

## **SCOTTISH BORDERS PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

**Report by Director – Education & Lifelong Learning**

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

**28 March 2024**

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### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

**1.1 This report summarises the activity of the Public Protection Committee (PPC) and associated Delivery Groups for the year 1 August 2022 – 31 July 2023.**

1.2 The Annual Report covers the main activities of the multi-agency Public Protection Committee, highlighting the continuing work being undertaken in the Scottish Borders to meet the Council’s statutory duties to protect children and adults at risk of harm.

1.3 The Report includes information relating to Child Protection, Adult Support and Protection, Violence Against Women and Girls and Justice Services. It includes statistical information relating to the PPC Performance Indicators and training and development activities.

1.4 The Annual Report describes the considerable work undertaken by staff and services to meet the needs of the most at risk members of our communities.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 I recommend that Council note the content of the Public Protection Committee Annual Report 2021-2022.**

**2.2 I recommend that Council agree to endorse the publication and to it being shared across other forums.**

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Scottish Borders Public Protection Committee is an inter-agency group of senior staff which provides leadership in promoting the continual improvement of services in this area of work. The PPC incorporates the statutory responsibilities of Child Protection Committees and Adult Support and Protection Committees.
- 3.2 This entails ensuring that there is an efficient and effective multi-agency response to reports of harm, abuse, or neglect through, for instance, reviewing and revising practice guidelines, providing joint training, and reviewing of individual cases – all conducted within a culture of continuous learning. In addition, the PPC has a role to promote the safety of children and adults through raising awareness in communities across the Scottish Borders to support the key role which members of the public play.
- 3.3 The Public Protection Committee reports directly to the Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) consisting of Chief Executive (SBC), Chief Executive (NHS Borders) and Divisional Commander Police Scotland (Police).
- 3.4 Members of PPC sit on a variety of national groups, including Child Protection Committees Scotland, Adult Support and Protection Conveners Group and the National Lead Officer's Group. Links with a variety of local strategic and operational groups are maintained, and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners are represented on PPC and through the Delivery Groups.
- 3.5 Members of PPC remain committed to the support and protection of children and adults as the focus of its work. The PPC and associated Delivery Groups met regularly during the year, and much has been achieved through their inter-agency agendas and effective partnership work which is detailed in the report.
- 3.6 Alan Small took over as the PPC Independent Chair in September 2022.

### 4 PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

- 4.1 **The PPC Annual Report** details the work of the PPC and Delivery Groups against the key functions of the Committee:
- 4.2 **PPC Governance:** The section describes the detailed review of the PPC governance and reporting structure. This included reviewing agenda setting, engagement with PPC Chairs and introduction of highlight reports. In addition,
- 4.3 **PPC Business Plan 2023 - 26:** This section of the Report highlights the work the PPC has done to review its Business Plan and agreed priority outcomes for delivery over the coming three years. The PPC's six key principles link with its statutory and non- statutory duties and its focus on continuous improvement. The plan sets out three priority areas for development, each with a specific aim. Each priority will be taken forward by the PPC through the PPC Delivery Groups who are tasked with developing and delivering distinct work plans to achieve the aims set out for each priority. Further in the report the 3 Business

priorities are explored further and how the work of the PPC and PPC Delivery Groups are processing these: Listening to, and action on, the views of those with lived experiences. Developing the culture of learning from public protection practice, both within and beyond the Scottish Borders. Responding to the pressures placed on children, young people and adults at risk of harm, improving safety and wellbeing.

**4.4 PPC Report Period:** The report highlights reasons to align reporting timescales to maintain effective and meaningful data analysis.

**4.5 Joint Inspections:** This section gives an oversight that over the course of the past two years, Scottish Borders has received Joint Inspections of both Adult Support and Protection and Child Protection. The report highlights the strengths from both inspections and the improvement plans that are being undertaken. The Inspections are referenced throughout the remainder of the report.

**4.6 The Business Plan's three priorities** are explored further in the next three sections of the report and highlight how the work of the PPC and PPC Delivery Groups is progressing: 1) Listening to, and action on, the views of those with lived experiences. 2) Developing the culture of learning from public protection practice, both within and beyond the Scottish Borders. 3) Responding to the pressures placed on children, young people, and adults at risk of harm, improving safety and wellbeing. These sections include information on training statistics, surveys, and joint working.

**4.7 Policy and Procedures:** This section provides an update on the PPC's current position including an update on the Child Protection procedures and the introduction of the new Learning Review Delivery Group guidance that links to National guidance for both Adult Support & Protection and Child Protection.

**4.8 The Appendices** to the Report include more detailed statistical information relating to child protection, adult support and protection, violence against women & girls including training provision.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial**

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

### **5.2 Risk and Mitigations**

The Annual Report is an important document for monitoring activity and for identifying areas of improvement. The risk of not collating information in this way would be a reduction in the quality of strategic work of the PPC, and subsequent impact on the safety of adults and children in our community.

### **5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment**

Not applicable to this Report.

#### 5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

- a. (3) The Report describes partnership working across statutory and third sector organisations, with the purpose of ensuring adults and children in our community are safe from harm, abuse and neglect.
- b. (5) The Report describes work to reduce the occurrence and impact of violence against women and girls, through our Violence Against Women and Girls partnership and Domestic Abuse Advisory Service.

#### 5.5 Climate Change

There are no significant climate change impacts associated with this report. PPC Business and training activity is carried out online where possible, to reduce travel demands on staff.

#### 5.6 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

**5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation** There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of this Report.

### 6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Director (Finance & Procurement), the Director (Corporate Governance), the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and their comments received incorporated into this report.

#### Approved by

**Lesley Munro**

**Director – Education & Lifelong Learning**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Samantha Wallace	Child Protection & Adult Support & Protection Lead Officer Officer 01835 824000

**Background Papers:** None

**Previous Minute Reference:** None

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Anita Hurding can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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