

# RISK MATTERS

*West Lothian's Public Protection Newsletter*

No.2 – Summer 2010

## A Word from the Convenor of West Lothian's Adult Protection Committee

**Alex Davidson (Independent Convenor of West Lothian's Adult Protection Committee) introduces this issue of "Risk Matters".**

It has been my privilege to have been involved in the design and introduction of several pieces of legislation in the latter years of my employment in social work in Scotland, particularly in the areas of safeguarding and protecting the rights of individuals in our Scottish society, and working with people who use and provide our services. I continue to be involved in the social care and health field as a consultant, following my time in social work services around the former Strathclyde Region and latterly as Head of Adult Services in South Lanarkshire Council. I have been pleased and honoured to be involved in the introduction of the Adult Support and Protection Act in West Lothian as Independent Chair, and to work in a multi-agency environment as we develop the protocols, procedures and practice, and to wrestle with the responsibilities given to us by the Act. I remain committed to the best principles' of self directed support, and in enabling individuals and families to gain access to those resources and supports which enable them to lead full active lives, in their terms, while recognising the complex and difficult world in which social care, health and justice services now work.

The Adult Support and Protection Act, sits beside other important and pieces of legislation – the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act, the Adults with Incapacity Act, the Vulnerable Witnesses Act, and progressive policy in the Same as You and justice services, and making sense of the plethora of protective legislation while retaining a focus on human rights and choices is challenging for both staff and those who use services, or who become involved with services. I look forward to working with service users, family carers, and staff across the various agencies involved, as we look to develop high quality, responsive and listening services approaches in the adult protection area.

### **Adult Protection**

A production company, LBTv, was commissioned by the Edinburgh Lothians and Borders Executive Group (ELBEG) to produce a DVD to raise awareness of child

and adult protection issues. This was shown in the Almondvale Shopping Centre on a continuous loop for 7 days from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Leaflets were handed out and members of the public were asked to complete a questionnaire. 162 questionnaires were returned and evidenced that the majority of the public, particularly in child protection cases, were well informed about who to contact should they have a concern. The feedback highlighted the continuing need to inform the public of what happens when concerns are referred to agencies and reassurance about their own involvement in the process.

The first West Lothian Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report will be sent to Scottish Government Ministers in October 2010. This Report, produced by the Independent Convenor, outlines the achievements and future plans of the Adult Protection Committee. It is anticipated that the final Report will be available to all stakeholders following submission to the Scottish Government. The Adult Protection Service staff are now co-located at the Civic Centre alongside Police and some Health colleagues. **Susan Kerr (Administrative Assistant)** has recently joined the Adult Protection Service Support, replacing Angie Skene who left in March. Susan works alongside **Nick Clater (Multi-agency Adult Protection Service Development Officer)**, **Wendy Ramsay (Adult Protection Service Development Officer)** and **Angela Scotland (Administrative Assistant)**.



## Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements for Criminal Justice Services



**Robin Allen, Sexual & Violent Offenders Liaison Officer (SAVOLO)** came into post in April 2007. There have been numerous developments over the past months within the offender management arena. Most significantly new National MAPPA guidance was published in March which has brought with it new challenges for responsible authorities. In response to the new National guidance West Lothian MAPPA Committee has revised its local procedure to ensure we are well placed to meet all necessary requirements. Updates include new national templates to review MAPPA Level 2/3 cases and extended risk management guidance to complement the templates. A multi agency training event was delivered by the MAPPA Coordinator and Sexual & Violent Offenders Officer (SAVOLO) to ensure relevant staff were briefed accordingly. An updated version of the Procedure will soon be available on the staff intranet.

Since the last issue of *Risk Matters* there have also been changes within the Public Protection Team. Robin Allen has now moved to the first floor of the Civic Centre to join the Criminal Justice Team as Throughcare Team Manager. Integral to the planned the move, Robin will continue to fulfil some of his SAVOLO responsibilities and retains close links with Public Protection Team. This brings both challenges and new opportunities to streamline the strategic elements of the SAVOLO role to complement operational responsibilities of the Throughcare team. The MAPPA processes continue to be supported by **Pamela Bestwick, Child Protection/SAVOLO Administrative Assistant.**

### Child Protection

**Jane Ridgway is West Lothian Child Protection Committee's (CPC) Lead Officer.** Since the last issue of *Risk Matters*, Child Protection services in West Lothian have undergone an inspection from HM Inspectorate of Education. HMIE's inspection of West Lothian's joint services to protect children was very positive and inspectors highlighted the joint working and collective responsibility evidenced in West Lothian as commendable. Inspectors also acknowledged the considerable improvement in risk assessment, child protection planning and the effectiveness of core groups since the last inspection.

Inspectors commented favourably on the fact that staff in all agencies take concerns seriously, listen to children and families and endeavour to work with them even when families are resistant to support. Inspectors also commented on the "outstanding support" that families

receive at an early stage, the wide range of early intervention strategies, valuable group work opportunities and safety planning. Interventions and services were described as high quality and wide ranging, supplied when children need them and for as long as necessary.

Members of the Child Protection Committee and senior officers will meet again with HMIE in the coming weeks for further discussion. The inspection report will be published on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010.



[www.childprotectionwestlothian.org.uk](http://www.childprotectionwestlothian.org.uk)

### Contact Us

The **Public Protection Unit** are based at the West Lothian Civic Centre can be contacted at:

**West Lothian Civic Centre  
Howden South Road  
Livingston  
EH54 6FF**

Individual contact details are below:

#### **Adult Protection Service**

<a href="mailto:nick.clater@westlothian.gov.uk">nick.clater@westlothian.gov.uk</a>	01506 281851
<a href="mailto:wendy.ramsay@westlothian.gov.uk">wendy.ramsay@westlothian.gov.uk</a>	01506 281847
<a href="mailto:angela.scotland@westlothian.gov.uk">angela.scotland@westlothian.gov.uk</a>	01506 281848
<a href="mailto:susan.kerr2@westlothian.gov.uk">susan.kerr2@westlothian.gov.uk</a>	01506 281850

#### **SAVOLO**

<a href="mailto:robin.allen@westlothian.gov.uk">robin.allen@westlothian.gov.uk</a>	01506 281846
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#### **Child Protection**

<a href="mailto:jane.ridgway@westlothian.gov.uk">jane.ridgway@westlothian.gov.uk</a>	01506 281845
<a href="mailto:pamela.bestwick@westlothian.gov.uk">pamela.bestwick@westlothian.gov.uk</a>	01506 281849