Inspectorate. Neither resulted in further action being required.

**10. Engaging with people**

**10.1 Engaging with Families and Children**

Ensuring that the views of children, young people and parents are obtained continues to be key in child protection. Learning from the experiences of children, young people and parents can be incorporated into everyday work so that practice is improved to avoid causing future harm and by providing the best and most helpful support to achieve positive outcomes for children.

10.2 Parents surveys have been adapted so parents now receive a text that includes a link for them to complete the parent survey online. New ways to engage with children and families, along with the feedback and learning from existing surveys, is now included in the remit of the Child Protection Delivery Group.

**10.3 Young People and SB CPC Developmental Work**

Child Protection training and staff development is undertaken in both single and interagency levels with links made and in line with the Getting it Right approach and United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The Child Protection training team have:

- reviewed and amended Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) training with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners;
- regularly reviewed and updated training, including legislation changes;
- continued to provide bespoke training for local groups and voluntary organisations;
- provided a thematic annual update to all Education Staff, this is developed in consultation with the Education CP Lead (this year’s theme ACES and neglect);
- planned, reviewed, evaluated and quality assured all interagency training;
- Piloted in one primary school training on the dangers of sexting and grooming working in partnership with the Chairs of the Parent Partners, a local Youth Group and High School pupils; and
  - Delivered senior S6 school leaver Child Protection Awareness Raising across the secondary High Schools.



**Always Be Wary**

CPC Training Officers made links with Rowlands Youth Club over summer 2019 and in autumn at Selkirk High School to engage more young people in creating a pilot training aimed at upper primary school age pupils in order to prevent, protect and report online abuse. Pupils spoke to the Chairs of Scottish Borders Council Parent Partnership to take on board their views about delivering child protection training to younger aged pupils and in so doing incorporated primary 5 pupils into the pilot.

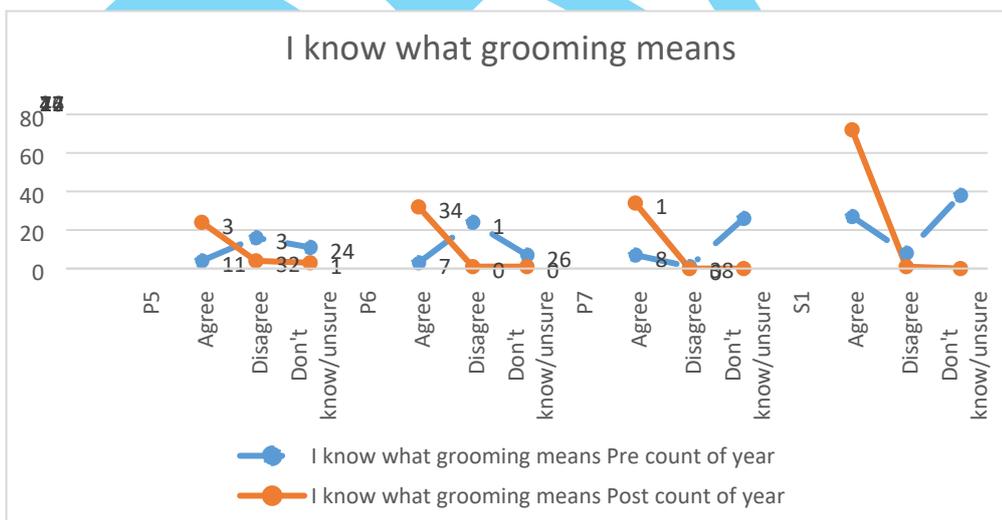


The results of the training highlighted that young people are being contacted online by strangers and by putting privacy settings on their accounts they can reduce the risk of this contact. In this pilot, primary 5 aged pupils (age 9-10 years) were identified as being targeted by strangers more than primary 6.

The table below highlights the responses to 2 questions specifically 'have you been contacted by a stranger online?' and '...sent a violent or sexual picture?'

Primary Age	Contacted by a stranger (by % of group)	Sent a violent or sexual picture (by % of group)	Number of respondents
S1	62%	17%	34
P7	35%	6%	34
P6	14%	3%	34
P5	21%	6%	23

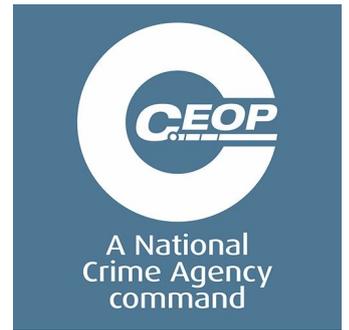
Listening and responding to the views of young people informed the training materials and content of the pilot. Real life examples of ways young people were being groomed online was clearly explained and co-delivered by peer trainers from the local high school. A sharp increase in the understanding of grooming behaviours was measured in the post evaluation.



In the pre training evaluations approximately 33% of children intimated they would report abuse content to the admin of the appropriate site and a further approximately 33% said they 'don't know' what to do if they are sent an abusive image or text.

Peer educators engaged with the young people and challenged their thinking around reporting an abuser to the admin of a site versus the Police as a means to protecting themselves and preventing further abuse of themselves or others.

Post training evaluations highlighted only 12 pupils were unsure who to report issues to, with the rest, approximately 90% clearly responding that sexual themed and violent and abusive content should be reported to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) Police, ChildLine, parents, a trusted person; many listing several reporting routes.



As a result of the Always be Wary work;

1. The Public Protection Committee is now a registered Saltire Awards provider and several of the young people who volunteered as peer trainers will receive a certificate commending them for their work.
2. As a result of the primary pilot 134 pupils aging from 9-13 years have received training identifying grooming behaviours and how to report to CEOP.
3. The Primary pilot is being reviewed by the Chairs of the Parent Partners and PPC members for next steps.



Child Protection Awareness Raising Sessions were delivered to 298 S6 pupils, who attended as part of a planned delivery in personal and social education classes, supported by trainers from SBC CPC. This session provides guidance to S6 pupils involved as buddies for younger pupils but also acknowledges that these are adults within the Borders who may go on to employment or volunteering opportunities so equips them as members of the public to be aware of how to raise concerns about abuse.

#### 10.4 **Engaging with people subject to MAPPA**

The Community Intervention Service for Sex Offenders (CISSO) delivers a range of programmes across the Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders MAPPA partnership including the Moving Forward: Making Changes (MFMC) sex offender group work programme.

##### **Moving Forward Making Changes Programme (MFMC)**

For the period August 2019 to July 2020, four men participated in the Moving Forward Making Changes Programme. A further five men participated in the internet offender's programme. Two men are currently on the waiting list to begin the MFMC programme and one is waiting to start the internet offender's programme. Four men subject to either Court Orders or release from custody supervision requiring them to undertake this work, during the reporting period, have either completed either the MFMC or the internet group prior to August 2019 but remain on supervision.

Six qualified social workers based in the Justice Social Work team are trained as MFMC case managers. Case Managers are responsible for managing and supervising the overall Court Order or Release Licence. The Case Manager delivers preparatory pre-programme work with men before they join the MFMC group. They maintain ongoing contact with group facilitators

and participants throughout their time on MFMC, informing the MAPPA Risk Management and Contingency Plans on progress made.

**The Caledonian System Men’s programme**

The authority works alongside three other councils, Edinburgh City, East and Mid Lothian to deliver the Caledonian System Men’s Programme. The focus of this accredited programme is to address domestic abuse. Edinburgh City deliver the programme in group format to those mandated to undertake this work by the Court.

In addition to direct engagement with those who have been convicted of domestic abuse offences, the programme also offers support and safety planning work, from dedicated local social work staff to partners, ex partners and children affected by domestic abuse.

**10.5 Surveys**

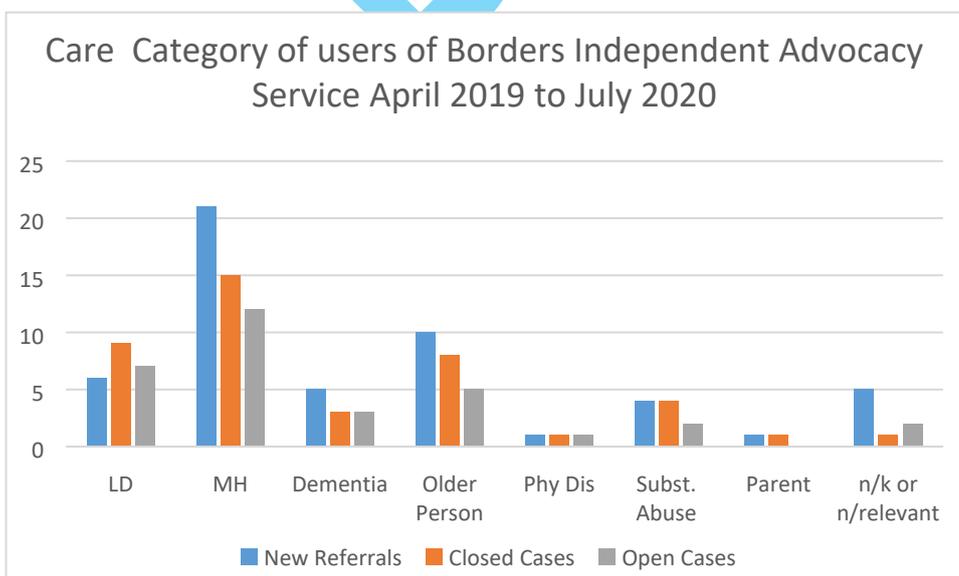
Adult Protection Officer self-evaluation surveys have been developed. The surveys were initially trialled then updated, at which point it became compulsory for Adult Protection officers to complete following Initial and Review Adult Protection Case Conferences. Since 8 June 2020 up until the end of July 2020, 21 surveys have been completed. Findings and analysis of this survey will be regularly reported to the Adult Protection Delivery Group and the survey itself will be reviewed within the next twelve months. A comprehensive critique of the survey findings will be provided in the next annual report.

**10.6 Views of people (advocacy figures)**

**Borders Independent Advocacy Service (BIAS)**

BIAS reported to APC on a quarterly basis regarding service users involved in the AP process referred to them for support. During this period BIAS received 53 new adult referrals, and continued to work with an existing client base.

It is hoped that in the near future BIAS will be providing advocacy to children for Children’s Hearings but this is in the early stages. BIAS work with parents going through the Child Protection Hearing system where the parent has either a mental health or addictions issue or a learning disability and this will continue. Unfortunately BIAS do not provide advocacy for Child Protection Case Conferences at this time.



## **SBC Domestic Abuse Advocacy Services**

DAAS is an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy (IDAA) service which aims to address the safety of victims at high risk of harm from intimate partners or ex-partners to secure their safety and the safety of their children. In some cases, they may also work with clients who are at risk from extended family members. Serving as a victim's primary point of contact, DAAS normally works with their clients from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop safety plans. They are proactive in implementing the plans which address immediate safety, including practical steps to protect their clients and their children, as well as longer-term solutions. These plans will include actions from the MARAC, as well as sanctions and remedies available through the criminal and civil courts, housing options and services available through other organisations. DAAS works over the short to medium-term to put clients on a pathway to long-term safety. Staff members have all received specialist training and hold an SQA qualification as Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates (IDAAs). Since they work with the highest risk cases, IDAAs are most effective as part of an IDAA service and within a multi-agency framework. The IDAA's role in all multi-agency settings is to keep the client's perspective and safety at the centre of proceedings.

IDAAs will sit within a spectrum of domestic abuse organisations, and their specific role is to take on the intensive high risk-led work at the beginning of the client's journey. Once that risk is managed to point where the client is no longer high risk, the IDAA will refer on to other domestic abuse services to meet their long-term safety and support needs.

During 2019/20 there were 1129 police domestic abuse incidents reported (12% increase on the previous year).

In total there were 693 referrals to Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities domestic abuse services (DAAS/Court Advocacy/Safe Housing Options and Outreach). The Court Advocacy Service was funded August 2017 to September 2019 and Safe Housing Options and Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support Outreach to June 2020. From July 2020, services were redesigned to incorporate Safe Housing Options and Outreach into the main DAAS team structure.

1 <sup>st</sup> April to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Total referrals to domestic abuse services (Safer Communities)
2017/18	756
2018/19	762
2019/20	693

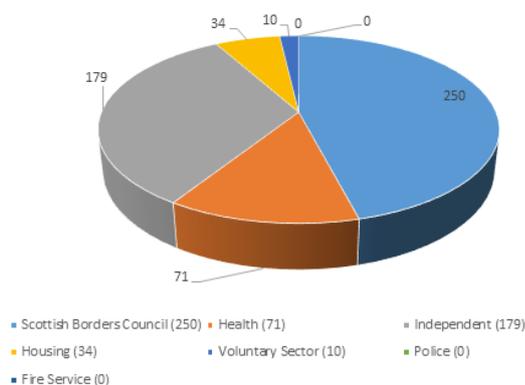
## 10.7 Training, Learning & Development

Please note that while the subsequent data provided below takes into account the reporting period to end July 2020, all face to face training was suspended as of the end of March 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions. The CP training team has focussed on encouraging completion of the mandatory e-learning and considering what can be delivered using technology like Microsoft Teams. It is acknowledged this will not replace face to face training but it will provide an introduction to both the CP and AP for new staff in the Scottish Borders. The courses are also being updated so they can recommence when it is possible. In addition some of the CP and all of the AP training capacity has been temporarily redirected to other duties. Given the large range and number of staff from across various sectors in both CP and AP Services, it is not possible to evaluate attendance against actual numbers of staff. There are strategies in place to provide information about suitable levels of training and key agencies have their own pathways for mandatory training which they monitor within their Human Resource (HR) processes. PPC is committed to ensuring all staff have access to appropriate and quality training, and provides matrices for line managers to use with their staff and volunteers to ensure they comply with mandatory and optional training to suit the identified needs of the individual employees, in their roles working with adults and children in Scottish Borders.

The Training and Development Officers appreciate staff taking the time to complete surveys. Comments are reviewed and used to update and improve training on an ongoing basis.

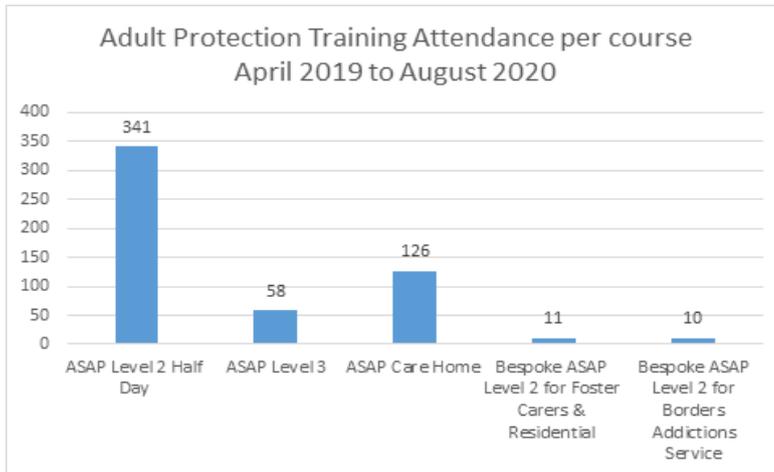
### Adult Protection Training

Adult Protection Training Attendance per agency  
April 2019 to August 2020



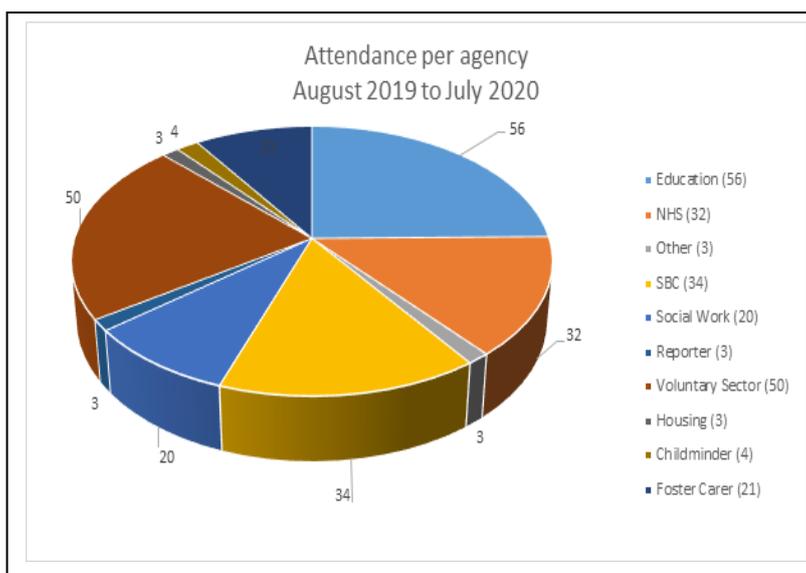
Within the Scottish Borders there is a clear multi-agency Training Programme and Training Strategy. Specialist development sessions and forums are in place to disseminate knowledge, share good practice, and enhance practitioner's skills. In particular it is hoped training sessions with care homes and managers will reduce Large Scale Investigations (LSIs) through

improved communication and early intervention.



Over the period, there have been 19 Adult Support and Protection Level 2 training sessions, four Adult Support and Protection Level 3 training sessions, eight Adult Support and Protection Care Home training sessions, one Bespoke Adult Support and Protection Level 2 for Foster Carers and Residential Staff and one bespoke Adult Support & Protection Level 2 for Borders Addictions Services. Total figures of staff trained in chart amount to 546.

### Child Protection Training

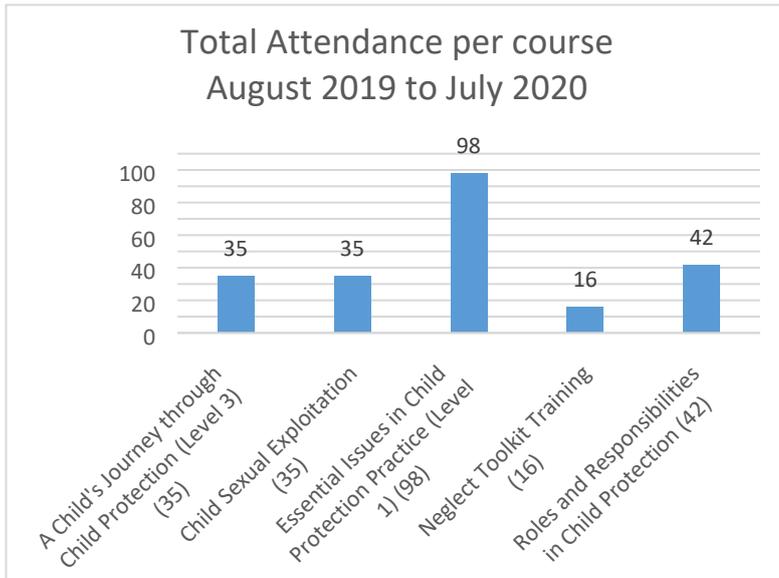


In total, 226 staff from different services and agencies attended the Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice Training (Level 1), Roles and Responsibilities in Child Protection (Level 2), A Child's Journey through Child Protection (Level 3) as well as the Neglect Toolkit and Child Sexual Exploitation training.

Child Protection Training is delivered by Child Protection Training and

Development Officers in conjunction with CP Reviewing Officers, third sector professionals, specialists and the Police.

Unfortunately 52 people did not attend and some reasons for cancelling included 'illness' or 'other competing demands' e.g. meetings/double booked. Records are maintained to monitor reasons for withdrawing from courses and reported to the Training Development and Communications Delivery Group.



A local high school fire, necessitating the use of training venues for temporary school use, and the Covid-19 pandemic account for a reduction in the courses offered this year.

## Public Protection Training



For more information on Child Protection training please call 01835 825108 #yourpart

The CPC team offer training to a number of local agencies, members of the public, voluntary groups, local committees and places where children and families spend time. In addition to the offers of Public Protection training, Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice (Level 1) training was delivered to some groups and bespoke training to others, e.g. bespoke child protection post- natal

depression group. In total 215 people received bespoke training courses across Scottish Borders, including 74 passenger transport drivers and escorts, 12 new volunteers at Borders General Hospital, and 30 professional drivers/taxis drivers as well as Aberlour staff, Street Pastors, Interest Link, Cheviot Youth and Abbotsford House.



## Learning and Staff Development

1. All courses offered are reviewed annually to take account of any new local and national developments, changing legislation, incorporating feedback from participants. In particular the new domestic abuse legislation in April 2019 was highlighted to staff as part of update training as well as reminders on cyber and online legislation. In the period August 2019 to July 2020 2391 staff have now been trained as part of the annual update for Education, Early Years, Community Learning and Development (CLD), janitorial, catering and cleaning staff.
2. The online e-learning module, suitable for new staff, has been redeveloped to remove mention of the named person and reiterate that any information regarding a child protection concern should be reported.
3. The annual Child Protection Update focus for staff in Education, Community Learning and Development (CLD) and Early Years' Service covered Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and neglect as the main themes. Incorporating the ACE aware Scotland video by the Scottish Government has meant 2391 staff are aware of the drive for Scotland to become an ACE aware nation. The change in the Domestic Abuse legislation regarding coercive and controlling behaviour was highlighted to staff as well as a reminder on human trafficking and mobile phone concerns re indecent images of children. In addition to this, mention was made to SBC's policy on whistleblowing and escalation procedures. As requested by participants the previous year, a reminder on the use of open questioning was included as a reminder to staff. This training was co-produced by the Child Protection Training and Development Team and Education partners.
4. Neglect Toolkit Training continued to be delivered until Covid-19 restrictions. Most relevant staff have undertaken this training and the course is offered regularly to pick up new staff.

5. Other main Child Protection Training courses include Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice Training (Level 1) for the general workforce, and Roles and Responsibilities in Child Protection (Level 2) with A Child's Journey through Child Protection (Level 3). (Details are shown in the graphs earlier). The Working with Difficult, Dangerous and Evasive Families course has a waiting list but has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) course has been updated in association with Children 1<sup>st</sup> and Rape Crisis in Scottish Borders. Third Sector partners are valued and included in the re writing of courses.
7. In evaluating the feedback from the Education Annual Update, the attendees reported that they were 'very informed', 'using real life cases was very relevant', 'made me aware of how important it is to pass on concerns', 'feeling more confident', 'balance of content and participatory activities was excellent', and 'having a Q and A would be helpful', 'much prefer the yearly updates than 3 hour sessions every 3 years', the course 'heightened my awareness of ACEs', with a 'request for more 'bespoke' post level 3 training for CP/ LAC Coordinators on a more regular basis'.
8. Evaluation comments from level 1-3 courses:
  - "Varied backgrounds of other attendees - was good to hear other experiences, etc."
  - "Interesting presentation - helped me understand my own responsibilities when dealing with children and young people in the school and what to look out for."
  - "good real life references brought the reality of the need for child protection to life."
  - "I felt the content was a little rushed in the end."
  - "more variety in the method of teaching, as it was mostly talking"
  - "[I am] more confident in making referrals"
  - "[I have] better understanding of the process and importance of sharing information"

*'We have recently alongside Children 1st assisted in redesigning the CSE training with CPC Learning & Development. This is a great example of involving the Third sector specialist organisations in the redesigning of existing training. Recommendations for inclusion such as highlighting key national documents such as Equally Safe and ensuring that the content is up to date, accurate and useful for participants. Co-facilitation with specialist services would be useful as specialist services will have recent examples of supporting young people that can be shared with participants.'* Susie Stein, Rape Crisis

### **Gender Based Violence Training 2019/20**

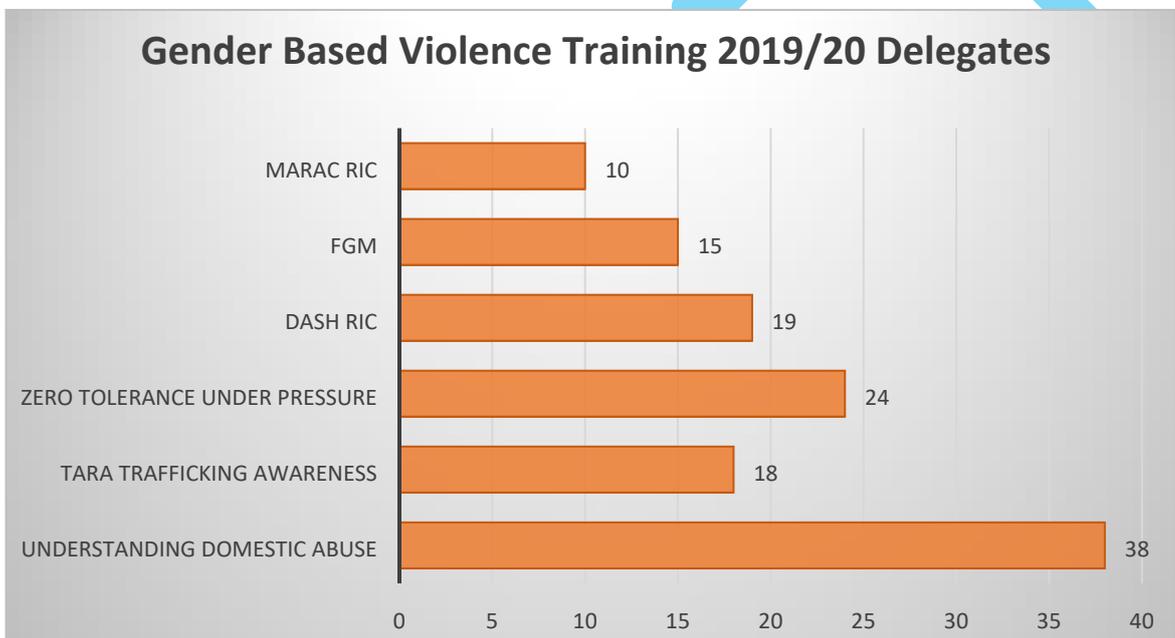
The Violence Against Women Partnership has no dedicated resource to provide workforce development resources in terms of the development and delivery of training or supporting communities to access information on how to respond to gender based violence in Scottish Borders.

During 2019/20 the training was provided by staff from Safer Communities domestic abuse teams, MARAC, Scottish Border Rape Crisis Centre and national providers such as Shakti Women's Aid. Locally none of specialist gender based violence services are resourced to provide training but are committed to supporting all staff to be able to respond safely and effectively to gender based violence.

Administration of training courses was provided by Safer Communities in 2019/20; this will move to the DAAS service in 2020/21.

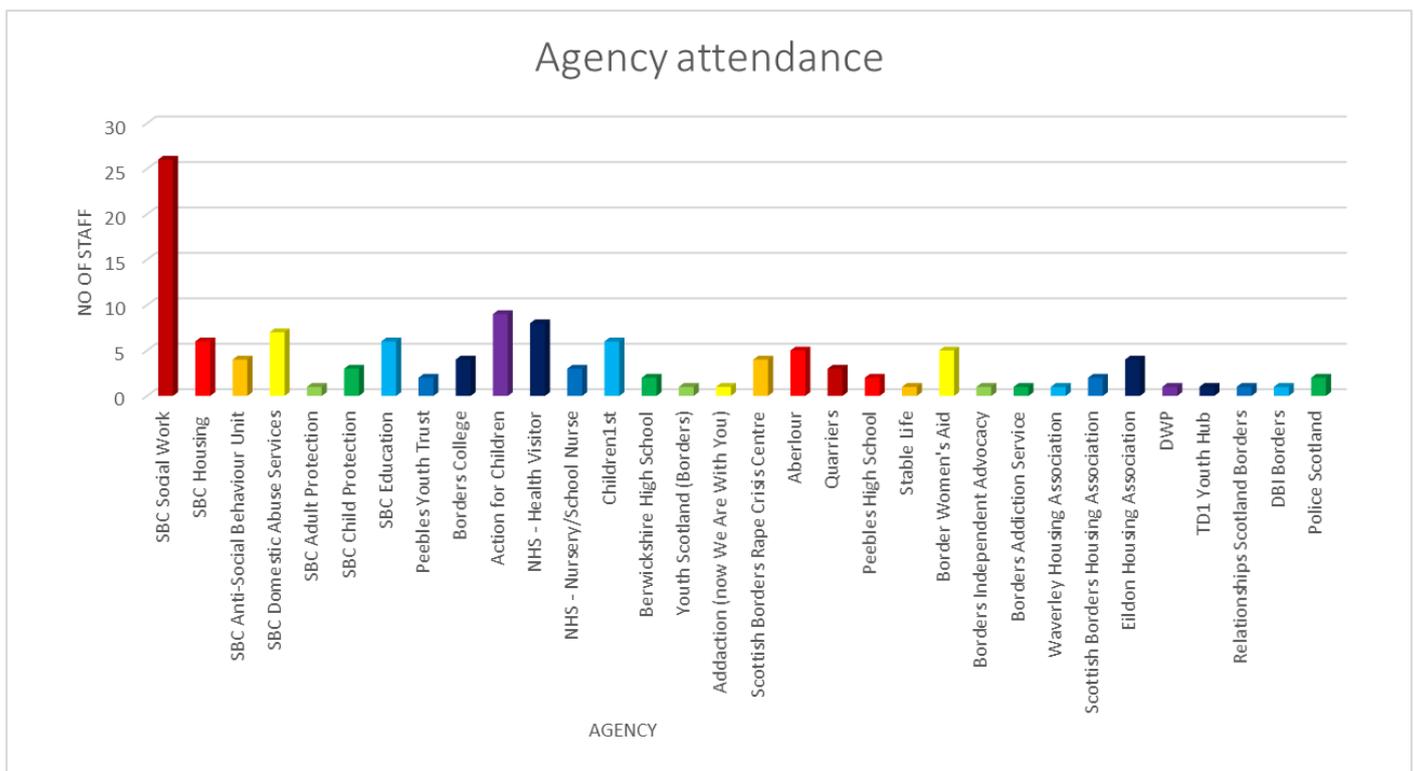
There has been no training needs analysis conducted recently to enable a good understanding of training need locally but there has been a significant increase in online resources e.g. SBC Corporate Induction, to provide a general awareness of gender based violence and awareness of more specific types of gender based violence e.g. Human Trafficking can be covered by national organisations.

The following shows the total number of people who accessed specific gender based violence courses in 2019/20; the number of courses delivered were MARAC Risk Identification (1); Female Genital Mutilation (2); DASH Risk Identification Checklist (2); Under Pressure (1); Trafficking (1) and Understanding Domestic Abuse (3). On average 16 places are offered on each course, thus 160 training spaces were available in this period. There was one session delivered on Awareness of Rape and Sexual Abuse Training with 16 participants and one session on Supporting survivors of sexual violence training with 8 participants.



Shakti Women's Aid delivered a Forced Marriage training day in 2019 and 18 people attended from a range of partner agencies.

The following table shows the agencies who released staff to attend Gender Based Violence Training in the same period.



The gender based violence training attracts a good multi-agency representation, and all courses consistently evaluate as meeting the learner needs. This demonstrates that most partner agencies feel that gender based violence training is relevant for their workforce.

Nationally, there is a gender based violence workforce programme, funded by Scottish Government, underway. Equally Safe in Practice aims to create a national training framework for gender based violence and enable agencies to provide a “pathway” of learning opportunities for staff. Scottish Borders is represented on this working group by the VAW Co-ordinator.

**<https://womensaid.scot/project/equally-safe-in-practice>**

In September 2019, thirty four front line practitioners attended the four day, core training for Safe and Together – the model which aims to provide a framework for partnering with domestic abuse survivors and intervening with domestic abuse perpetrators in order to enhance the safety and well-being of children – and a group of managers and policy-makers took part in a one day Overview session. In October 2019 a Joint Meeting of the APC, CPC and Offender Management Committee agreed to adopt ‘Safe and Together’ as the basis for multi-agency work on Domestic Abuse in Scottish Borders. In 2020, two practitioners from Justice Service and Children1st were trained as Safe and Together trainers and are working towards accreditation in order to support implementation of the model locally.

**MAPPA Training**

In December 2019 the MAPPA co-ordinator, facilitated a MAPPA Level 2/3 Chairs workshop. The workshop was designed to share knowledge and experience relative to the role of chair. The event was arranged to capture identified learning in response to the Tayside SCR published in June 2019. November 2019 saw a similar event take place for Level 1 chairs across the Edinburgh City, Lothians and Borders MAPPA partnership.

February 2020 saw the MAPPA co-ordinator participate in a Social Work Scotland event providing a presentation that focused on MAPPA and Cross Border transfer. This UK wide event was hosted in Scotland and attended by Justice Social Work and Probation colleagues

representing Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, in addition to the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice, Parole Board and Scottish Government. The event focused on Cross Border Transfer with a view to informing a review of current guidance. Scottish Borders adult and youth justice services were well represented.

The MAPPA Annual Conference took place in March 2020. This event was well attended by practitioners and MAPPA leads from across the Scottish Borders including Justice Social Work, Child Protection, Health Services and Police Scotland. The key topic of this year's event was the assessment and management of young people who present a Serious Risk of Harm, as they transition into Adult Services and management under MAPPA.

## **Prevent Training**

Training on Prevent is done via the ELearning Package and other events, and a number of these have been carried out in the previous year and these included, Mail Room Security and Document Awareness.

# **11. Information for the public and staff and stakeholders**

## **Communications**

11.1 The CPC used a Public Communications Strategy to advertise training using internal channels for staff and SBC social media to reach external audiences.

A Cyber Safety event was coordinated by the CPC in October and specialists from SELMA (Social and Emotional Learning for Mutual Awareness) co-funded by the European Union to tackle online hate speech and abuse, delivered the training. The event catered for multi-agency practitioners including foster carers, police, schools, families, social workers to name a few. The course highlighted the dangers of online abuse and how to access training for individual establishments and parents. Over 70 people attended this event organised by the Scottish Government.



A pupil from Galashiels Academy jointly led a workshop at Newcastle University for Educational Psychologists on the making of the animation **AlwaysBeWary** and explained the positive impact on her being a part of this campaign. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9dMt3a6hu0>

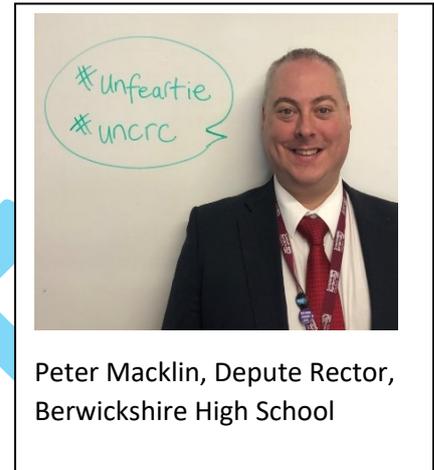
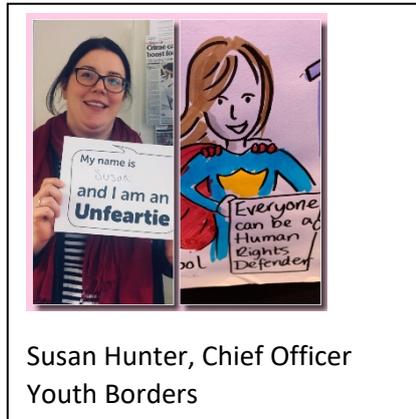


In addition to this, social media support was given to the National Eyes Wide Open Campaign to alert members of the public to dangers children face over the summer holidays.

The Scottish Government celebrated the 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday of the Children's Parliament by launching an 'Unfeartie Campaign' in line with leading and reporting concerns for and on behalf of children

and several key leads in the PPC and SBC took part. Pupils in schools working with the CPC also joined in this publicity campaign.

### Unfeartie Campaigners!



Information about public protection is shared via SBLearn, SBScene staff e-magazine, SBC's social media channels and press releases to local papers as well the Child Protection e-Newsletter produced twice a year featuring seven minute briefings.

### 11.2 SBC Public Protection Communication

During the Covid-19 lockdown and ongoing response/recovery operation Public Protection services remain staffed and operational, and all children who are on the Child Protection Register are visited weekly. Looked After Children have a high level of contact with staff, which includes responding to the needs of the wider family where required.

Schools have identified 'vulnerable' children and staff are maintaining contact with those identified and their families too.

In respect of adults, close work is undertaken with our registered social landlord colleagues to identify and support those thought to be vulnerable in the current circumstances but where social work and social care support are not already established.

A range of key public protection messages have been developed covering both children and adults and also domestic abuse and these are promoted through social media channels.

### Child protection, adult protection and domestic abuse maintained a high profile in the overall SBC COVID-19 communications plan:

- Information is available wherever relevant on SBC's dedicated coronavirus webpages.
- Individual social media graphics were created to highlight essential key messages and contact information – see examples below. Posts/tweets are issued regularly as part of an ongoing awareness raising campaign, linking to national messages wherever appropriate.



- Members of the Community Planning Partnership, relevant third and voluntary sector organisations and head teachers (early years, primary and secondary) have been asked to share information through their channels.
- Information is provided to all elected members and local MPs/MSPs..
- Information is included in the fortnightly SB Alert newsletter that is sent to over 6,000 Borders residents from our Emergency Planning Team.
- Information is included in SBC staff briefing emails.
- A news release was issued: [Joint news release issued.](#)
- An article was produced in [SBC staff e-magazine.](#)

### 11.3 Mailshots providing information and offering training

Mailshots were sent to many establishments in the Scottish Borders offering training, including, riding stables, caravan parks, swimming pools, stately homes and the Borders Union Show. Course providers for professional driver training were also contacted.

### 11.4 Newsletters

In 2019 SB CPC produced two newsletters which are full of local and national child protection information, new learning and reminders.

The newsletter was shared with all staff and partner organisations of the CPC and is uploaded to the CPC website.



## 12. Quality & Improvement Data

### Adult Protection Activity (1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020)

12.1 The APU continue to monitor AP initial referrals and statistics related to referrals using data from Mosaic which is the Social Work information management system. Unless otherwise stated, the figures below were collected in the period 1st April 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. Readers are reminded that comparisons with previous year’s statistics will be skewed, as this report encompasses a 16 month period compared with the previous year’s 12 month period.

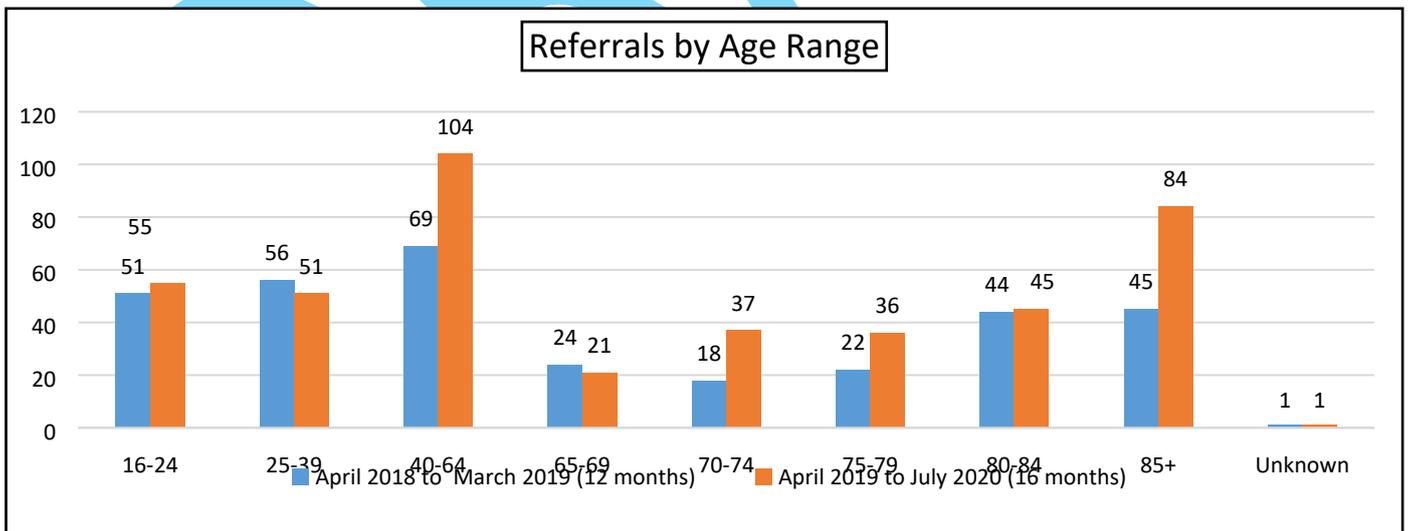
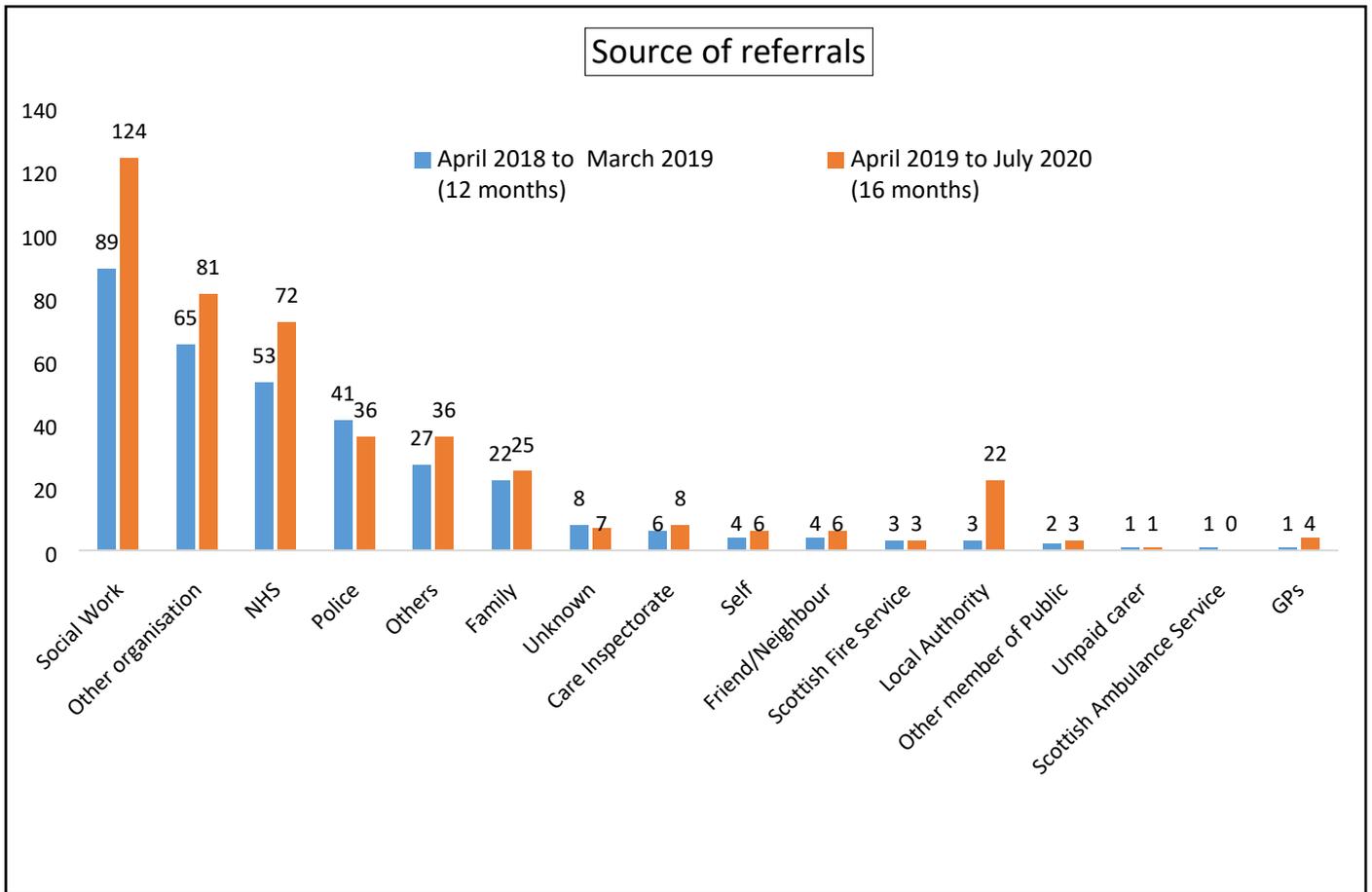
## **Initial referrals & screening of harm in Scottish Borders Council**

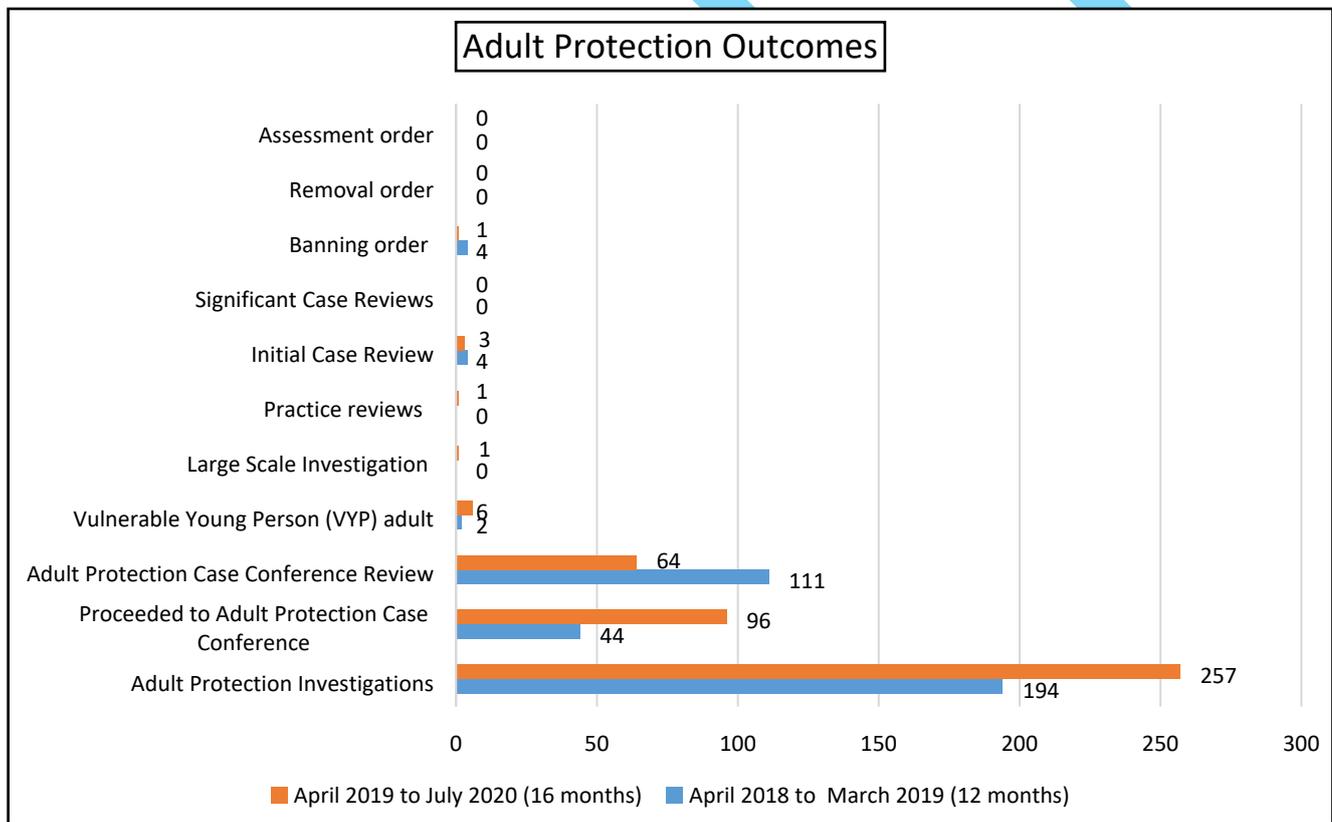
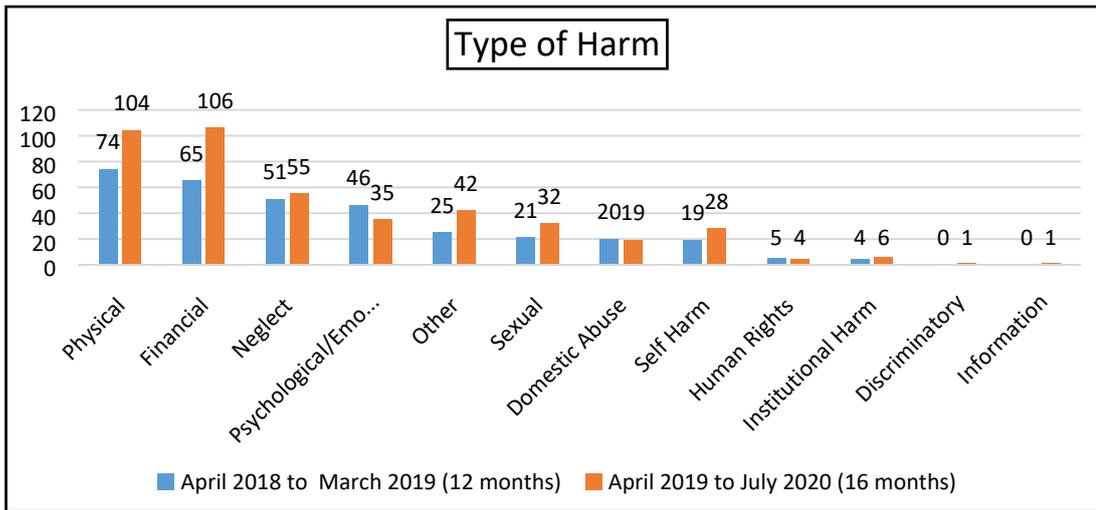
Referrals come from a large variety of sources; including all agencies, providers of care services, the public and adults themselves. The SBC Customer Services Team and the Emergency Duty Team also take AP referrals.

Police Adult Concern Forms and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Referrals are referred directly through the Adult Protection Unit and passed to the Locality Social Work Teams for response.

### **Snapshot of Adult Protection**

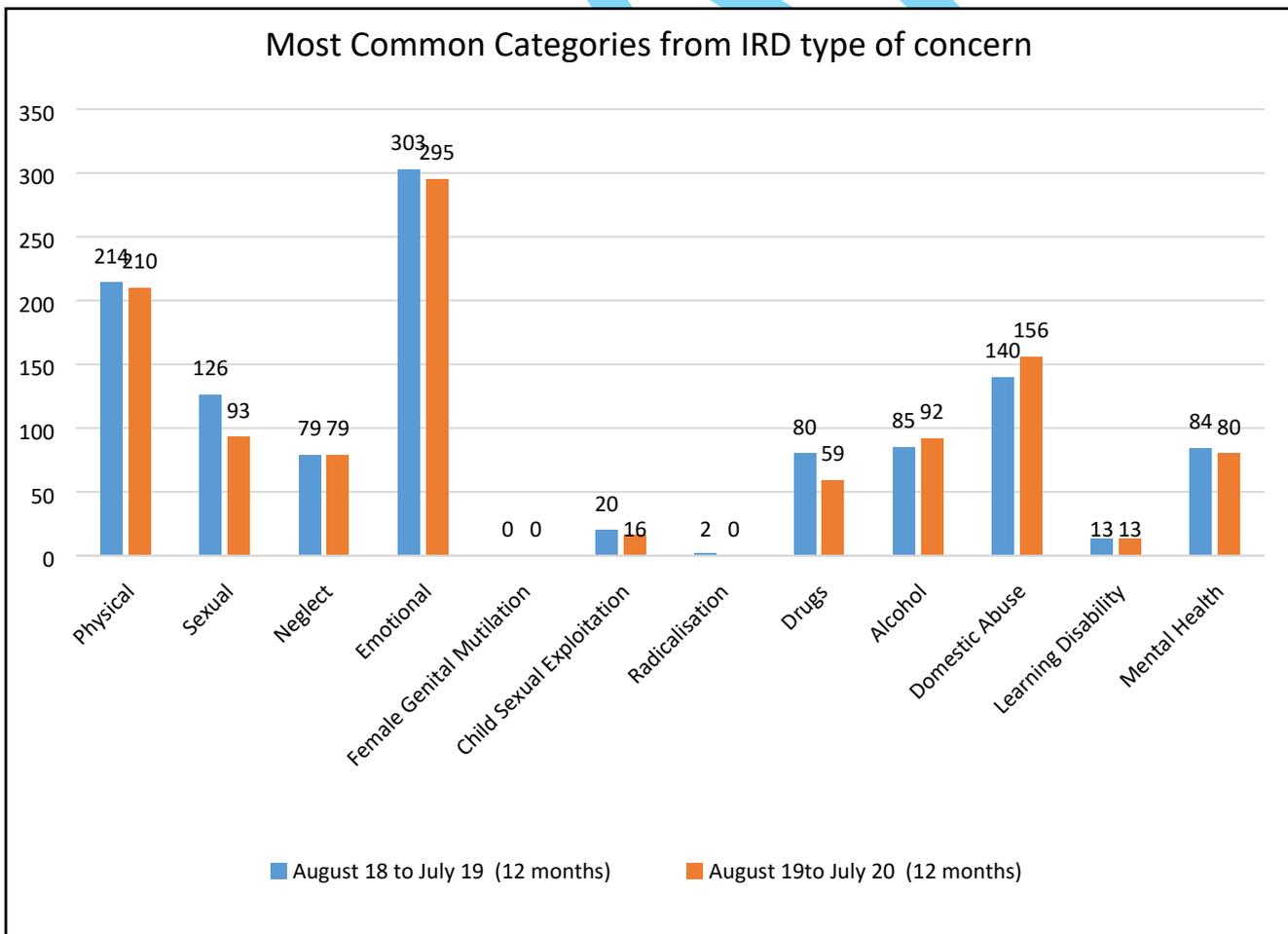
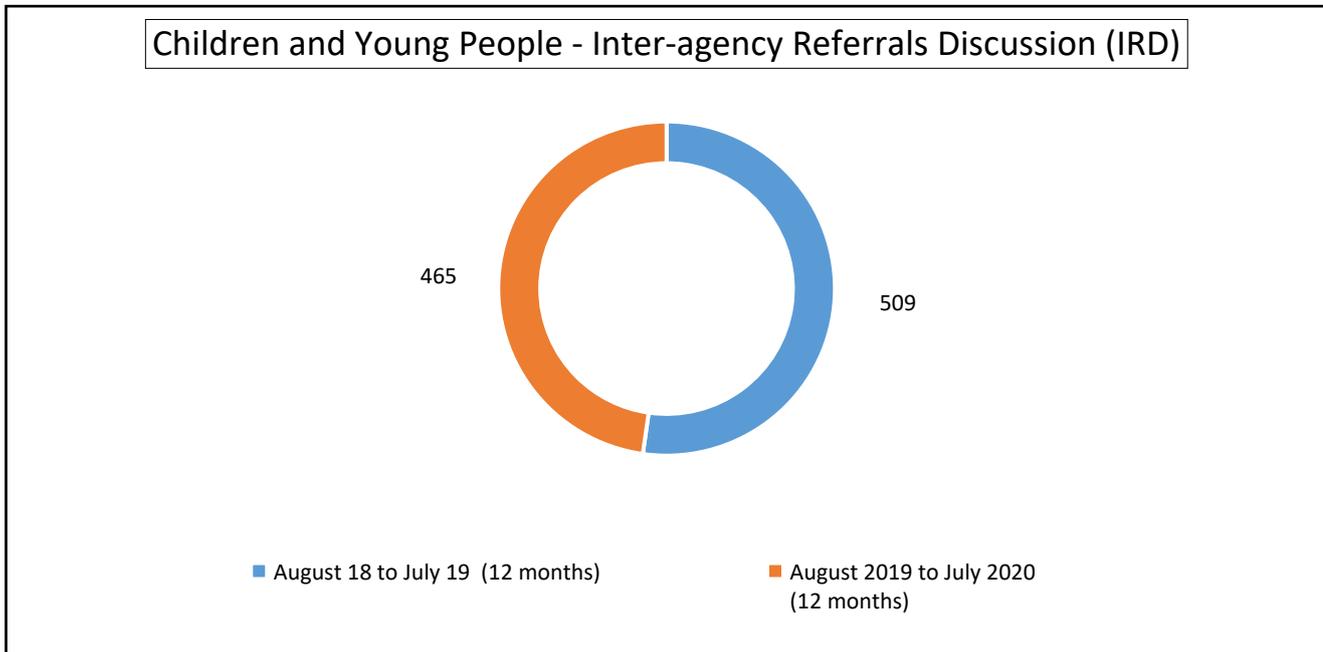
Please note that the two periods of data are 12 months, in line with national AP reporting, and 16 months to accommodate the reporting for this PPC annual report. Therefore while the data is not directly comparable it does provide opportunity to have oversight of year on year changes.





## Snapshot of Child Protection

Please note that the two periods of data are 12 months, August to July, in line with national CP reporting.



### **13. Scottish Borders Public Protection Business Plan**

13.1 Below are the priorities of the Business Plan and although timescales have been set, these are subject to change due to Covid-19.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Group responsible</b>
To respond to the new national Child Protection Guidance	PPC
To ensure a programme of work to implement the Safe & Together approach to domestic abuse	PPC
To ensure identified changes to the Vulnerable Young Persons protocol are fully implemented	PPC
To ensure a comprehensive performance monitoring system is agreed and implemented	PPC
To develop a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Vulnerable Adults	PPC
To review the functions of PPC in 12 months	PPC
To ensure the Improvement Plan in relation to Borders performance against the national Equally Safe strategy is implemented	VAWGDG
To introduce multi-agency audits for adult protection	APDG
To demonstrate improvements in AP processes to be timely and show effective decision making and action	APDG
To provide updated AP procedures and guidance notes	APDG
To demonstrate an improved use and application of the Neglect Toolkit to address childhood neglect	CPDG
To demonstrate a consistent and assured use of integrated chronologies	CPDG
To demonstrate an increase of ways to gather views of children, young people and their families	CPDG
To maintain an oversight of MAPPA	Justice Services DG

As this is the first Scottish Borders Public Protection Committee annual report it is noted that the data provided are for different periods and therefore some sections are not easily brought together. However, it is hoped this report provides appropriate information on the work of the CPC and APC and introduces the new Scottish Borders Public Protection Committee and its Delivery Groups. The above business plan highlights the work underway and although some progress has been made, timescales will be affected by Covid-19.

## **In Conclusion - A few words from the Vice Chair and Delivery Group chairs:**

The development of the Scottish Borders Public Protection Unit is an indication of our commitment to support our most vulnerable citizens. The Adult Protection Delivery Group is an important part of that picture and will work continuously to improve our guidelines and our oversight.

**Peter Lerpiniere, Chair of APDG, Associate Director of Nursing for Mental Health, Learning Disability & Older People, NHS Borders**

As part of our collective drive to improve outcomes for those most at risk in Scottish Borders, the development of the co-located Public Protection Services is a significant milestone. This will provide us with a stable platform to consider risk through the lens of a 'Think Family' approach. Working collaboratively across the agencies, we will continue to develop this model to ensure that we can respond to risk and need.

**Stuart Easingwood, Vice Chair PPC and Chief Social Work & Public Protection Officer**

Formation of the Public Protection Committee in the Scottish Borders has committed to a Vision where 'all children and adults at risk in Scottish Borders are supported and protected from harm', this is a determination and strong commitment across the whole partnership to ensure we protect the most vulnerable in society. It is my absolute privilege to be appointed as Chair of the Child Protection Delivery Group and already we are making significant progress to support this vision through delivery of a focus on our key priorities now and into the future.

**Matt Paden, DCI, Public Protection Unit Police Scotland, Chair of CPDG**

I am delighted to be appointed as Chair of the Training and Communication Delivery Group. Through the development of an overarching training strategy, all agencies will have access to high quality input to support learning and development which will ensure consistency and greater skill levels across all partners.

**Lesley Munro, Service Director Young People Engagement and Inclusion, SBC (Chair of TD&CDG)**

**14. Acronyms**

ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experiences
AP	Adult Protection
APC	Adult Protection Committee
APO	Adult Protection Officer
APU	Adult Protection Unit
ASPA	Adult Support & Protection (Scotland) Act
ASP L&D	Adult Support & Protection Learning & Development Group
BIAS	Borders Independent Advocacy Service
C&FSW	Children and Families Social Work Team
C&YP	Children & Young People
CEOP	Child Exploitation and Online Protection
CISSO	Community Intervention Service for Sex Offenders
CLD	Community Learning Disability
COSLA	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
CP	Child Protection
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CPOMM	Child Protection Operational Managers Meeting
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSOG	Critical Services Oversight Group

CYPLG	Children & Young People's Leadership Group
DAAS	Domestic Abuse Advisory Service
DASH	Domestic Abuse Stalking and Honour Based Violence
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
HR	Human Resources
IAPCC	Initial Adult Protection Case Conference
ICR	Initial Case Review
IDAA	Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate
IRD	Inter-agency Referral Discussion
JII(T)	Joint Investigative Interview (Training)
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LAC	Looked After Child
LSI	Large Scale Investigation
MAC	Meeting Around the Child
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MFMC	Moving Forward Making Changes
NHS	National Health Service
PP	Public Protection
PPC	Public Protection Committee
PPU	Public Protection Unit
PPC	Public Protection Committee
RAAF	Risk Assessment and Analysis Framework
RAPCC	Review Adult Protection Case Conference
SBC	Scottish Borders Council
SBCPC	Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee

SCR	Significant Case Review
SIR	Serious Incident Review
SQA	Scottish Qualifications Authority
TD&CDG	Training, Development & Communication Delivery Group
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
VYP	Vulnerable Young Person
VAW/VAWG	Violence Against Women/Violence Against Women and Girls
VAWPG	Violence Against Women Partnership Guidance

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