

Forth Valley Public Protection

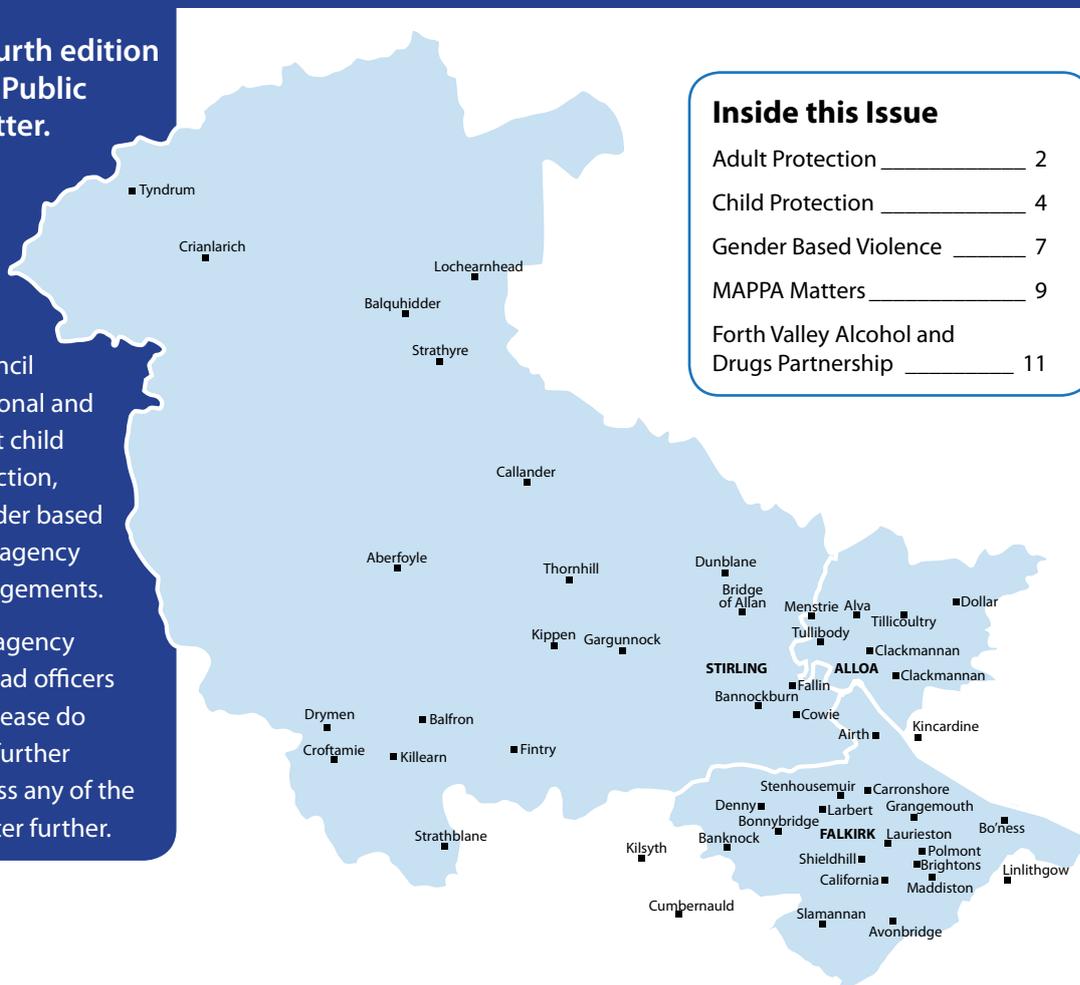
Issue 4 - Winter 2017

Newsletter

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Forth Valley Public Protection Newsletter.

This newsletter has been produced by the Public Protection lead officers across Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling council areas and includes national and local information about child protection, adult protection, substance misuse, gender based violence and the Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements.

Details of all the multi-agency partnerships and the lead officers can be found below. Please do contact us if you want further information or to discuss any of the content of the newsletter further.



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Update on Work of Falkirk Adult Support and Protection

The work of the Falkirk APC has continued, led by the 2016/18 Improvement Plan.

Quite a few actions have come to fruition recently. Specifically – a) leaflets for service users subject to ASP investigations and Case Conferences are currently (October) at the printers b) the system of seeking service users comments on the ASP process (offered by Forth Valley Advocacy) has been finalised (we have identified the first five people we hope will participate) c) the ASP Practitioners Pages are available (and we are finding the way to make this accessible to people outwith Falkirk Council) and d) ASP Practitioners Forum has been re-started (taking place on Wednesday 29th November – look out for the email inviting you to attend). Also training for people chairing ASP (and AWI) Case Conferences has been arranged for November and in January 2018 also.

There also will be a Financial Harm “conference” for service users and informal carers on 13th November 2017. This takes place at the FV Sensory Centre in Camelon between 2:30pm and 4:30pm. It is aimed at preventing financial harm, and will focus on internet “scams”, doorstep crime and also demonstrate how to protect yourself when using an ATM. For more information contact ian.kinsley@galkirk.gov.uk

The ASP statistics for 2016/2017 have been finalised recently and submitted to the Scottish Government. There were 540 ASP referrals, 377 Inquiries, 175 IRDs, 47 Investigations, 15 Initial Case Conferences and 16 Review Case Conferences in that time.

Things that stand out include – by far the highest referrals come from private care home (over 40% of all referrals). This is twice the average around Scotland. Our referrals from health sources are 7% - (national average 8%) and from Police 2% (national average much higher). In the past five years investigations have decreased dramatically whereas inquiries have increased significantly. Allegations of physical harm are the highest (44%) and financial harm next (22%).

The Falkirk APC will continue to analyse these results and are looking to “benchmark” these with other similar Councils to see what we can learn from such comparisons. Self evaluation work has increased this year. The IRD process has been audited every six weeks for some years. We have widened this and self evaluations on how Police Concern Reports are managed, the conducting of investigations (joint with Police and social work alone) and also Case Conferences are currently underway and making progress.

As always any additional information please contact Ian Kinsley (ian.kinsley@falkirk.gov.uk). Also remember to look at the ASP Practitioners Pages (link - <http://inside.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social-work/adult-support-protection/>) where you will increasingly find APC minutes, SCR and MWC reports and the ASP training schedule for the next 6 months.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM SCR – MISS “A” – North Lanarkshire APC

Miss A was a 60-year-old single woman who had a learning disability. She lived in supported accommodation and received daily support, funded by North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) and paid directly to Provider A, a local provider of supported living services for people with learning disabilities.

Miss A was in a relationship with a 49-year-old male (Mr B) from the South Lanarkshire area. He also had a learning disability, and, on 19 May 2014, Miss A failed to return home after going out to meet this man. Her body was later found in the River Clyde. Mr B was later found to be unfit to plead to charges against him and he is currently detained at the State Hospital, Carstairs.

Miss A's relationship with Mr B had lasted from 2007 to 2009 and then again from 2013 until her death in 2014. In 2008 she took an overdose, later telling support staff Mr B had been verbally abusive and had struck her during an argument. It was also noted by Provider A staff that there was bruising on her face, lower back and thighs.

In late April 2009 Miss A indicated that the relationship with Mr B had ended and there was no apparent

further contact between her and Mr B for four years. Then Miss A advised her support team that she had met Mr B again. She said he was shouting at her and asking for money from her, and that she was frightened of him. However she continued to stress she wanted to continue the relationship.

On 26th March 2014 Miss A advised her support team that the relationship was off again and she was blocking calls from Mr B but on 29th April she advised them that the relationship had been re-established. On 19th May, Miss A advised Provider A staff that she intended to travel to see Mr B again. It was that day she died.

Some quotes from the SCR findings are

- “.... there was ample evidence available to all of the professionals involved in supporting her that her relationship with Mr B was an abusive one.”
- “Given the extent of this evidence, had the management of the care of Miss A been properly exercised, it should have been sufficient to justify an investigation and further protective and safeguarding activity.
- “.... in spite of that, there was no formal assessment of the capacity

of Miss A to make an informed decision in respect of her safety at any time in the period under review”

- “... there was no involvement of the police in what was a criminal matter; and, in not referring the matter to the police, there was a decision made by her support team without any formal basis that Miss A would not be a credible witness”.
- “An objective assessment of the Adult and Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 should have concluded that she comfortably met the definition of an adult at risk of harm under Section 3 of the Act”.
- “There was no real contact between the services in the two local authority areas (North and South Lanarkshire) at any time prior to Miss A's death and there is little doubt that this was a missed opportunity”

You can access the full report at the North Lanarkshire APC web page or find it here

<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/adultprotection/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=20517&p=0>

Forth Valley Adult Support and Protection

The Service Users Survey is ongoing and is proving invaluable in assessing how our performance is perceived by our client group. So far the results are favourable however, we realise that there are areas for improvement which we have identified through our wider self evaluation framework. Our approach is one of continuous service improvement so there will always be areas where we are looking to enhance the quality of service provided.

Our Forth Valley wide Financial Harm Group has grown in membership and now includes representation from various credit unions and the Citizens Advice Bureau. This networking is essential in order that we may understand the scope of financial harm in the community and collectively we can explore tactics which will make a meaningful difference to people's lives. You may have read about two recent court cases of financial harm in Stirling. One involved in carer within a residential home who stole money from three residents. The perpetrator was sentenced to five months imprisonment. The second related to a couple who had financial and welfare guardianship over a parent and basically abused their position for their own considerable financial

advantage. They are scheduled to be sentenced in October, 2017.

We have identified dates/venues for our financial harm service user's seminars as follows:

13/11/17 - Sensory Centre, Camelon

14/11/17 - Lecture Theatre, Community Hospital, Stirling

15/11/17 - Council Chambers, Kilncraigs, Alloa

The programme will include:

- What is financial harm
- Internet Safety
- Trading Standards – Keeping yourself safe at home

Our practitioners group has been very successful in obtaining practitioners views and identifying training needs across partners in Adult Support and Protection. This has led to the scheduled delivery of Council Officer refresher training in November, 2017.

August saw the introduction of the 7 Minute Briefing process when it was used to clarify the use of the Swift Adult Protection module in Stirling. This was well received by the audience and resulted in immediate improvement in recording of information. This briefing model will be used to deliver a series of briefings

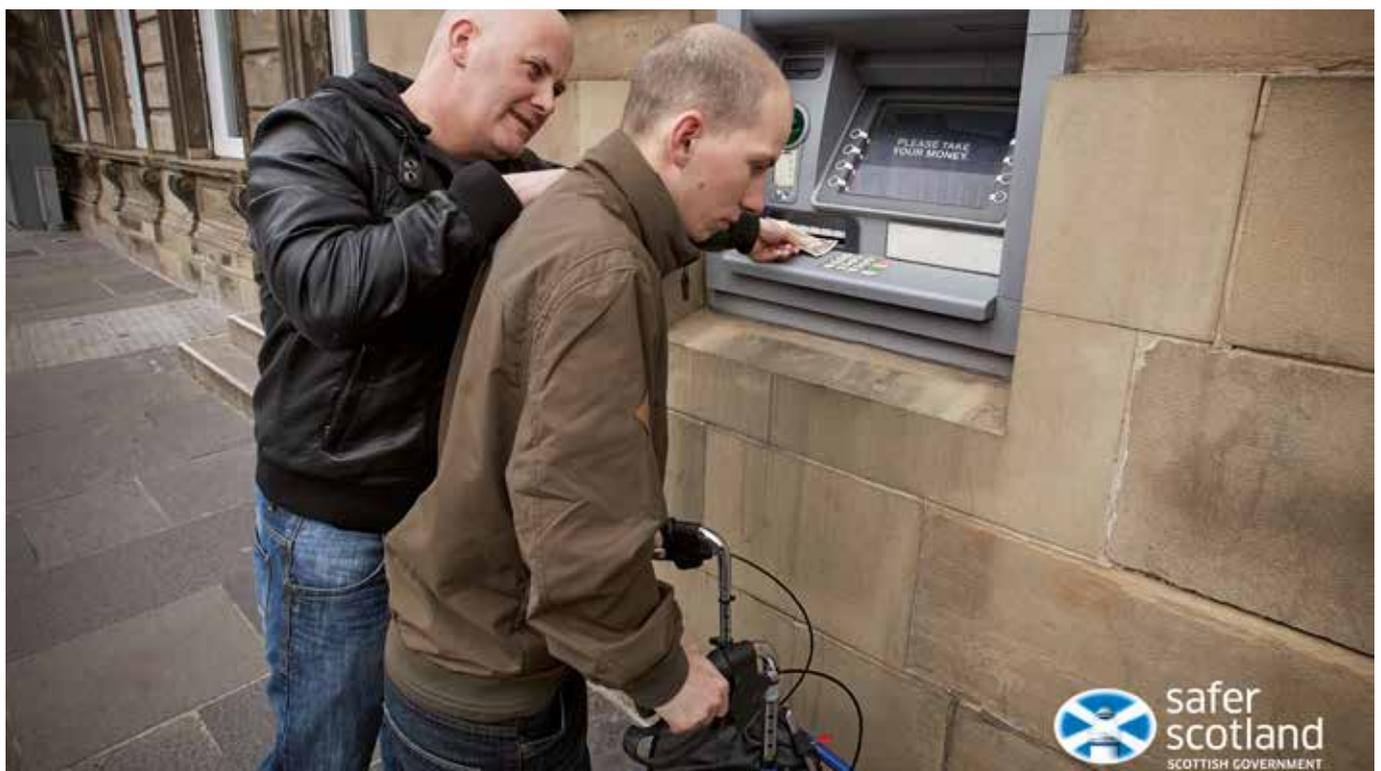
in relation to our work which should yield further practice improvements across the partnership.

The Adult Protection Committee will host an annual seminar which has been scheduled to be held on Wednesday 22nd November, 2017 at the lecture theatre, Community Hospital, Stirling. The theme will be "Balancing Rights and Risks" with a focus upon listening and engaging with practice dilemmas. A programme has been drafted and will be circulated once approved by Committee. The event will be marketed internally providing an opportunity for practitioners to attend the event.

Action on Elder Abuse Scotland has planned a national conference the details of which may be accessed via their web site in the attached link. They are keen for practitioners to attend. The web site contains an array of useful information to augment that already used in our daily activities and will develop over the coming months

<https://www.elderabuse.org.uk/in-scotland>

Any staff wishing to attend their conference are encouraged to apply via their line manager as there is a cost to the event.



CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES SCOTLAND

Promoting policy and best practice for the protection of children across Scotland

Child Protection Committees Scotland (CPC Scotland) has a pivotal role to play, in conjunction with the Scottish Government, to support the development and delivery of efficient and effective processes, common standards and continuous improvement for child protection during what continues to be a time of uncertainty for Scottish Public Services.

CPC Scotland meets quarterly and provides an opportunity for Child Protection Committees, Scottish Government Child Protection Policy Team and other relevant stakeholders to meet and work together to develop and drive forward national policies and best practice with the aim of protecting children and young people.

Members of CPC Scotland include Child Protection Committee Chairs and/or strategic leads, Lead Officers, CELCIS and the Head of Child Protection of Scottish Government Children and Families Directorate as well as associate members such as Scottish Children's Reporters Administration, NHS Scotland, Police Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Care Inspectorate,

Social Work Scotland, the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland, the Third Sector and the Convener of the National Conveners Adult Protection Group. This membership broadly reflects the inter-agency strategic representation on local child protection committees as defined in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland. This enables CPC Scotland to work within the wider planning, policy and practice framework and across the public protection partnerships.

CPC Scotland has a number of subgroups including the National Child Protection Learning and Development subgroup, the National Child Protection Lead Officers Group, the Neglect subgroup, the Public Awareness Advisory Group and the National Child Sexual Exploitation Group.

The Chairs and Lead Officers of Clackmannanshire and Stirling Child Protection Committee and Falkirk Child Protection Committee are members of CPC Scotland and report back to their respective Committees after every meeting.





Speak Out, Stay Safe

FALLIN Primary School has helped Stirling Council reach a special landmark when it was visited by the NSPCC.

The UK's children's charity delivered its Speak Out, Stay Safe programme to pupils, helping Stirling cross the 100 per cent mark for schools visited by the educational anti-abuse project.

Fallin became the 40th Stirling school to host the assemblies and workshops, making the council the 10th Scottish local authority area to have had 100 per cent of their primary schools take part in the initiative.

More than 5,100 children across the area had already received the charity's Speak Out, Stay Safe programme since it began in Stirling in February 2014, forming a total of 180,000 pupils across Scotland who have been equipped with age-appropriate information and advice on staying safe from abuse and learning which adults they can turn to for help.

Research from the charity has shown that an average of two children in every class across the UK have been a victim of abuse or neglect, while in 2015-16 there were 4,368 recorded sexual offences against children in Scotland - an all-time high and a figure which has almost doubled since 2011-12.

The Speak Out, Stay Safe project aims to tackle this growing problem by complementing what is already taught in schools, giving children the tools and advice they need to avoid abuse.

NSPCC Schools Service Area Co-ordinator for Stirling Enola Butler said: "The NSPCC's Speak Out, Stay Safe programme works with Primary Schools to ensure that children across P1-7 have an understanding of abuse in all its forms, they know how to get help and to help them think about which trusted adults they could talk to if they are worried about anything at all.

"Our visit to Fallin Primary School means that every primary school across the area has had the service at least once; in



fact more than half have had at least two visits. We greatly appreciate the support of Stirling Council and look forward to that partnership continuing long into the future."

Service Manager for Additional Support Needs and Wellbeing with Stirling Council Bryony Monaghan said: "Our Children's Services Plan has been developed to ensure that partners are working well together to safeguard and promote wellbeing for children. We are delighted to work in partnership with NSPCC Scotland who have now delivered their Speak Out, Stay Safe programme in all of our primary schools.

"Pupils take part in assemblies and workshops allowing them to learn about keeping themselves safe in a fun and interactive way."

Convener of the Education Committee, Councillor Susan McGill, said: "The NSPCC does invaluable work with children throughout the country, and it is fantastic news that every school across Stirling Council has had the opportunity to benefit from the advice the charity can offer via their Speak Out, Stay safe campaign.

"We will always seek to improve the way we help and educate children by working together with partner agencies, and I am sure the pupils at Fallin Primary School will find the information provided via the NSPCC programme extremely useful."

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

– Responding to requests to provide documentation

The Inquiry collects evidence and information about abuse of children in care.

“children in care” - this means children who stayed in residential institutions – such as children’s homes, borstals and List D schools - from within living memory up to 17 December 2014. The term also includes children in foster care and Boarded Out children.

The Inquiry holds hearings where evidence is heard. People who disclose that they were abused will not be required to give evidence in public about their own abuse. In these circumstances ‘private sessions’ are convened. Witnesses may offer documents.

The Inquiry can also require people and organisations to give documents that they may have. This could include records about the care of children and reports of abuse, procedures, policies, the law and records of other investigations. The formal process for this is done by a letter called a ‘section 21 notice’.

The inquiry is examining what happened, where it happened and how and why it happened. Much of the evidence will be presented, analysed and discussed at public hearings, which are being separated into phases, all organised with a view to meeting each and every part of the Inquiry’s wide ranging Terms of Reference.

The first phase of public hearings started on 31st May 2017 and ended on 12th July 2017. This phase included hearing evidence from expert witnesses, Scottish Government, survivor groups and care providers.

On 31st October 2017 the Inquiry resumed hearing evidence relating to Phase 1 of its investigations. This included further expert evidence.

Phase 2 of hearings began on 28th November 2017. During this phase the Inquiry will examine evidence it has gathered, researched and analysed relating to residential child care establishments run by Catholic Orders.

More information, including the Inquiry’s term of reference can be found



on the inquiries website:
www.childabuseinquiry.scot/

This includes a newsletter, frequently asked questions and fact sheets.

Falkirk and Stirling Councils have already received Section 21 notices to provide information.

Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils, NHS FV and Police Scotland have reviewed their records management and established systems and processes to respond to the Inquiry. Documents which could come under the scope of the Inquiry date back as far as the 1920s (within living memory) until December 2014. This is a complex, time consuming but important task involving Information governance, archivists, researchers and administrative staff.

Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 represents some of the most significant changes to the laws of criminal procedure in Scotland for at least a generation. It brings significant reform to the criminal justice system, protecting the rights of suspects while also equipping the police with the necessary powers to carry out their role of investigating and detecting crime including new powers of Investigative Liberation and Post Charge Questioning. The Act strengthens police powers with regard to the arrest of a suspect and further measures can be put in place to ensure victim and witness safety.

The Act received Royal Assent on 13 January 2016 and the new legislation will be implemented at 00 00 01 hrs on Thursday 25 January 2018, subject to final parliamentary and ministerial approval.

The major aspects of the Act that will change Scottish policing are:

The removal of the separate powers of arrest and detention, replacing them with a single statutory power of arrest where there is reasonable grounds for

suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence. All other common law powers remain.

Presumption of liberty, a duty to take every precaution to ensure a person is not unreasonably or unnecessarily held in police custody.

Duty to consider a child’s (all persons under 18) wellbeing in respect of arrest, holding in police custody, interviewing and charging with an offence. ‘The Constable must treat the need to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of the child as a primary consideration’.

The introduction of Investigative Liberation which will provide the power to facilitate a suspect’s release from custody, with conditions, and allow the police to continue to conduct their enquiries whilst realising the person’s right to liberty.

The power to re-arrest on more than one occasion for the same offence prior to charge.

The general definition of a child remains under 16, and 16 and 17 year olds under Supervision. Current safeguards regarding such persons being held in

custody to appear in court, in terms of place of safety requirement and Child Detention Certificates, remain but have been updated.

Graduated rights for 16 and 17 year olds (not under Supervision). Children and 16 and 17 years olds will have enhanced rights of visitation and additional protections regarding ability to waiver solicitor presence during interviews. The disposal options and decisions for 16 and 17 year olds (not under Supervision) when charged remain unchanged i.e. reported as an adult to COPFS.

The Act extends the rights of those held in police custody, including widened access to legal advice.

The requirement for custody reviews when a suspect has been held for a period of six and twelve hours.

The ability, when new evidence emerges or other material becomes known, to seek judicial authority to further question an officially accused person, after the point of charge on authority of a court or COPFS.

Gender Based Violence



DOMESTIC ABUSE RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SCOTLAND, 2016-17

The Scottish Government has published statistics on domestic abuse, based on details of incidents and recorded crime supplied by Police Scotland in 2016-17. It is important to remember that incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police do not reveal all incidents of domestic abuse in Scotland as not all incidents are reported to the police. The figures are used to inform policy and, in conjunction with the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, are used to assess the extent and nature of domestic abuse in Scotland.

The definition of domestic abuse used by Police Scotland is:

'Any form of physical, sexual or mental and emotional abuse [that] might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere.'

Key Points

- In 2016-17 there were 58,810 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland, an increase of 1% from 2015-16. Levels of domestic abuse recorded by the police have remained relatively stable since 2011-12 at around 58,000 to 60,000 incidents a year.
- Across Forth Valley, there were 3,756 recorded incidents which can be broken down as follows:

Clackmannanshire	776
Stirling	818
Falkirk	2,162
- There were 109 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland per 10,000 population in 2016-17. At a local authority level, West Dunbartonshire (155) and Dundee City (153) recorded the highest incident rates per 10,000 population, closely followed by Clackmannanshire (151), Glasgow City (145) and Falkirk (136). Stirling records a fairly low average figure of 87, sitting 12th lowest in the table.
- 47% of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland included the recording of at least one crime or offence.
- Where gender information was recorded, 79% of all incidents of domestic abuse in 2016-17 had a female victim and a male accused (the same as in 2015-16).
- The proportion of incidents with a male victim and a female accused (where gender was recorded) was 18% in 2016-17 (the same as in 2015-16).
- In 2016-17, the 26-30 years old age group had the highest incident rate for both victims and those accused
- Incidents of domestic abuse recorded were more common at weekends with 36% of all incidents in 2016-17 occurring on a Saturday or Sunday.
- 88% of all domestic abuse incidents occurred in a home or dwelling.

International Visit to Consider Child Protection and Gender Based Violence



During the last week of September, three senior Police officers from Malawi visited Forth Valley as part of a Scottish Government International Development Programme, focussing on Child Protection and Gender Based Violence. The visit was hosted by Police Scotland, and gave Forth Valley a chance to showcase some of the local child protection arrangements.

Senior Superintendent Alexander Ngwala, Superintendent Memory Mgeni and Inspector Thoko Mkwezalamba were shown around the Public Protection Unit at Larbert and were given an overview on how police

officers in Scotland conduct Child Protection investigations. The officers then had a chance to visit the Children and Families Unit at Forth Valley Royal Hospital, where they met with Consultant Paediatrician Bohmova to discuss arrangements around medical examinations. On Friday, the group visited Alva Primary school where they met with headteacher Ms McAulay before being shown around the school and having a chance to meet with some of the pupils.

Detective Inspector Nigel Thacker from Forth Valley Public Protection Unit said: "This visit provided an

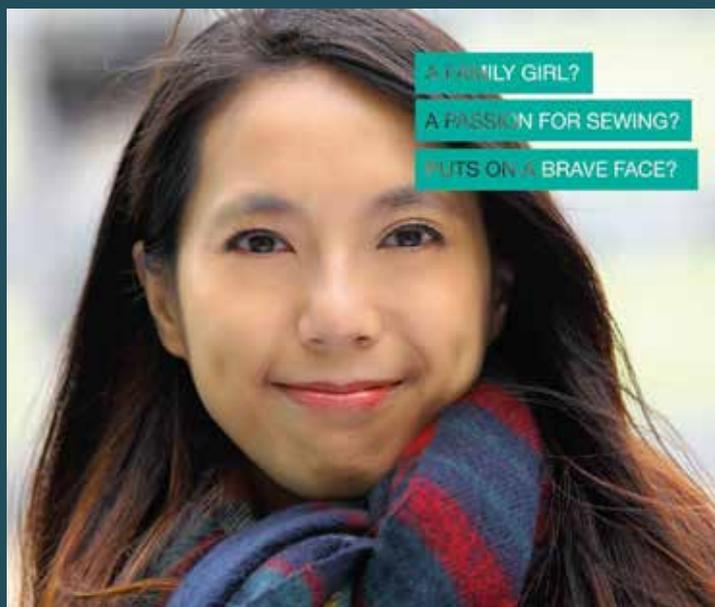
excellent opportunity to highlight to our international guests the local work being undertaken to protect children by Police, Health, Social Work and Education across Forth Valley. It also gave us the opportunity to learn from approaches used in another country and to build on existing links for the future."

Officers from Police Scotland will be visiting Malawi over the coming months to provide training on Child Protection to a number of districts throughout the country, under a wider Scottish Government project.



16 Days of Action for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children

In Forth Valley we celebrate 16 Days of Action every year as part of the international campaign to highlight and eradicate violence against women and children. The campaign starts on 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and runs through to 10th December (International Human Rights Day). The three councils in Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Falkirk join forces with Police Scotland (Forth Valley Division), NHS Forth Valley, the Scottish Prison Service, Forth Valley College and a range of other local partnerships and organisations to raise awareness of issues such as domestic abuse, human trafficking, rape and sexual assault, consent and healthy relationships and childhood sexual abuse.



A range of interesting events and initiatives will be held this year.

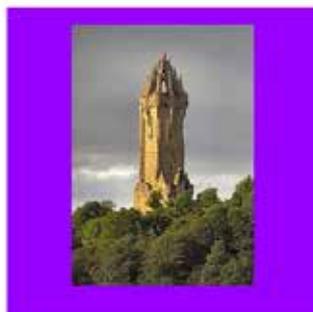
- Our opening event will be held in Forth Valley College (Alloa Campus) and will explore 'Prevention through Education'. Guest speakers will speak on topics including:
 - How the Rape Crisis Scotland sexual violence prevention programme is having an impact in local schools
 - The importance of taking a whole schools approach to preventing gender based violence and the importance of young people's participation
- Work being done by CEA in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service in Polmont YO1 to raise awareness of domestic abuse, sexualisation, gender and understanding consent
- The Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre is planning a 'Reclaim the Night' march in Stirling and will also be hosting an exhibition of local artwork which will be displayed across two venues in Alloa – 'Reachout With Arts in Mind' and the Speirs Centre.
- A conference for young people on the subject of 'Consent and Healthy Relationships' will be held in Queen Victoria School in Dunblane and will include an input from the Scottish Government.
- A screening of the documentary 'Hidden in Silence' will be held in Alloa Cinema. This will explore the experiences of BME survivors of childhood abuse in Scotland
- Additional initiatives include a human trafficking seminar, training on domestic abuse, internal awareness raising events for Council Staff, book displays in local libraries, school based activities, awareness raising in health settings and within HM Prisons Glenochil, Polmont and Cornton Vale.

For more detailed information about this year's campaign please look out for our 16 Days newsletter on your Council's website.

If you have concerns that you, or someone you know, is experiencing any form of violence or abuse you can get help. Contact Police Scotland on 101 (or 999 in an emergency). You can also contact Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline on 0800 027 1234. This number is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Workers here can help to direct you to local services.



Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements



MAPPA Matters

As described in the last Forth Valley Public Protection Newsletter, there has been a lot of MAPPA case review activity locally. It is important to make available information about the areas for improvement and good practice that were identified during as part of the reviewing process. Let's begin by summarising the good practice that's been highlighted during the past few months.

Communication & Consistency

Evidence of strong and consistent approaches to the management of offenders was found, including good inter-agency working and communication between Police Scotland, Local Authority Criminal Justice Social Work Services, Housing Services, NHS Forth Valley and the Scottish Prison Service. There have been many high profile and well documented examples of difficulties in communication between different services over the years, so it was reassuring to find in our recent review activity that professionals were sharing information, devising strategies and being responsive to changes in offender risks and needs. In terms of consistency of management, there was evidence of the use of joint visits between different services leading to more consistent messages about risk management

being delivered to offenders. Not only was this a tactic used in response to increases in concerning behaviour, it was also taken as a pro-active step to support the offender in (for example) a time of difficulty. We also found clear evidence of agencies offering services and interventions that were appropriate to the level of risk and need of the individual, rather than what may have been offered had the service been provided on the basis of their Order or statutory status. For example, in the case of one offender whose access to the Local Authority Criminal Justice Social Work Service was on a voluntary basis (because there was no applicable Statutory Order), the intensity of intervention provided was commensurate with the level of assessed risk and the complexity of their needs.

The frequency of contact between services and offenders was found to be appropriate, including contact with family members who were thought to be at risk or were part of the overall risk management plan. Another example of legal status not being an obstacle to the provision of services is that of an offender, subject to DTO, being provided additional supports on a voluntary basis by Criminal Justice Services.

Included in the evidence of close liaison between services is an example of the NHS Forensic Community Mental Health Service offering specific advice about how best to engage a particular offender to develop a better working relationship. This is good example of how services can support each other in the management of complex offenders by offering advice from their own range of knowledge and skills. Housing Services also took steps to support a Registered Sex Offender to remain in his home and it was identified that accommodation was always provided for the individuals whose case activity was examined. This is a real achievement when considering the levels of chaos and complexity – and in some cases, community awareness of sex offender status – that were prevalent.

It's not all about focusing directly on offending behaviour. There is an example of an offender being supported to identify activities so he could pursue interests, thus increasing his foothold in the community, paid for by grant funds secured by Criminal Justice Social Work Services.

Specifically from a MAPPA perspective there was confirmation of the management and Risk of Serious Harm

levels being appropriately reviewed and changed in response to new evidence, leading to robust Risk Management Plans being devised. Importantly, there was an example of an offender's MAPPA Management Level being increased in response to new concerns.

We found confirmation that additional support was provided to prepare an offender to undertake offence focussed work and understand what he was being asked to do. This led to extra resources being used to manage this person, including accessing a psychological assessment, which identified different ways to work with him.

The use of ViSOR was positively identified during these reviews, with Police Scotland responding to specific concerns about risk through additional patrols, robust investigation and prompt action taken when new allegations emerged. In fact, quick action by all professionals, good lines of communication and a shared understanding of risk all combined to underpin the good practice found in these four Initial Case Reviews. It really does show the value of what MAPPA can bring and the review process brings opportunities to reflect on practice and outcomes.

Case review activity also helps us to identify Areas for Improvement. It is important to reiterate that the main purpose of review activity is to learn about how we can make our practice better, so any Areas for Improvement identified are extremely valuable.

Making sure we understand the people whose risk we are trying to manage is an important part of public protection practice. However, this is rarely as straightforward as it sounds, especially with some of the complexities displayed by people subject to MAPPA.

Gender Confusion

Biological sex is assigned at birth, depending on the appearance of the genitals. Gender identity is the gender that a person "identifies" with or feels themselves to be. Distressing and uncomfortable feelings are sometimes caused by the inner conflict between birth and gender identities, and the need to identify in the way that best suits how a person feels. This can lead to decisions about how to make their physical appearance more consistent with their gender identity. In risk management terms, we have to establish that we see beyond the gender confusion, accurately assess risk

and analyse it accordingly to consider any impact it may have on interventions like Moving Forward: Making Changes. We identified that more could be done to support professionals in cases like this and as a result, we will seek to deliver a relevant MAPPA Seminar during 2018.

Trauma

Closely linked to this is the importance of capturing trauma, so we can better informed about how to manage risk. Criminal Justice Social Workers can make recommendations to Court for psychological assessment to be carried out as part of the sentencing process. It then becomes the decision of the Court as to whether the suggestion is progressed, or not. Our review activity identified that these recommendations should be made when Criminal Justice Social Work Report authors feel it is justified, even if Courts have not acted when the suggestion has been made before.

Housing Profiles

The importance of the Housing Profiling process for MAPPA offenders cannot be overstated. Its success relies upon prompt and thorough responses from all parties of whom information has been requested. This supports an informed and defensible decision about accommodation being made. It was recognised that there was confusion amongst MAPPA partners about the housing profile process. Consequently, it is being reviewed, with training and awareness opportunities to follow.

Non-compliance

There was some evidence to suggest that one MAPPA offender had been given too many opportunities to comply with the requirements of their Order. It is possible that this non-compliance could have been identified more quickly. Stronger consideration could be given to taking non-compliance issues back to Court when the evidence base suggests it is an appropriate course of action.

ViSOR Updates

As described earlier in this article, we found evidence of good communication between public protection partners. ViSOR is a database used primarily by Police to record information. However, information for ViSOR is also provided by Criminal Justice Social Workers, who send information to Forth Valley MAPPA, which is then added to ViSOR

on their behalf. It was felt that better use of ViSOR updates could be made to capture information which may improve the understanding of risk and behaviour overall. ViSOR updates need to be full of risk-relevant information and sent to Forth Valley MAPPA in a timely manner.

Other Areas for Improvement which are being taken forward were:

- Ensuring MAPPA minutes and Risk Management Plans reflect all identified risks and actions;
- Training requirements so electronic devices could be accurately checked;
- Information available to MAPPA about safety planning for people known to MAPPA offenders;
- Psychology support for the Healthy Sexual Functioning Module in the Moving Forward: Making Changes groupwork programme.

In addition to the Areas for Improvement identified in this review activity, there are also seventeen recommendations arising from a Significant Case Review (SCR) into the circumstances surrounding a MAPPA offender across the Forth Valley. At a meeting in June 2017 attended by representatives of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils, NHS Forth Valley and Police Scotland, these recommendations were accepted. They were further ratified by Forth Valley MAPPA's Strategic Oversight Group in July and it is now for each agency to progress the recommendations relevant to their own areas. A copy of the anonymised final report and the recommendations can be made available to interested parties. It is worth noting that the best indicator of the learning from this SCR can be found in the recommendations themselves.

In the next edition of the Forth Valley Public Protection Newsletter, we will detail some of the changes to Forth Valley MAPPA that will be introduced in 2018. As ever, if you have any questions about Forth Valley MAPPA, send us an email at forthvalleymappa@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Lee Tait

MAPPA Co-ordinator

Forth Valley Recovery Cafes – Volunteers Wanted!



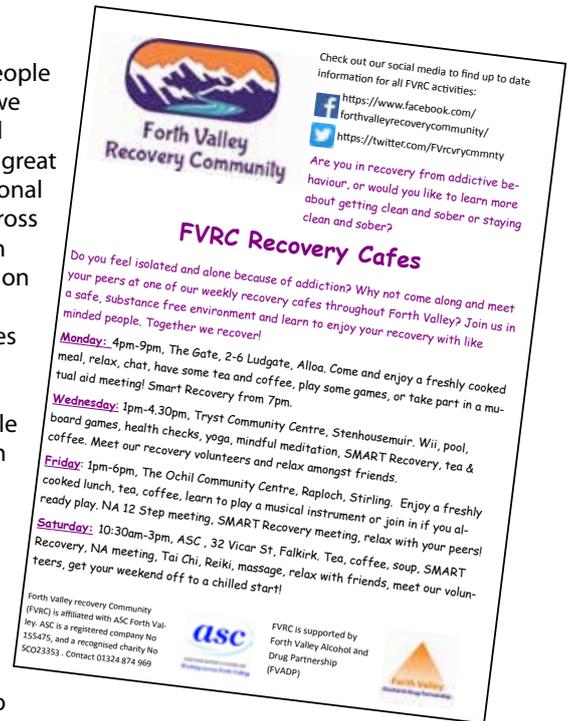
The Forth Valley Recovery Community continues to flourish and is establishing strong connections not only to individuals in recovery but also to wider community organisations and services.

The FVRC is a geographical and virtual community of people who are committed to making recovery happen and it is based on regular activities that support people in various stages of recovery from substance misuse. This includes four Recovery Cafes across the Forth Valley area.

There are approximately 3000 people across Forth Valley who are affected by drug use and a much larger number of people using alcohol in a hazardous or harmful way. The Recovery Cafes are part of a wider network of services and support available to people with addictions across Forth Valley. The response to the Recovery Cafes has been fantastic, and the advice and support provided has helped many local people gain confidence, get back into employment and lead a more fulfilling life.

With the growing number of people attending the Recovery Cafes, we are looking to recruit additional volunteers to help build on the great work already underway. Additional volunteers are being sought across Forth Valley to help people with drug and alcohol problems get on the Road to Recovery. The role involves making teas and coffees or helping to prepare food in the Cafes. Organisers are also seeking people who may be able to help run interest groups such as music, relaxation or deliver alternative therapies to people in recovery.

There are many benefits for volunteers; meeting new people and putting skills, energy and enthusiasm to good use. Volunteering can also help reduce isolation and give people a new sense of purpose so we would urge anyone who has some time to spare really to come forward and get involved with the Forth Valley Recovery Community.



Anyone wishing to volunteer at the cafes or find out more should contact Addictions Support and Counselling on 01324 673669.

Increase in Drug Related Deaths



On the 15th August 2017, the National Records for Scotland (NRS) published the 2016 figures relating to Drug Related Deaths in Scotland. The figures revealed a record high number of 867 drug related deaths which represented a 23% rise on the previously highest figure reported for 2015. The statistics show that males continue to be most at risk from a drug related death with 68% of the deaths being men. The biggest increase in overdose deaths has been seen in the 35-44 age group, increasing from 249 in 2015 to 327 in 2016.

Across Forth Valley, there has also been an increase in drug related deaths, rising from 31 in 2015 to 57

in 2016. This is the highest number of drug deaths recorded locally in any given year and is sadly in line with the notable increase in drug death prevalence across the whole of Scotland in 2016. The majority of drug death victims were also known to be suffering from serious physical and mental health problems at the time of their death.

Across Forth Valley, there are programmes available to help identify risk and reduce drug related deaths. This includes a programme of workforce development as well as the Forth Valley Naloxone programme. Naloxone can be used in an emergency situation to reverse the effects of an opiate overdose

and can prevent a drug related death. It is not an alternative to calling for an ambulance but it can provide valuable time to allow paramedics to attend to someone who has suffered an opiate overdose.

This programme can be accessed by Staff and Service Users as well as family members. For more information on how you can access the free Naloxone programme please contact Signpost Recovery on 0845 673 1774. Signpost can also provide free and confidential advice to anyone worried about their alcohol and / or drug use.