



South Lanarkshire

Adult Protection
Committee

Biennial Report

2018 – 2020



"All adults in South Lanarkshire have the right to be supported and protected from harm. All agencies will work collaboratively to promote the safety and wellbeing of adults at risk and ensure they receive the right support at the right time"

www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk



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Message from the Independent Chair of South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee



As the Independent Chair of South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee, I am pleased to present the sixth biennial report of South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee (SLAPC) covering the period 2018-2020. The report reflects upon our key activities and achievements in relation to protecting adults at risk of harm over the past two years and the developments it will undertake in the future.

The global public health emergency has brought unprecedented challenges for both staff and our communities. During this time, we have witnessed an ever changing landscape and a great deal of uncertainty but despite this, partner agencies and communities have shown real strength, drive and commitment by coming together to ensure those most in need in South Lanarkshire remain safe from harm.

Within South Lanarkshire we have continued to strengthen our multi-agency self-evaluation strategy and activity programme. We have also reviewed and where necessary, updated guidance, policies and procedures across all agencies involved in the protection of adults and continue to support practitioners and managers across the multi-agency workforce to carry out best practice in adult protection work including learning from Initial and Significant Case Reviews.

There continues to be close liaison with our neighbouring Committee in North Lanarkshire and we have robust links with our public protection team including those engaged in Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, MAPP, the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and the Community Justice Partnership by reviewing and implementing our Public Protection Strategy 2020-2023.

As a part of the governance structure, the Adult Support and Protection Committee reports regularly to the Chief Officers' Group (Public Protection) on adult protection matters of both local and national interest. They continue to provide an additional mechanism for accountability and support, alongside members from South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee and associated multi-agency adult protection sub-groups who together ensure we continue to drive our adult protection agenda forward.

I am grateful to staff, members of the Committee and the Chief Officers Group for their continued support to the adult support and protection agenda, especially during this very challenging time, and their efforts in continuing to drive our work and related matters forward, as effective partnership and collaborative working is a cornerstone in protecting adults from risk of harm.



Safaa Baxter

*Independent Chair,
South Lanarkshire Adult
Protection Committee*

Section I

The work of South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee



1.1 Background

The work of the South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee is reflected in local practice and aims to meet local and national needs in keeping adults safe from harm.

South Lanarkshire spans through central and southern Scotland and straddles the upper reaches of the River Clyde, from the City of Glasgow boundary extending into the Southern Uplands. In population terms, the most recent local projections based upon National Records Scotland (NRS) estimates the South Lanarkshire population to be 320,530. South Lanarkshire is the 5th largest Council and Health and Social Care Partnership area and from a geographical perspective covers 1,772 square kilometres, making it the eleventh largest area in Scotland, of which almost 80% of which is in agricultural use. The area encompasses a diverse mix of urban and rural environments covering four main locality planning areas:

- **Clydesdale** – is the largest locality geographically and has the most widespread rural issues with a population of 61,613
- **East Kilbride** – is centred around a 'new town' and is mainly urban with a population of 88,982
- **Hamilton/ Blantyre** – is the largest locality in South Lanarkshire and is predominantly urban with a population of 108,979
- **Rutherglen and Cambuslang** – is the smallest locality, with a population of 60,956 but has the most significant issues with regards to health inequalities

The number of people in 2019 in South Lanarkshire who were aged under 65 accounted for 257,824 or 80.4% of the total population and those aged 65 and over accounted for 19.6% (62,706) of the total population.

Compared to Scotland in 2019, South Lanarkshire's population was relatively older – 19.6% were aged 65 and over, compared to 19.1% in Scotland as a whole and slightly fewer were aged under 65 – 80.4% against 80.9%.

According to the 2018 based population projections, in 2018 the total population of South Lanarkshire was estimated at 319,020. It is projected that by 2028 South Lanarkshire's population will have increased to 325,243.

Over the 2018 to 2028 period the population of South Lanarkshire is projected to rise by 6,623 or 2%. This is just over a tenth greater than the projected increase over this period in Scotland as a whole of 1.8%.

From an ethnicity perspective, 95.45% of the population reported that they were White UK; this is above the Scottish average (91.83%). A total of 2.3% of the population stated they were from other minority ethnic communities. This compares against a 4% average across Scotland as a whole.

1.2 Fulfilling functions

The South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee (SLAPC) is the local strategic planning partnership responsible for developing and implementing adult protection policy and strategy across and between the multi agency workforce. Under section 42 of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 the committee performs several crucial functions:

- To keep under review the procedures and practices of member agencies that relate to the safeguarding of adults at risk in South Lanarkshire.
- To provide information and advice or make proposals to any member agency or relevant body on the exercise of functions that relate to the safeguarding of adults at risk.
- To promote co-operation and communication within and between the public bodies, third sector, private and charity organisations.
- To promote improvement in skills and knowledge of staff providing services to adults at risk.
- To respond to the requirements of Scottish Ministers as required.

The following describes in more detail the core business functions of South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee and provides a working framework. Our key areas of work are presented here in no particular order of priority.

1.3 SLAPC structure

SLAPC has strong membership from our partner agencies and continues to meet 6 times per year to consider local and national adult protection matters and make collective decisions on how we can continue to keep adults safe from harm in South Lanarkshire. During the recent global public health emergency, SLAPC quickly moved to virtual platforms to ensure we continued to drive forward our agenda.

1.4 SLAPC COVID-19 response

During the recent pandemic SLAPC also established a COVID-19 APC. This group of key partner agencies initially met on a weekly basis moving to monthly more recently using virtual platforms. This group ensures that our partner agencies continue to offer the same level of oversight regarding their statutory duties and continue to make the necessary changes to local processes in order to meet their responsibilities as noted in the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Adult Support and Protection Guidance.

Our regular COVID-19 APC meetings have enabled us to discuss COVID-19 related matters and resolve them collectively as they arise. These meetings also enable partner agencies to provide assurances that adults at risk of harm in South Lanarkshire continue to be supported and protected. We have also developed SLAPC Assurance Framework to monitor our progress in fulfilling its statutory functions in response to COVID-19 and to support our efforts during the recovery period.

Although essential direct contact with adults at risk has continued to take place in line with national and local guidance, SLAPC recognised that further developments were required to manage adult protection meetings/case conferences.

We therefore supported South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership in the development of staff guidance on the safe use of virtual technology for meetings which includes adult and child protection case conferences.

SLAPC also developed an Interim Coronavirus Contingency Briefing. This briefing offers advice to front line managers and practitioners about how to effectively manage high risk situations including adult protection inquiries, adult protection investigations/home visits and adult protection case conferences during the pandemic.

SLAPC have ensured that local and national updates in relation to COVID-19 reach our frontline staff and managers by developing a public protection communication strategy. We have utilised social media platforms to continue to raise awareness about public protection

and we also developed a regular Public Protection E-bulletin with links to all relevant local and national guidance, briefings, and support.

SLAPC has further supported the multi-agency workforce by quickly developing various local briefings and guidance including the development of a Joint Adult and Child Protection COVID-19 Escalation Guidance for High Risk or Complex Cases. This Multi-Agency Escalation Guidance was amended from a previous version to reflect the challenges faced by the child and adult protection workforce during the pandemic and how these challenges can be resolved.

SLAPC has also ensured that the learning and development needs of the multi-agency workforce continue to be met during this time by developing and implementing an ASP Multi-Agency Webinar. The webinar covers the main elements of the ASP Act and staffs' duties and responsibilities within it.

There is strong evidence of a continued commitment to the work of the Committee by members and across the public services generally. There continues to be a high level of engagement and collaboration. We recognise that protecting adults at risk through our adult protection procedures must remain a priority and we continue to work alongside our partner agencies to ensure we deliver this key objective.

I.5 SLAPC sub-groups

The work of the SLAPC is supported by distinct sub-groups within the area of public protection these are:

- SLAPC Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement
- Joint Adult and Child Protection Public Information and Community Engagement
- Joint Adult and Child Protection Learning and Development
- Joint Exploitation and Harmful Practices (includes, Forced Marriage, Gender Based Violence, Prevent, Human Trafficking) and
- Adult and Child Protection ICR/ SCR Strategic Joint Group.

The joint sub-groups were developed in partnership with the South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee to address areas of overlap. These groups include representatives from our partner agencies at senior management level. The development of the Exploitation and Harmful Practices sub-group is currently being constructed. Each group is subject to regular scrutiny and has a set of priorities embedded in its work. Implementation of the action plans are reported quarterly to the SLAPC and to Chief Officers (Public Protection).

I.6 Adult protection committee business plan 2020-2022

The Committee has updated its business plan for 2020-2022. The business plan sets out the high level priorities for addressing adult support and protection in South Lanarkshire and is aimed at frontline service provision with a clear focus on providing improved outcomes for adults at risk of harm and their families. The SLAPC continually reviews this plan to ensure that its actions are implemented. In turn the plan informs the priorities for joint self-evaluation and learning and development.

I.7 Continuous improvement

Continuous improvement is central to the role and function of SLAPC and the Quality Assurance Sub Group maintains an overview and coordinates a range of multi-agency adult protection audit and evaluation activities based on issues of local and national concern and implements findings, actions and outcome measures. The Committee also has an overview of single agency audits undertaken. The quality assurance undertaken is based around the Care Inspectorate Quality Indicators which provides a framework for self-evaluation across the partnership.

SLAPC Self Evaluation Strategy and Activity Programme contributes to the development and monitoring of improvement plans in ensuring adults at risk of harm in South Lanarkshire are supported to achieve improved outcomes. The strategy is continually reviewed throughout the year and modified in light of emerging risks and trends that are collated from both qualitative and quantitative data. This flexibility enables us to respond to findings as they occur and assists us to develop and monitor our improvement plans. Our work in this area is detailed in Part 3.

I.8 Policies, procedures and protocols

The SLAPC designs, publishes, disseminates, implements, reviews, and evaluates clear and robust multi-agency adult protection policies, procedures, protocols, and guidance. We ensure these are developed around both local and national guidance and addresses emerging key themes that inform our practice at a local level. We also:

- Ensure public bodies and other agencies have in place their own up-to-date adult protection policies, procedures, protocols, guidelines, and other relevant materials.
- Ensure that adult protection policies, procedures, protocols, and guidelines are developed around existing and emerging local and national key issues.
- Publish and regularly review their own adult protection procedures, which reflect national and local policy developments.

In the last two years SLAPC introduced and reviewed several procedure and guidance documents including:

- Joint (Child and Adult Protection) Multi-Agency Chronologies Guidance
- Joint (Child and Adult Protection) South Lanarkshire's Multi-Agency Transition and Escalation Processes for High Risk or Complex Cases
- Joint (Child and Adult Protection) South Lanarkshire's Multi-Agency Forced Marriage Guidance
- SLAPC Large Scale Investigation Procedures
- SLAPC Guidance for Adult Protection Committees for Conducting a Significant Case Review
- SLAPC Working with Resistance and Challenging Adults and their Un-paid Carers
- FGM Multi-Agency Guidance
- Good Practice Guidance for staff working within Care Homes in South Lanarkshire
- SLAPC Briefing Notes on ASP Key Processes
- Revised our Significant Case Review process and updated our procedures based upon the new national guidance
- Developed a Joint Adult and Child Protection Multi-Agency Transitions Guidance and Escalation Process for High Risk or Complex Cases in South Lanarkshire

1.9 Promoting good practice

Adult Protection Committees have a responsibility to identify and promote sound, evidence-based policy, and practice developments, encourage learning, and identify areas that need to be strengthened.

During the reporting period SLAPC has:

- Ensured we have robust networks and mechanisms in place for the identification, consideration and undertaking of Significant Case Reviews (SCR), Initial Case Reviews (ICR), and Reflective Learning Reviews (RLR) on behalf of the Chief Officers Group (Public Protection). Overseen by SLAPC Chair and the Strategic SCR Group, these include a rigorous evaluation and follow-up process for actions or findings resulting from independent reviews. The Lead Officer was a member of the National Working Group who developed the ASP Significant Case Review Guidance.
- In place, a number of mechanisms to identify and disseminate lessons from past and current practice, including learning from Significant Case Reviews, Initial Case Reviews, Reflective Learning Reviews, inspection reports, audit activity, consultations and other inquiry reports both at local and national level.

- Worked with partner agencies to celebrate successes and share learning.
- Worked jointly across public protection where possible including the annual public protection event where in 2019 we focused on Leadership and Assessing Strategic Partnerships.

1.10 Learning and development

SLAPC continues to deliver a comprehensive learning and development plan to our multi-agency workforce. Over the past two years we have continued to add new courses to our APC Learning and Development Plan. Alongside this, we also have a Public Protection Learning and Development Plan which highlights the joint training offered by the Public Protection team in South Lanarkshire.

The importance of professional judgement in dealing with the risk and uncertainty of adult protection situations means that training must continue to be a core consideration. During the current global public health emergency, we have worked quickly to move some of our training to online platforms whilst ensuring accessibility to our multi-agency partners. Multi-agency training is an essential component in building common understanding and fostering good working relationships, which are vital to effective adult protection. The Adult Protection Committee is well placed to help develop and deliver such training through the SLAPC Learning and Development Programme which can be viewed by visiting www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk.

The SLAPC Lead Officer works alongside members of our Joint Adult and Child Protection Learning and Development Sub-Group to develop, deliver and evaluate training. Course attendance is generally high and well represented by our partner agencies, especially in relation to our Multi-Agency Adult Protection training and Council Officer training courses. Quality assurance results are very positive in terms of learning outcomes.

1.11 Public information and communication

(a) Raising public awareness

The SLAPC routinely works to improve levels of public awareness in the adult protection agenda.

During this reporting period we have reviewed our Communication and Media Strategy. The key aim of this strategy is to improve awareness and promote the work of the South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee.

The SLAPC continues to identify ways to further engage adults and their carers in their work. The Lead Officer has continued to visit various organisations and services and we regularly organise our own events and attend events held by partner agencies to support them in their effort to raise awareness about adult protection.

To ensure children, young people and adults have access to a range of information to keep them safe from harm, the new Joint (Adult and Child Protection) Public Information and Community Engagement Sub-Group creates materials for our communities. Ensuring information

leaflets as well as guidance, policies and procedures are up to date, relevant and easily accessible to meet the needs of our professionals and communities. Public Information and Community Engagement continue to be a consistent feature of the work of the Committee.

The South Lanarkshire Adult Protection website which is aimed at professionals, adults and their carers hosts all local information as well as links to national publications and other social media sites of interest. The website is currently subject to review which aims to further improve how we keep the public informed and adults safe from harm. We also use social media to promote events and key messages to continue to support and strengthen how communities manage, respond and report concerns where an adult may be at risk of harm. During the recent global public health emergency, we developed a communication strategy with partner agencies to ensure regular public protection messages were disseminated to support both staff and the public.

(b) Involving adults at risk of harm

The SLAPC ensures the views of adults and their carers are clearly evidenced in our work, in accordance with the legislative principles. For example, our independent and third sector colleagues are members of our Committee and sub groups and continue to assist us to engage positively with adults and their carers by involving them in the design, development, and implementation of our communication material to ensure that information is accessible to a wide range of people.

The Speak Out Advocacy Project continue to support our Council Officer training course. Their valuable input assists us to continue to raise awareness about the services they offer and how their involvement can contribute to improved outcomes for adults during the ASP process and beyond. They also assisted us to develop an outcomes tool to gauge the adult at risk of harms experience of the ASP process. SLAPC continue to report and monitor the use of advocacy services in South Lanarkshire via our quality assurance activities which are regularly reported to the Quality Assurance Sub-Group and SLAPC.

SLAPC acknowledge there are inherent challenges in achieving meaningful service user involvement in the adult protection agenda and we welcomed being able to contribute to the recent service user and carer survey undertaken by the National Strategic Forum. We will use the findings from the survey to continue to support internal discussion and learning in this important area of practice.

(c) Supporting our Care Homes

In January 2020 SLAPC held 'SLAPC Care Home World Café Event'. The event was in response to inquiries from care homes in relation to practice dilemmas they regularly experience such as falls and medication errors and when to report these as adult at risk referrals.

The event was well attended and was opened by the Independent Chair of SLAPC. We used an 'option finder' to gauge the audiences understanding of their roles and responsibilities in respect of the ASP Act and that of other agencies. We concluded the event with the same option finder questions to assess if the audience's knowledge had improved as a result.

We also took the opportunity to re-launch our 'Adult Protection Self Learning Pack 2019-2021' which agencies can use to support staff's continuous professional development and we also launched our 'Good Practice Guidance-Adult Protection and Adults with Changing Needs (2019)'. This guidance was produced for those working within independent care homes in South Lanarkshire to contribute to a unified approach in dealing with adult

protection concerns and adults with changing needs. Both documents were very well received by those in attendance.

The event rated very highly, with clear evidence that staff had gained a better understanding of how to best manage the dilemmas they face in practice and it also helped to strengthen their understanding of both their roles and responsibilities in relation to the Act and that of other agencies. Participants agreed to take back the learning and the materials to their respective care homes and cascade to all staff and monitor implementation and review it's use to ensure the learning is embedded into practice.



Section 2

Strategic planning and priorities



2.1 Strategic planning

The contribution of South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee to strategic planning falls into the following two broad categories:

(a) Making and maintaining links with other planning forums

SLAPC forms part of the Public Protection Team in South Lanarkshire and has established key links with other bodies to ensure that plans and priorities are clearly linked to other national and local priorities. We work together to ensure our policy agendas are connected and that adults and their carers are provided with the support they require to keep them safe from harm.

Our annual Public Protection event with partners from Adult Protection, Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Community Justice Partnership and MAPPA reinforce its importance. We further developed our Public Protection Strategy and in late 2019 held an event for leaders called 'Assessing Strategic Partnerships' to measure the effectiveness of public protection leadership in South Lanarkshire. Our Leaders identified six key priorities to take forward across the partnership. An outcome action plan has been developed and progressing well. We are currently examining a tool kit to undertake self-evaluation of the Chief Officers Group.

(b) Communication, collaboration, and co-operation

Effective communication, collaboration, and co-operation, both within and between practitioners, managers and senior officers across all services and agencies, remain essential for the protection of adults as described in our Communications Strategy. The Committee will continue to raise awareness of Adult Protection and its links to Public Protection. It has reported progress to several key forums including:

- Community Planning Partnership
- Social Work Committee
- Integrated Joint Board
- Elected Member Briefings
- Public Protection Events

Section 3

Self evaluation and quality assurance



3.1 SLAPC outcomes model

In 2018-2020 we further strengthened our outcomes model and:

- Focused on routine quality assurance, measuring impact, and improving outcomes
- Published findings from audit activities and implemented improvement plans outlined in our Self Evaluation Strategy and Activity Programme
- Strengthened our approach and governance structure to manage Initial and Significant Case Reviews
- Improved our adult protection monitoring system that included the identification of key strengths and areas for improvement in every multi-agency adult protection report
- Developed a Joint Adult and Child Protection Public Information and Community Engagement Sub-Group and a Joint Child and Adult Protection Learning and Development Sub-Group.

Alongside the Care Inspectorate Quality Indicators, the aim of South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Outcomes Model is to consider in all activity if we have:

Inputs:
The resources needed to carry out the agreed AP activities required to protect the adult were available during the adult protection process.
Activities:
The subsequent actions that people took across agencies created safe outputs, outcomes and achieved protective aims during the adult protection process.
Outputs:
Evidence that service involvement and / or any actions resulting from individual or collective service activities made the adult safe or safer.
Outcomes:
Records that clearly show the positive changes, benefits, and impact as a result of what protective services provided.
Impact:
The broader effects of adult protection service outputs, outcomes and activities made a difference in the longer term.

3.2 Joint self-evaluation and activity programme

The SLAPC continues to have in place an ambitious programme of multi-agency audit and self-evaluation activity. Our two-year cycle of self-evaluation activity is designed to support continuous improvement and encourages partners to reflect on areas of strength whilst recognising areas for improvement.

Over the past 2 years we have completed self-evaluation and audit from a range of sources including:

- Two multi-agency case file audits (Key Processes in Adult Protection)
- SLAPC Social Work (Key Processes in Adult Protection)
- SLAPC Protection Plan Audit
- SLAPC Multi-Agency Training Audit
- SLAPC Case Conference Audit
- SLAPC Police Concern Report Audit
- Reviewed our training evaluation system
- Reviewed and improved Public Information and enhanced our social media focus

All self-evaluation and audit activities and areas for improvement are matched against the Care Inspectorate quality indicators framework. Action plans against required improvements are agreed by the Quality Assurance sub-group and SLAPC. SLAPC has created a monitoring tool to ensure all actions are delivered.

The information gathered through these activities enables partners to continue to drive service

development, improve outcomes for adult at risk of harm, promote collective partnership commitment to set priorities for improvement.

Examples of our work (A):

SLAPC Multi-Agency Case File Audit (2019 and 2020)

The purpose of the multi-agency case file audit held in 2019 was to evaluate outcomes and key processes in Adult Protection to ensure that adults were safe from harm. We therefore audited cases that were subject to either the whole Adult Protection process i.e. inquiry, investigation, and protection planning, or in part. In order to do this, we used the Care Inspectorate thematic case file reading template and the Care Inspectorate framework of quality indicators.

What we asked:

- Have Adult Protection key processes been followed?
- Have adults at risk of harm been kept safe as a result of our intervention?

9 file readers were trained to use the Care Inspectorate self-evaluation tool, 4 Social Work, 1 Police Scotland and 4 NHS Lanarkshire. Using the Care Inspectorate self-evaluation tool, each group worked together to read the case files, whilst answering the associated questions and recording on the care inspectorate template. The groups read 20 files in total.

The findings of the audit were analysed, and we found areas of strength as well as areas for improvement. These findings have led to a number of practice developments including reviewing our Joint Adult and Child Protection Chronology Guidance and associated training, Practitioner Forums that focus on identified key themes and the development of briefing papers on the ASP process.

We also carried out a further multi-agency case file audit in 2020 to provide assurances that improvements were continuing to be made and to further identify areas of strength and improvement. This work is ongoing and will continue throughout the life of the business plan.

Example of our work (B)

SLAPC Case Conference Audit (2019)

The purpose of the audit was to evaluate key processes in adult protection case conferences and to assess their effectiveness in identifying and managing risk.

The original audit tool was compiled by the Care Inspectorate and has been used in previous audit activity by SLAPC. In order to analyse specific areas, applicable amendments and additions were made to the tool making it more relevant to the subject area.

SLAPC audited 20 randomly selected Adult Protection case conference minutes. We found areas of strength including evidence of good multi-agency information sharing and crisis intervention was implemented early in the process to protect adults. Our audit also identified that there was no standard approach to chairing case conferences across the four localities.

A full report and action plan were submitted to the Adult Protection Committee and the Chief Officers Group. In addition, the report and recommendations have been widely disseminated and discussed at various locality forums and actions taken forward to improve practice including training for managers on chairing a case conference and also risk assessment training which are currently being commissioned.

Example of our work (C)

SLAPC Multi-Agency Training Audit (2019)

The purpose of the audit was to assess participants engagement and learning in ASP multi-agency training. In order to do this, we utilised training evaluation forms. While doing this it became apparent that the training data which is currently being collected provides a good overview of the immediate learning of participants, however it is less valuable in terms of accessing the impact of training on practice.

During the period of review adult protection multi-agency training was delivered to 286 attendees. SLAPC multi-agency training attracts a wide range of participants from both internal and external agencies and those staff tell us it provides a real opportunity to both network and share learning. From the available information the majority of participants strongly agreed that the training would have an impact on their practice (65%). Of the remainder 35% agreed and 0.3% disagreed that it would have an impact on their practice.

The audit highlighted some areas for improvement including, information collated from the evaluation tool needs to focus on learning gained and there is a need for improved assessment of how learning has been integrated into practice. Further, due to the evaluations being undertaken directly after training, we recognised the impact on practice cannot easily be measured.

The introduction of multi-agency refresher training course and associated new outcome focused training evaluation tool offers an opportunity to retrospectively assess the value of learning in practice and thereby achieve better outcome data. SLAPC will continue to monitor and review this area of practice.

3.3 Initial and significant case reviews

Over the period of this report SLAPC has undertaken 2 Significant Case Reviews (SCRs) and 3 Initial Case Reviews (ICRs). The Convenor, in partnership with the Strategic Significant Case Review Sub-Group, agreed that Reflective Learning Reviews should be undertaken in respect of the 3 ICRs.

At the time of writing, these are being arranged. All of our SCRs are published on our website and SLAPC continue to respond to all findings and implement change as required.

In the same period the SLAPC considered recommendations from both national and local SCR's carried out in other parts of Scotland and the UK. The findings from each were examined and practice and policy improvements made where necessary.

We held SCR events to ensure that the learning from both national and local SCRs were cascaded to frontline managers and practitioners. We restructured our ICR/SCR process via a Joint (Adult and Child Protection) Strategic Significant Case Review Sub-Group and offered training to managers on the new process.

SLAPC revised its SCR Guidance to ensure it aligned to that of the new National SCR Guidance issued to Committees in 2019.

3.4 Large scale investigations

There has been one Large Scale Investigation undertaken in the period covered by this report. The investigation relates to the South Lanarkshire Care at Home service and this is still ongoing at the time of writing. The Care Inspectorate have implemented a robust action plan to address the identified improvement areas and these are currently being monitored and actioned by the service. Learning gained from this investigation will be used to shape future practice.

SLAPC has maintained a focus on improving outcomes for adults in South Lanarkshire by further reviewing its Large Scale Investigation Guidance. The guidance is designed to minimise risk to adults who receive a health or care service by providing staff with robust procedures and timescales in relation to their role and function when concerns in respect of a registered service arise.





Section 4

Partnership approaches to improve outcomes



4.1 Pan-Lanarkshire partnership working

South and North Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committees are committed to raising awareness across the partnership on protection issues. South Lanarkshire's Adult Protection Lead Officer and Chair continue to meet regularly with our North Lanarkshire counterparts to discuss areas of both local and national interest.

The Committees jointly hosted a seminar on 6 November 2018 with the primary purpose of raising awareness about the Adult Protection issues prevalent in our care homes and to celebrate areas of innovative practice.

The seminar also aimed to:

- Highlight findings from a Pan-Lanarkshire Self-Evaluation exercise which focused on Adult Protection in care homes
- Explore the roles and responsibilities of partner agencies in relation to Adult Protection in care homes
- Highlight the adult's lived experience of the transition from their home to a care home
- Share experience and knowledge across agencies
- Reflect on challenges in service delivery
- Highlight examples of innovative practice
- Improve outcomes for adults within our care homes

We invited a wide range of speakers from partner agencies to share their knowledge and experience of services that support care home staff in managing and delivering positive outcomes for adults living within a care setting. We also presented a DVD of the lived experiences of two residents within a care home which was very well received.

The event also gave us the opportunity to formally launch the Residents Placement Plan as part of the Missing Persons Strategy. Following on from this, we opened the floor to table top discussions and provided an opportunity for feedback.

The seminar was well attended with over 100 delegates from the multi-agency workforce. Feedback on the day was very positive. The audience enjoyed the DVD of the resident's experience of a care home. They also fed back that they found the Residents Placement Plan to be very helpful should a resident go missing and have agreed to take this forward and implement across Lanarkshire care homes.

4.2 The following section highlights some APC members contribution in driving forward the ASP agenda within their own organisations

Over the last 2 years, Education Resources has been embedding realigned services to ensure that the service achieve the best possible outcomes for our children, young people, families, and communities.

The Youth Employability Service continues to support and track young people aged 16-19 (up to 26 if care experienced) to ensure positive destinations are achieved and sustained.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the Youth Employability Service has continued to engage remotely with vulnerable young people to support them to develop and complete action plans designed to support progression to sustained positive destinations. Young people have maintained weekly contact with their link workers and the team have continued to work in partnership with schools and Skills Development Scotland to track destinations.

The Youth, Family and Community Learning (YFCL) Service continues to deliver programmes with an explicit learning focus and other types of activity designed for participants of all ages to enhance their educational, personal, and social development.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, YFCL have continued to engage with our 'most vulnerable' learners and families to help reduce social isolation. Multiple platforms are used to engage families and adults including online group work, innovative social media activity and relevant signposting to other services or support.

Over 2,000 activity and information packs have been distributed to service users all of which aims at supporting vulnerable individuals to gain resilience and being kept safe, some of the topics include:

- mental health and wellbeing;
- meal packs with recipes and ingredients to encourage family cooking;
- horticultural packs to encourage gardening; and
- Busy Bags, which contain fun and educational activities for people of all ages.

Education Resources continue to link relevant staff to appropriate adult protection awareness raising, training and the distribution of public protection information.

The Speak Out Advocacy Project is an independent advocacy service that provides support for people affected by Learning Disability. Our objective is to support people to have their voices heard and their views and wishes recorded. We help people to recognise and understand their rights and, their right to be included in all decision-making processes that effect their lives. During an Adult Support and Protection referral our role is to support the person to be in an informed position as possible, before expressing their comments. Our team can work collaboratively with other agencies involved to make sure that we give the correct information to our advocacy partners. All our team continue to access regular training and updates regarding the Adult Support and Protection legislation. This helps us to provide the best service that we can when supporting people affected by the legislation.

From its inception in April 2018, Community Addictions Recovery Service (CAREs) has brought together NHS and South Lanarkshire Council staff, to form South Lanarkshire's first integrated addictions service. Nurses, Social Workers, Substance Misuse Workers and Occupational Therapists work together holistically to support adults with their recovery from problematic alcohol and drug-use.

The public protection role of CAREs in relation to keeping the adults of South Lanarkshire safe has been a focus since the service was formed. Bespoke ASP training has been delivered to all staff in relation to issues pertinent to working with adult's drug and alcohol use. All Social Workers in the teams are in the process of being trained to Council Officer level, able to lead on ASP investigations and all other colleagues will be able to be Second Workers in investigations. The complement of Social Workers in the service has been increased to reflect the demand for involvement in ASP activity. CAREs attendance at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference has been established, contributing to both the safety of adults known to the service and wider discussion on addictions services.

Section 5

Adult protection data collection and analysis



5.1 Adult protection management information

South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee along with partner agencies has a responsibility to ensure that adults in their area are kept safe from harm. The following section provides a brief overview of management information and characteristics that aid understanding in relation to the protection of adults at risk of harm in South Lanarkshire. The information provided in this report is based on the national dataset with some additions to aid analysis of local performance. The statistics in this report for the period 2018-19 show a small variance from the data that was submitted on the annual return for that period. This is due to system updates that have occurred after the annual return was submitted.

These figures relate to the number of referrals and inquiries by locality from all sources to Social Work Resources for the period 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

The SLAPC monitor ASP statistics on a quarterly basis and prepare and present a report to the Quality Assurance sub-group, SLAPC and the COG detailing key performance areas. Most of the information emanates from the Social Work Information System (SWIS). Information on referrals is also submitted by NHS Lanarkshire, Police Scotland, and the State Hospital.

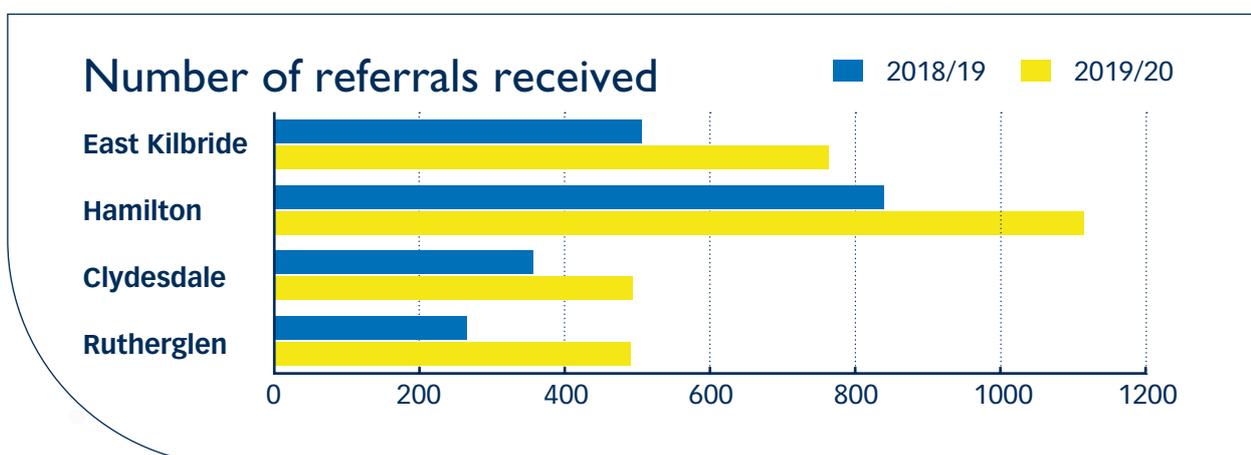
South Lanarkshire Council continue to update their SWIS systems to reflect adult protection activity, which not only informs the Committee of the number of referrals, investigations and other relevant information but it also helps to inform the learning and development needs of the workforce and identifies trends and areas for focused discussion.

SLAPC welcomes the ongoing work of the Scottish Government to develop a national data set which will provide an overview of adult protection activity across Scotland. Presently national statistics do not enable benchmarking to occur due to variations across Scotland in what constitutes an inquiry or investigation and associated recording differences. We hope this will be resolved when the new national data set is agreed.

During the reporting period we have seen a 45% increase in referrals from 1,970 in 2018-2019 to 2862 in 2019-2020.

Table – Number of referrals and inquiries by locality per quarter

	East Kilbride	Hamilton	Clydesdale	Rutherglen	Unknown	Total
April – June 2018	139	235	128	83	0	585
July – September 2018	148	179	102	63	0	492
October – December 2018	123	149	53	44	1	370
January – March 2019	96	277	74	75	1	523
Total	506	840	357	265	2	1970
April – June 2019	190	343	141	149	0	823
July – September 2019	184	254	103	106	0	647
October – December 2019	177	221	102	119	0	619
January – March 2020	213	297	147	116	0	773
Total	764	1115	493	490	0	2862



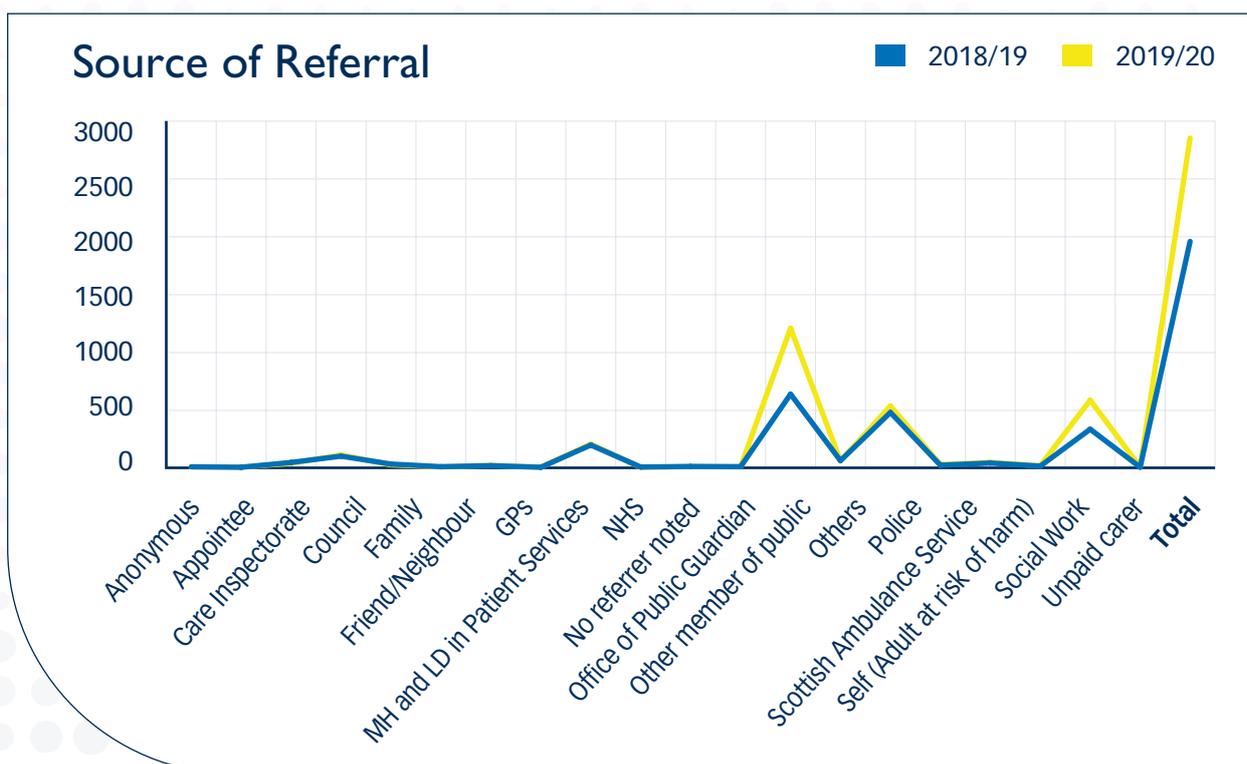
Source of referral

South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership continue to receive ASP referrals from various sources. Police Scotland continues to make the most referrals to Social Work Resources. Police Scotland referrals have increased from 478 in 2018-19 to 533 in 2019-20.

Referrals from NHS Lanarkshire accounted for 10% of the overall referrals received in 2018-19 and for 7% of the referrals received in 2019-20. Referrals from Social Work accounted for 17% of referrals in 2018-19 and 20% of referrals in 2019-20. While the Care Inspectorate has seen a slight decrease in the past two years. Positively we have seen

an increase in Scottish Fire and Rescue referrals. Self-referrals accounted for less than 1% over the two years period. Public referrals remain low along with anonymous referrals. SLAPC acknowledge that public referrals maybe included within police Scotland referrals, however, the partners recognise that ongoing work is required to continue to increase the rate of adult protection referrals from our key partners and the public. We will continue to target our training at the multi-agency workforce to raise their awareness and we will continue to look at creative ways to engage the public meaningfully in the adult protection agenda.

Table – Source of Referral		
	2018/19	2019/20
Anonymous	4	3
Appointee	0	2
Care Inspectorate	42	34
Council	97	107
Family	28	21
Friend/Neighbour	5	3
GPs	14	17
MH and LD in Patient Services	0	1
NHS	194	201
No referrer noted	2	0
Office of Public Guardian	7	6
Other member of public	5	4
Other organisation	638	1209
Others	58	56
Police	478	533
Scottish Ambulance Service	18	24
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	37	42
Self (Adult at risk of harm)	10	14
Social Work	332	583
Unpaid carer	1	2
Total	1970	2862



Harm location

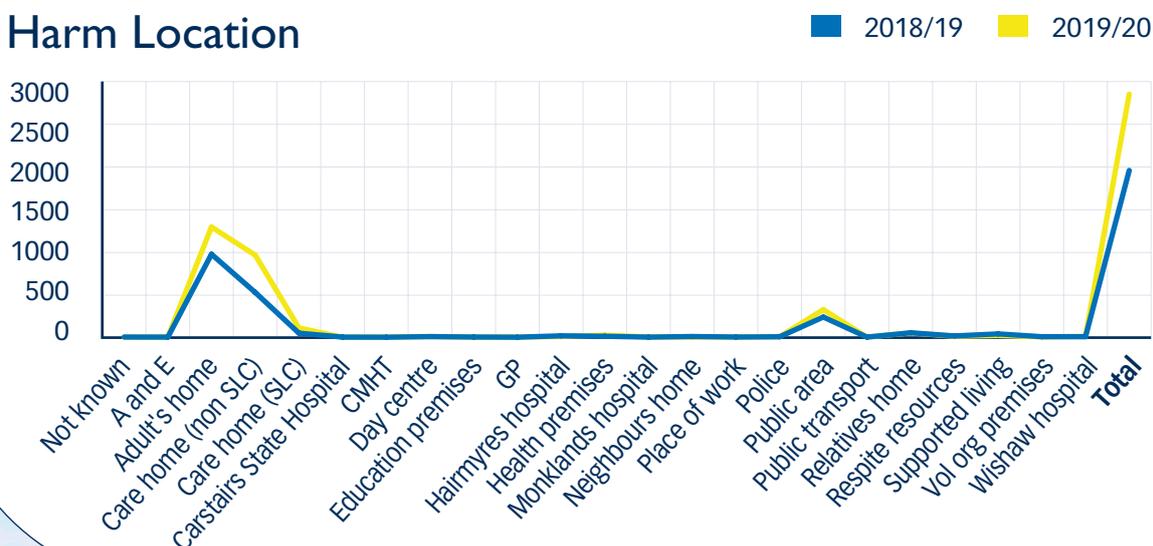
The location of harm remains varied in South Lanarkshire as is shown in the table below. Of significance, adults being harmed within their own home account for just under half of all ASP referrals in the period 2018-2020. In 2018-19, the figures show that the second most likely place an adult would experience harm was within a care home 29% (577 ASP referrals) with public areas 12% (238 ASP referrals). In 2019-20 statistics show an increase in relation to care homes to 38% (1076 ASP referrals) with public areas decreasing by 1% to 11% (322 ASP referrals).

Across South Lanarkshire the number of care home referrals remains high. This may be attributed to improved staff awareness of adult protection due to our multi-agency training, influence from the Care Inspectorate or as a consequence of the care home environment. SLAPC held care home events in 2018 and 2019 to continue to raise awareness in relation to practitioners' roles and responsibilities in relation to ASP and to highlight the support our partner agencies can provide. We also developed ASP learning tools for care homes to use with their staff groups to further embed learning into practice. Care home referrals remain a priority area of interest for SLAPC going forward.

Table – Harm location

	2018/19	2019/20
Not known	2	0
A and E	1	1
Adult's home	980	1297
Care home (non SLC)	529	967
Care home (SLC)	48	109
Carstairs State Hospital	1	0
CMHT	0	1
Day centre	7	8
Education premises	2	0
GP	0	2
Hairmyres hospital	16	8
Health premises	11	24
Monklands hospital	1	3
Neighbours home	8	2
Place of work	2	2
Police	5	6
Public area	238	325
Public transport	1	2
Relatives home	52	51
Respite resources	15	11
Supported living	39	20
Vol org premises	6	3
Wishaw hospital	6	10
Total	1970	2862

Harm Location

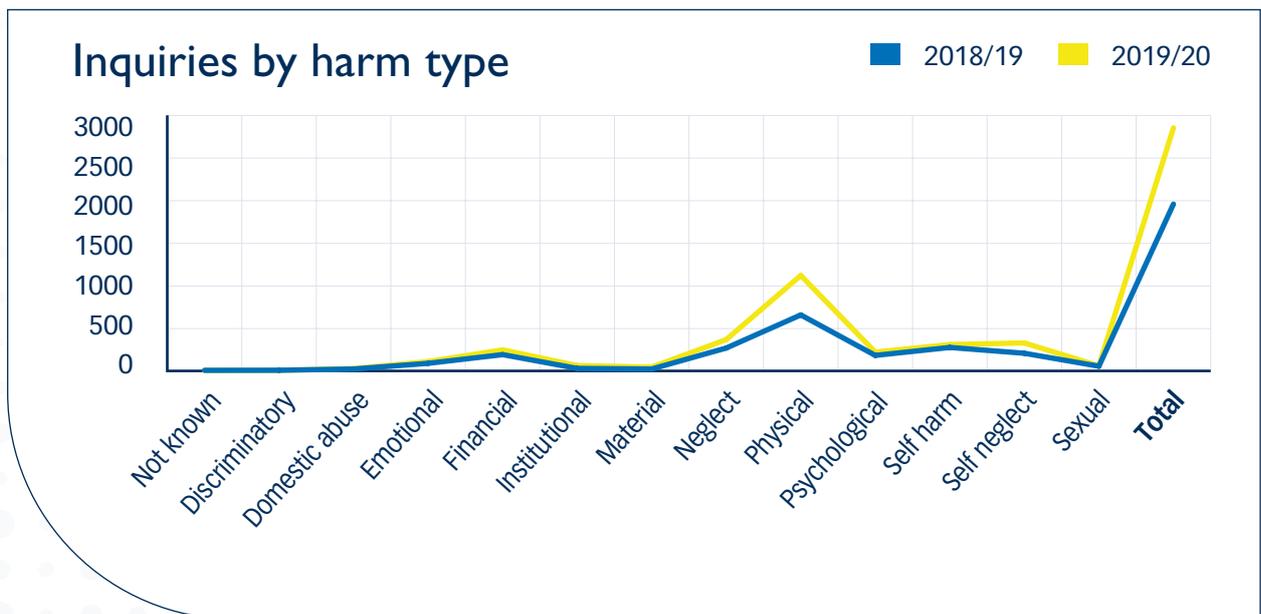


Harm type

Physical harm continues to be the most frequent harm type reported over the two year period 2018-20 with statistics showing 33% and 39% respectively. This shows an increase from the last biennial report where the findings showed physical harm at 26%. There has been a small increase in self neglect from 10% to 11% and self-harm figures have decreased over the reporting period from 14% to 11%.

Table – Inquiries by harm type

	2018/19	2019/20
Not known	2	2
Discriminatory	3	2
Domestic abuse	18	23
Emotional	85	105
Financial	188	244
Institutional	25	58
Material	18	40
Neglect	266	365
Physical	658	1121
Psychological	179	217
Self harm	273	306
Self neglect	204	325
Sexual	51	55
Total	1970	2863



Age range

The age range of ASP referrals continues to remain higher for those adults over the age of 65 as reflected in the previous biennial report (64% in 2018-19 and 67% in 2019-20). This may be a result of the increasing demographics of older people living in South Lanarkshire coupled with an increase in the numbers of older people living with dementia. Given these trends we would expect these figures to continue to rise in the future.

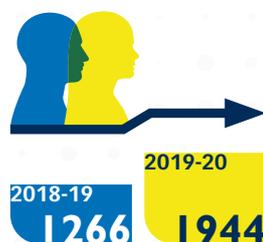
	Not known	Under 65	Over 65	Total
2018/19	2	702	1266	1970
2019/20	3	915	1944	2862

Age range of referrers

Under 65



Over 65



Investigations

The ASP SWiSplus recording system within South Lanarkshire Council has enabled the APC to collate and report on accurate ASP data. In 2018-19 there were 814 ASP investigations from 1970 ASP inquiries, which represents a 41% conversion rate. In 2019-20 there were 1300 ASP investigations, from 2862 ASP inquiries which represents a 45% conversion rate.

This is in comparison to the previous biennial report where in 2016-17 there were 107 ASP investigations from 1,998 ASP inquiries which represents a 5% conversion rate. In 2017-18 there were 272 ASP investigations from 2006 ASP inquiries which represents a 14% conversion rate.

This increase in the last two years can be attributed to more robust monitoring and reporting processes being implemented by the SLAPC around key processes and further strengthening of our Council Officer training and ASP Social Work Procedures in respect of investigation processes.

Within this two year period, Dementia is the most likely client group to experience an ASP investigation. In 2018-19, dementia cases represented a significant proportion of all investigations undertaken. This is a change to the previous biennial report where mental health was the most likely client group to experience an investigation. This increase can be attributed to the increase in referrals from our care home sector where harm is being perpetrated by those who have dementia on others with the same condition. Our care home audit and recent care home event highlighted these issues and in response SLAPC have continued to provide appropriate guidance and support to further strengthen this area of practice.

Table – Investigations by client group 2018/19

	East Kilbride	Hamilton	Clydesdale	Rutherglen	Total
Autism spectrum disorder	0	0	0	0	0
Brain injury	0	0	0	0	0
Dementia	73	166	30	20	289
Learning disability	3	55	14	11	83
Mental health	16	79	37	10	142
Mental disorder	0	0	0	0	0
Mental infirmity	0	0	0	0	0
Physical disability	15	41	17	4	77
Physical infirmity	17	60	29	7	113
Sensory impairment	0	0	0	0	0
Substance misuse	5	41	6	7	59
No vulnerability	0	0	0	0	0
Not known	0	0	0	0	0
Illness	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	135	477	138	64	814

Investigations by client group 2018/19

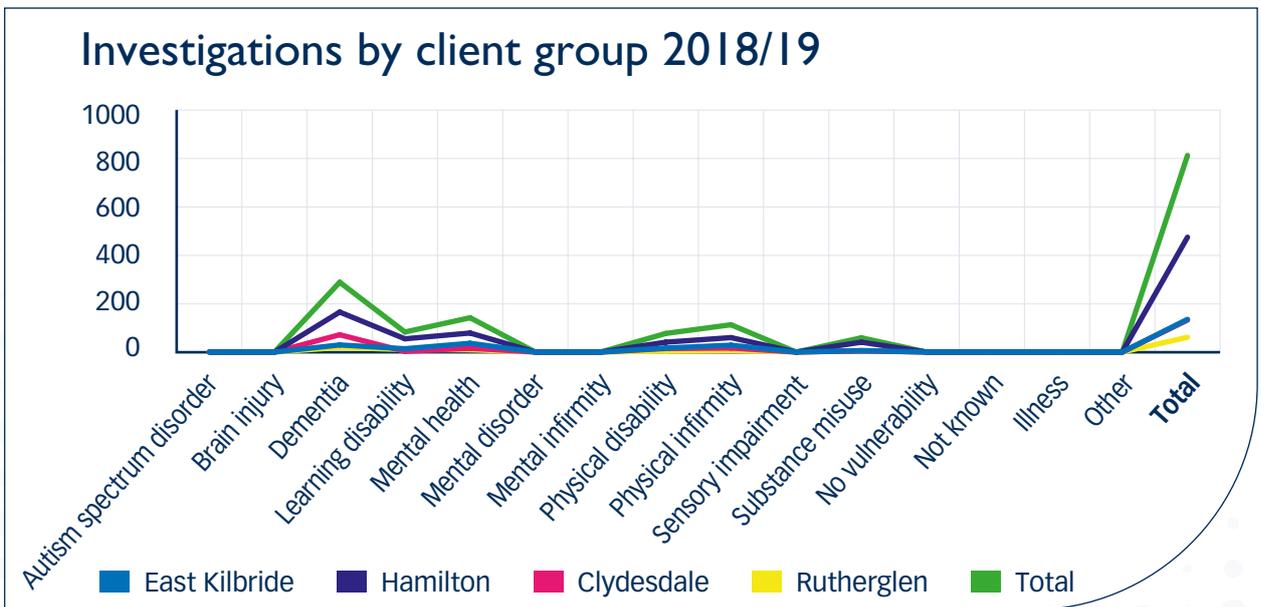
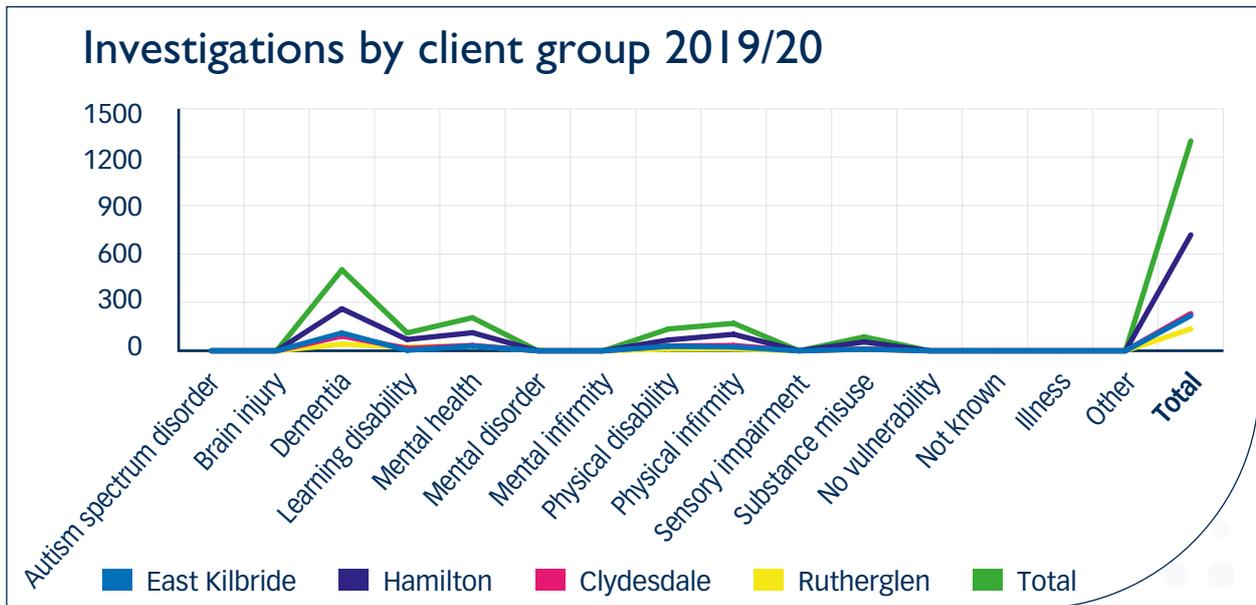


Table – Investigations by client group 2019/20					
	East Kilbride	Hamilton	Clydesdale	Rutherglen	Total
Autism spectrum disorder	0	0	0	0	0
Brain injury	0	0	0	0	0
Dementia	110	260	91	41	502
Learning disability	3	70	15	23	111
Mental health	29	112	33	31	205
Mental disorder	0	0	0	0	0
Mental infirmity	0	0	0	0	0
Physical disability	28	67	30	10	135
Physical infirmity	24	102	33	11	170
Sensory impairment	0	0	0	0	0
Substance misuse	10	55	11	10	86
No vulnerability	0	0	0	0	0
Not known	0	0	0	0	0
Illness	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	217	718	230	135	1300



Investigations leading to a protection plan

The numbers for adults who require protection planning has risen. In 2018-19 there were 16 adults at risk where intervention progressed to a full protection plan, this represents less than 1% of all ASP referrals. In 2019-20 there were 25 adults at risk deemed suitable for this level of support and protection which again marked a very small proportion at under 1% of all ASP referrals for the period.

Table – Investigations leading to protection plan

	Protection Plans
2016/17	23
2017/18	26

Protection orders

During this reporting period there has been no assessment or removal orders sought or granted. We have had 2 Temporary Banning Orders with No Power of Arrest, 9 Temporary Banning Orders with Power of Arrest and 9 Banning Orders with Power of Arrest.

Inquiry outcomes

ASP referrals that are deemed no further action (NFA) was 57% and 55% respectively over the past two years. There are many reasons why ASP interventions are concluded as no further action (NFA). In the reporting periods the majority of NFA reasons were that case could be managed under assessment and care management provisions, although the case closed under ASP legislation, ongoing intervention continued such as undertaking a comprehensive assessments of need and risk and other assessments, such as Self Direct Support and/or consideration of other legislative interventions and/or services.

Table – Inquiries by outcome

	Total referrals	Referrals NFA	Total percentage of referrals NFA
2018/19	1970	1128	57%
2019/20	2862	1568	55%

Table – Inquiry NFA reasons 2018/19					
	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March	Total
Care Managed – Acute Psychiatry	4	6	3	3	16
Care Managed – Substance Misuse	2	4	1	1	8
Care Managed – C and J	1	2	0	1	4
Care Managed – CMHT	12	9	8	13	42
Care Managed – GP	4	5	5	4	18
Care Managed – LAADS	1	1	0	2	4
Continued Assessment and Care Management	103	93	60	57	313
Does not meet 3 point criteria	104	66	42	72	284
Duplicated referral	1	0	0	1	2
Duplicated - Contact system admin	0	1	0	0	1
Emergency respite	1	0	1	0	2
Existing PP in place	1	0	0	1	2
Hospital admission	16	19	11	12	58
Long term care	20	17	14	7	58
New Assessment and Care Management	24	12	12	4	52
No adult protection concerns	48	47	56	35	186
No AP concerns - admission to care	3	0	1	3	7
No AP concerns - admission to respite	1	1	1	0	3
Open investigation	3	2	2	5	12
Open investigation or protection plan	7	6	1	10	24
Other legislation	12	11	5	3	31
Not known	0	1	0	0	1
Total	368	303	223	234	1128

Table – Inquiry NFA reasons 2019/20

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March	Total
Care Managed – Acute Psychiatry	10	3	3	2	18
Care Managed – Substance Misuse	1	2	1	2	6
Care Managed – C and J	1	5	3	3	12
Care Managed – CMHT	29	11	10	18	68
Care Managed – GP	8	1	4	4	17
Care Managed – LAADS	0	0	0	1	1
Continued Assessment and Care Management	161	104	84	121	470
Does not meet 3 point criteria	100	79	73	113	365
Duplicated referral	6	3	2	6	17
Duplicated - Contact system admin	0	2	0	0	2
Emergency respite	0	0	1	1	2
Existing PP in place	3	0	1	0	4
Hospital admission	21	11	16	10	58
Long term care	17	18	36	22	93
New Assessment and Care Management	9	10	6	13	38
No adult protection concerns	78	39	58	83	258
No AP concerns - admission to care	0	0	0	1	1
No AP concerns - admission to respite	1	0	1	0	2
Open investigation	15	15	23	20	73
Open investigation or protection plan	13	3	12	16	44
Other legislation	2	4	5	8	19
Not known	0	0	0	0	0
Total	475	310	339	444	1568

COVID-19 statistical trends

SLAPC have continued to monitor ASP statistics during the current pandemic. For the purposes of this report we looked at statistics from 23/3/19 to 23/8/19 and compared these with 2020 statistics during the same period. We found the following:

- We have seen an increase of 102 referrals during this period from 1140 in 2019 to 1242 in 2020
- Physical harm remains the highest harm type with an increase of 80 cases in 2020 compared to 2019
- Self-neglect cases have also seen an increase of 84 in 2020 compared to 2019
- Dementia has remained the largest client group during both periods with learning disability cases decreasing from 113 in 2019 to 61 in 2020
- Physical infirmity has seen an increase from 88 in 2019 to 149 in 2020
- Care home referrals have seen a slight increase from 387 to 396
- Investigations, case conferences and protection plan trends have not changed significantly during the periods analysed

Overall, we are not seeing any definitive trends emerging at present however we suspect that as we continue to move through the recovery stages, trends may become more apparent. SLAPC will continue to monitor this area and implement appropriate measures to address these as they arise.





Section 6

Training, learning and staff development



6.1 Key functions

One of the key functions of South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee is to prepare and deliver an extensive programme of both single and multi agency adult protection learning and development opportunities. This training is available to all agencies both statutory and non statutory in our area who support adults. It can be viewed by visiting www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk.

6.2 SLAPC learning and development programme (2019-2021)

South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Multi-Agency Training Programme is made widely available to partner agencies. The programme has been revised to reflect current trends and offers more learning opportunities than ever before.

SLAPC routinely self evaluates our training, learning and development opportunities to ensure it meets both local and national needs and updates them accordingly.

Over the past two years we have continued to provide both multi-agency and single agency ASP training. During the period 1 October 2018 until September 2020 we have provided multi-agency and single agency training to over 1200 staff and managers from the multi-agency workforce. We have also provided bespoke training to partner agencies to meet individual service needs.

In the period of this report the SLAPC have delivered training to various agencies such as:

- SL H and SCP Care at Home Staff
- SL H and SCP Residential Care Home Staff
- Social Work Induction Programme
- Education, Youth, Family and Community Learning
- Community Addictions and Recovery Service
- Family Placement Team
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Medical Education Training
- GP Training
- SL H and SCP Community Mental Health Teams
- Care Home Events

6.3 Council officer training

SLAPC continues to provide the Council Officer Skills Training Course. This three and a half day course covers legal and practical knowledge/engagement skills required to perform the Council Officer role. As with all training, the course is regularly updated in line with national and local learning. We recently worked alongside the Child Protection JIIT worker to review and update our investigative interview process. This training is now embedded into our course and we have received both positive staff feedback and an increase in investigations from the previous reporting period.

We have also developed a separate investigative interview one day course to extend this learning to Council Officers who have already undertaken the full course.

In response to the current global public health emergency and the requirement to move away from classroom based training, SLAPC are revising this course and is in the process of moving to a blended model of learning. Elements of the course will be delivered via an online platform combined with input from SLAPC Lead Officer and other agencies. This will ensure social work staff continue to receive the required training to enable them to continue to fulfil their statutory duties and responsibilities.

6.4 ASP multi-agency training

We continue to deliver our adult protection half day multi-agency training course. This course is always over subscribed and very well attended by practitioners from a wide range of service areas. In the past two years we have trained nearly 700 staff from the multi-agency workforce and the course evaluates exceptionally well. We have also developed a multi-agency refresher course which focuses on how staff have embedded learning from the initial course into their practice and we have also developed second worker training to ensure practitioners have the required knowledge, skills and confidence to support the Council Officer during an ASP investigation.

Our multi-agency partners have contributed to the APC's learning and development in the past two years in a number of creative ways including delivering various presentations to raise awareness of key areas of ASP practice.

6.5 SLAPC practitioner forums

SLAPC continue to offer practitioner forums to the multi-agency workforce who have a responsibility for adult protection across South Lanarkshire. It was agreed that holding learning events locally best supports multi-agency working. In 2019 SLAPC arranged 2 practitioner forums to discuss 'The 3 Acts' and 'Defensible Decision Making'. These themes were identified as areas for practice improvement in our self-evaluation exercises and from direct staff feedback. Our practitioner forums provide staff with the opportunity to come together, share information and learn and reflect upon the topic being discussed. We plan to continue with this model of learning going forward.

6.6 Medical education training

ASP Lead Officers from South and North Lanarkshire alongside NHS Lanarkshire have continued to deliver adult support and protection training twice a year to consultants which builds upon their professional development and is also part of the medical revalidation process.

This staff group covers the three emergency departments and acute care sites in NHS Lanarkshire and has helped to drive investment and confidence in staff to recognise and report adult protection concerns.

6.7 Public protection learning and development programme

As well as our SLAPC learning and development programme the public protection team have also reviewed and updated their public protection learning and development programme. The programme aims to offer partners across the multi-agency public protection workforce in South Lanarkshire a wide range of learning and development opportunities to meet individual and organisational requirements. The training is offered to managers and practitioners who represent all areas of the public protection workforce in South Lanarkshire (including those who work with children, young people, adults, and older people).

We continue to have joint briefings and training for the multi agency workforce on cross cutting issues such as:

- Understanding Human Trafficking and Exploitation
- Multi-agency Chronologies for Adult and Child Protection
- The Significant Case Review Process
- Forced Marriage (FM), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Honour Based Violence (HBV) – An overview

The training/briefings have been well received by those in attendance. Feedback has highlighted that this joint approach to learning and development has increased practitioner's knowledge and understanding in areas of practice that they may not necessarily have explored otherwise.

6.8 Public protection e-bulletin

The Public Protection team have also developed a Public Protection E-Bulletin which describes the work of each of the public protection disciplines and is distributed to the multi- agency workforce quarterly. During the current global health emergency, we also developed a Public Protection COVID-19 Bulletin which kept our workforce up to date on both local and national COVID-19 related guidance and support.

Section 7

Leadership, governance and accountability



Supported by the SLAPC Chair and Lead Officer, members drive forward an extensive work plan and routinely evaluate its work to ensure there is a clear focus on continuous improvement, governance and accountability, by the application of outcomes measures.

South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee continues to meet with the Chief Officers Group (Public Protection) quarterly to discuss, inform, report, and seek assurance on adult protection matters of local and national interest.

As leaders, the Chief Officers Group (COG) provide a clear vision, shared values and aims that promote the protection of all adults, children, and young people. The COG (Public Protection) demonstrates effective collaborative working to discharge its adult protection responsibilities and consistently promotes effective joint working.

7.1 Challenges

The main challenges for the APC over the reporting period, in no particular order of primacy are:

- Increased demand on services in an ever more challenging financial climate. This challenge is exacerbated by the recent global public health emergency.
- Extending public awareness and understanding of adult protection remains a challenge.
- Adult protection in relation to care homes.
- Risk thresholds and risk enablement within adult protection.
- Hidden harm as a consequence of the global public health emergency.

Conclusion



The biennial report for 2018-2020 has demonstrated the scope of activities undertaken by SLAPC and how busy and productive this period was for the SLAPC and its member agencies. The APC continues to meet its objectives contained within the Business Plan and remains committed to maintain a clear focus on working in partnership to achieve better outcomes for adults at risk of harm.

The APC has shaped and structured its business plan 2020-2022 to achieve the following local outcomes:

1. Continue to increase awareness of ASP across the multi agency workforce and the community.
2. Review and improve Adult Protection practice in registered services.
3. Continuous improvement in practice and learning within and across agencies.
4. Staff that are skilled and knowledgeable in ASP.
5. Policies, procedures, and guidance in place to support staff.
6. Continue to seek and encourage users and carers feedback.
7. Promote service user and carer engagement.

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