

# Forth Valley Public Protection

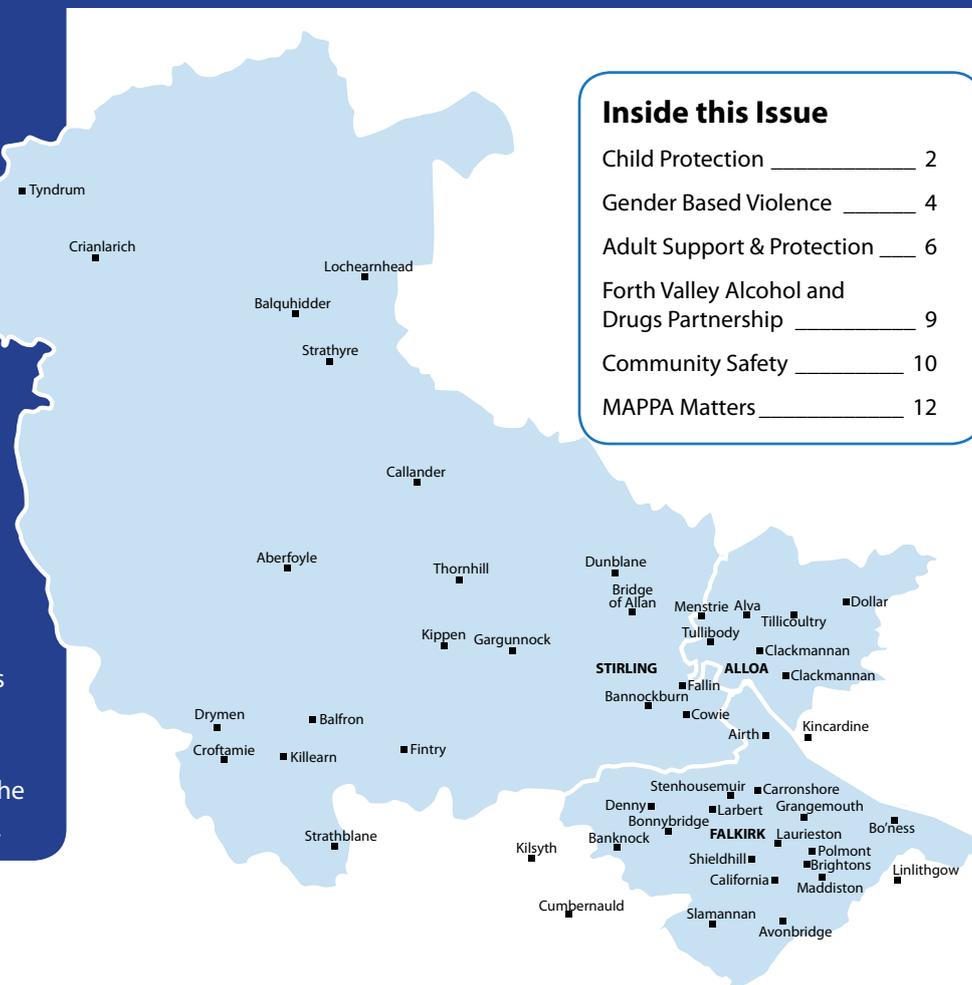
Issue 2 - Spring 2017

Newsletter

Welcome to the second 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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## National Child Protection Improvement Programme Update

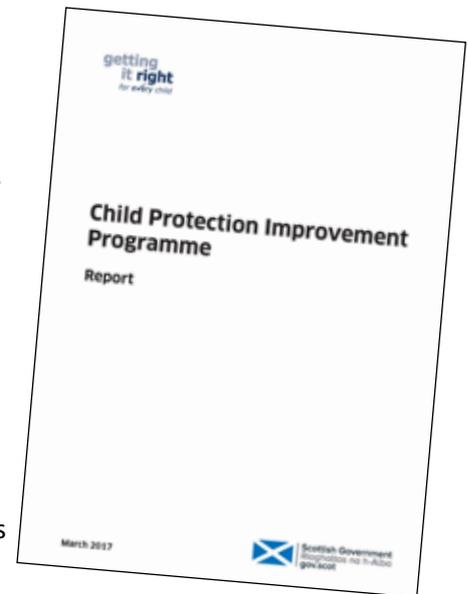
On Thursday 2nd March the Minister for Childcare and Early Years, Mark McDonald MSP addressed parliament on the Child Protection Improvement Programme. This statement followed a year of work on the programme since it was formally announced to Parliament on 25th February 2016 by Angela Constance, then Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning.

This statement coincided with the publication of two reports: the Scottish Government's Child Protection Improvement Programme Report on its nine key areas of work - the Child Protection Systems Review; Neglect; Child Sexual Exploitation; Child Trafficking; Child Internet Safety; Children's Hearings; Inspections; Leadership; and, Data and Evidence - and the Systems Review Report - Protecting Scotland's Children and Young People: It is Still Everyone's Job - produced by its independent chair, Catherine Dyer.

The Systems Review made twelve recommendations relating to three themes: Leadership, Governance and Accountability; Developing a Learning Culture; and Shared Values. They included the establishment of a Child Protection Leadership Group which the Minister will chair. Other recommendations include:

- Exploring the establishment of a national Child Protection Register
- A requirement for all Initial Case Reviews to be shared with the Care Inspectorate
- National standards setting out the skills and competences for those undertaking reviews
- A programme of work to understand children's experiences of child protection systems in Scotland
- Further work to clarify the interaction of the child protection system and the Children's Hearings System, particularly for sixteen and seventeen years olds.

The Minister for Childcare and Early Years also made a commitment to bring new legislation before this session of Parliament introducing a new definition and criminal offence of abuse and neglect of children. Child neglect is principally prosecuted in Scotland under section 12 of the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937. The Scottish Government considers that the existing legislation frames neglect and abuse too narrowly, by focusing predominantly on its physical effects. The definition can cause difficulties in prosecuting, owing to its narrow scope. The Scottish Government will consult on the scope and wording of the proposed new legislation later this year.



The Minister also announced that a national Child Protection Policy will be published, identifying all the responsibilities and actions across government which are aimed at supporting families and protecting children. As part of this a plan will be developed to better prevent the emotional, physical and sexual abuse of children in Scotland.

More information about the Child Protection Improvement Programme can be found at [www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/child-protection/CPIP](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/child-protection/CPIP)

The Child Protection Improvement Programme Report can be accessed at [www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/6005](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/6005)

The Systems Review Report – Protecting Scotland's Children: It is Still Everyone's Job - can be accessed at [www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/9380](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/9380)

# Child Protection in Sport

## Stirling

In Stirling there are two main organisations involved in the protection and welfare of children in sport. They are Active Stirling and ClubSport Stirling. Active Stirling is contracted by Stirling Council to provide sport and physical activity services to the schools and communities of Stirling. ClubSport Stirling is Stirling's local sports council with over 110 member clubs.

Active Stirling follows Children 1st's 10 Steps to Safeguarding Children in Sport as a framework for getting child protection and child welfare right. Child welfare and child protection is core to Active Stirling's operations and embedded into the role of all staff. The importance of having a trained and vigilant staff team is guided by effective management systems and the Child Protection Officer oversees all procedures and operations in this regard.

ClubSport Stirling is the representative body for Stirling's sports clubs and Active Stirling will only work clubs that are affiliated to ClubSport Stirling. Clubs have to meet strict criteria in order to affiliate to ClubSport Stirling including robust child protection procedures. Of course if a club does not have this in place then the Active Stirling team will be only too happy to support a club to develop policies, understand procedures and embed principles of child protection through their operations. In addition to ensuring clubs have appropriate policies ClubSport Stirling also provide PVG checking for club coaches and volunteers. ClubSport Stirling is registered with Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services and 58 clubs utilise this service. Others may not work with children or access their PVG checks from their Governing Body.

Through the partnership between Active Stirling and ClubSport Stirling further training is provided for coaches and volunteers. This training includes Sports Coach UK Safeguarding and Protecting Children courses and In Safe Hands Training for Child Protection Officers. Courses run throughout the year and are usually delivered at full capacity.

## Clackmannanshire

The PE, Active Schools and School Sport programming is delivered by the Clackmannanshire Council Sports Development team who are part of the Council's Education Service. The recruitment of supply/ relief staff, sports coaches, ski instructors etc is based on the Council's Human Resources procedures.

Many of the senior pupils who follow the Sports Leader and Modern Apprentice training offered by Sports Development and in partnership with organisations such as Sports Leader UK, Children 1st, national governing bodies of sport, develop into sports coaches and club coaches of the future.

During the Active Easter 2017 programme 43 senior pupils attended the Sport or Dance Leadership training of 35 hours this month. The young people had a great experience but have also grown in their confidence to work with each other and develop leadership skills.

There are strong partnerships with primary and secondary schools and sports clubs managed by the Sports Development team. These partnerships enable pupils to access a wide range of sporting opportunities at various ability levels both in curricular and extra curricular time.

Once a relief coach has met the Council's employment conditions and produced satisfactory evidence such as enhanced / updated PVG, relevant national governing body qualifications, first aid, references etc they are required to attend Safe guarding and protecting children, Positive Coaching Scotland workshop and other Council training such as the annual coaches evening.

Partnerships between the Council and the sports clubs requires similar evidence and an agreement signed to ensure coaches behave in a particular fashion with children and vulnerable adults.

An annual programme of Coach Education, update sessions is available to all individuals and sports clubs. There are various grant aided schemes to ensure attending a course is affordable to the coach / club. Clackmannanshire Sports Council is one such organisation. For more details do not hesitate to access [www.clacksweb.org.uk](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk) email [sportsdevelopment@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:sportsdevelopment@clacks.gov.uk) or phone 01259 452352. Our activities are regularly tweeted using @activeclacks.

## Safeguarding within Sport and Activity Clubs across Falkirk

Across the Falkirk area we are engaged with around 60 sport and activity clubs, through their relationships with Active Schools and the Sports Development teams. This covers a wide range of sports ranging from Football, Rugby and Basketball, through to smaller activities such as Kayaking and Orienteering. Within these sports and clubs there are varying levels of support available to them from the National Governing Bodies for their sport, largely depending on the size and staffing that they have.

Given this diverse landscape it is essential that we have as robust a system as possible in place when it comes to ensuring that all of the clubs that we partner with meet the minimum requirements for them to be considered a safe and well structured organisation. We do not engage with any clubs that do not meet this minimum standard.

Given the current prominence on PVG checks in the wider media we felt that now was the right time to review our current procedures. We are currently working to bring the current checks under a safe club scheme. Which we hope will encourage more clubs in the area to engage with. The hope is that this will allow clubs working in sports that do not currently have a recognised quality mark/club mark scheme in place to demonstrate that they are operating at a minimum standard. The new scheme will allow clubs to self-assess their current position before applying to join the scheme and engage with Active Schools or Sports Development. This will allow them the opportunity to seek assistance should they identify areas which require work. We hope to have the new scheme introduced by the start of the new academic year.

# Gender Based Violence

## RIGHT TO ASK

Disclosure Scheme for  
Domestic Abuse (Scotland)

### Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse (Scotland)

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse (Scotland) - known as Clare’s Law in England and Wales - was rolled-out across Scotland in October 2015, following a successful pilot in Aberdeen and Ayrshire.

The Scheme aims to prevent domestic abuse by empowering both men and women with the right to ask about the background of their new partner. It also allows concerned professionals or members of the public, such as relatives and friends, to make enquiries about someone’s partner if they are concerned that person has been abusive in the past. The concerned professional, relative or friend will not, under normal circumstances, receive any information on the person causing concern.

If a disclosure is deemed necessary, lawful and proportionate, the person potentially at risk, or person best placed to safeguard that individual, will receive the information. This information enables someone who may be at risk of domestic abuse to make an informed choice about whether to continue their relationship or not and provides further help and support to assist them when making that decision.

The scheme also creates a formal mechanism for Police Scotland to tell both men and women, who are potentially at risk of abuse from their partner, about that partner’s past.

Between 1st October 2015 and 1st February 2017, Police in Forth Valley received 140 applications into the Scheme. This is an average of 8-9 applications per month.

- 86 applications were made by Police Scotland (61%)
- 33 were made by persons potentially at risk (24%)
- 9 were made by family of persons potentially at risk (6%)
- 12 were made by other professionals (9%)
- 81 applications relate to the Falkirk area (58%), 31 relate to the Stirling area (22%) and 28 relate to Clackmannanshire (20%)
- 85 disclosures have been made (61% of all applications resulted in a disclosure)
- 1 application was still in progress

**To find out more about the scheme and how you can make an application on behalf of yourself or someone you know, go online to**



[www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/domestic-abuse/disclosure-scheme-for-domestic-abuse-scotland](http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/domestic-abuse/disclosure-scheme-for-domestic-abuse-scotland)

**If you believe someone is in immediate risk of harm, or it is an emergency, always call 999**



## Forth Valley Domestic Abuse MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)



The Forth Valley MARAC has been operating since August 2013 and was established as a result of partnership discussions involving Police and a number of third party agencies across Forth Valley. MARACs have operated in Scotland since 2005.

The aim of the MARAC is to protect the lives of some of the most vulnerable people experiencing domestic abuse in Forth Valley, who are at serious risk of physical harm including murder. They are monthly multi agency meetings, chaired by Police Scotland, which focus on the safety of victims of domestic abuse who are identified as being at high risk by the use of a risk identification questionnaire. Whilst the primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the adult victim, the MARAC will also make links with other multi agency meetings and processes where necessary to safeguard children, vulnerable adults and manage the behaviour of the perpetrator.

At the heart of the MARAC is a working assumption that no single agency or individual can see the complete picture of the life of someone suffering domestic abuse but all may have insights that are crucial to their safety. This is because domestic abuse takes place behind closed doors and presents itself to the outside world in many

ways: through calls to the police, through visits to A&E, through contact with domestic abuse helplines and agencies, through poor child attendance at school etc.

Key partner agencies include Police, Women's Aid, Social Work (Criminal justice, Children & Families, Adult Services), Housing and Health professionals. By bringing these agencies together to share information, a co-ordinated safety plan can be put together more quickly and effectively. In a single meeting, the MARAC combines up-to-date risk information with a timely assessment of an individual's needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a domestic abuse case: victim, children and perpetrator. The responsibility to take forward appropriate actions rests with individual agencies; it is not transferred to the MARAC.

Since the introduction of MARAC there have been 332 referrals which can be broken down into Council areas:-

**Falkirk - 187      Clacks - 44      Stirling -101**

If any agency would like to know more about the MARAC process or how to make referrals please contact your local Violence Against Women/Gender Based Violence Partnership Coordinator.

## Shakti Women's Aid Forth Valley Outreach & Capacity Building Service



Shakti Women's Aid is a voluntary organisation offering support and information to all black and minority ethnic women and their children experiencing, or fleeing from, domestic abuse. The Service has a worker permanently within Forth Valley. Asma Hussain provides an outreach service involving practical and emotional support to black minority ethnic women and children living within Forth Valley. Services include:

- Dedicated and consistent emotional and practical support to women and their children who contact Shakti but are not yet ready to leave their abusive situation.
- Follow on support to women who have left an abusive situation but have chosen to return.
- Helping women and children deal with the emotional difficulties which arise from domestic abuse, and helping them to build confidence and links with other agencies that offer support.

- Providing and facilitating opportunities for women to make informed decisions about the best way to deal with their situation.

All of Shakti's adult services provide one to one support for women who contact, or are referred to, the Service. This starts with an initial meeting where the client's needs are assessed and an action plan is drawn up in consultation and agreement with her. The level of support offered is dependent on the action plan and normally includes activities including accompanying women and advocating on their behalf to solicitors, housing, and other agencies.

If you would like to know more about Shakti Women's Aid services in Forth Valley or how to make a referral you can contact:-

Asma Hussain, Outreach Worker , Shakti Women's Aid  
Mobile: 07757 035794    Edinburgh Office: 0131 475 2399  
Email: asma.hussain@shakiedinburgh.co.uk  
Website: www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk



# Adult Support and Protection Act, 2007: Our duty to co-operate - revisited

Whether you are a housing worker, a police officer, a health worker, or a social care worker you might come across situations where you have a duty to report adult protection concerns to the local social work office.

The Chambers Dictionary describes 'to co-operate' as 'to work or act together toward a common end or purpose'. Protecting adults could be described as a common purpose for all of us who work in public services. It may not be our primary focus, but those of us who have contact with the public as we go about our daily activities need to be aware of the potential for adults to be harmed, and to know what to do about it if we have concerns.

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 makes it clear that we all have a duty to co-operate or act together to protect adults at risk from harm. Section 5 (2) of the Act states that 'public bodies must co-operate with a council making inquiries into the circumstances of an adult at risk of harm, and with each other, where such cooperation is likely to enable or assist the council making those inquiries'.

## **What does co-operation mean?**

And what is expected of us if we come across or are working with an adult who is at risk of harm? Co-operation can mean many things. Most importantly it means sharing information about the adult with other professionals involved. It is often the case that while many of us may

be working with one adult, each of us may only be aware of a small part of the circumstances which make up that adult's life. By sharing information, we get a fuller picture which not only allows us to do our own job better but also contributes to better collective decision making in relation to the adult.

## **What about consent?**

The Forth Valley Information Sharing Protocol makes it clear that adults must give their consent to sharing information with others and we should always make every effort to gain consent. However, there may be times when it is not possible to get consent, for example in an emergency, or when adult refuses to give consent, particularly if the adult is being pressurised into withholding consent. In these circumstances, if it is in the public interest to disclose information, the law allows for this. Any information disclosed in this way must be proportionate to the harm involved, only shared with those who need to know and as a matter of good practice, the adult should be informed of the disclosure.

## **What information can be shared?**

Any information which helps a

council officer (a member of staff responsible for making inquiries) to protect adults at risk of harm can be shared. However, the Act also allows council officers to formally request information, including health and financial records. In relation to health records, the council officer may not inspect the record, this must be done by a health professional and the relevant information shared. It is an offence for a person to refuse to comply with a requirement to provide information unless that person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so. Co-operation also means getting more directly involved in the adult's situation. If a council officer plans to undertake an adult protection investigation, staff may be asked to be involved in a variety of ways:

- It may be that a planning meeting or a case conference is arranged to decide how best to proceed and your attendance is requested.
- If you know the adult well, you may be asked to be part of the formal investigative interview process.
- Most investigations will require a risk assessment to be prepared and you are asked to make a contribution.
- A protection plan is to be put in place and you are one of the core group of staff who will monitor its progress.



### CASE STUDY

Ms Jones is in hospital and although ready for discharge is frightened of returning home. She has a learning disability; lives with her brother who describes himself as her carer. However, Ms Jones was admitted to hospital due to dehydration and malnutrition and staff suspect she has not been properly looked after for some time. Her brother has not visited her while in hospital and when he comes to collect her to take her home, ward staff are concerned about his bullying manner and Ms Jones seems afraid of him. They refer the matter to the local social work team.

The decision to investigate further is made and council officer staff are to investigate - is Ms Jones's state of health due to neglect or is there another cause? They make a home visit to her brother and are concerned about the poor state of the home. To help them decide how to proceed, the council officer asks for health records from Ms Jones's GP and the hospital and speaks to housing colleagues who have known the family for many years. The council officer considers whether information from Ms Jones's bank might be helpful in determining whether her benefits are being appropriately used or not.

The investigation leads to the conclusion that Ms Jones is at risk of harm and an adult protection case conference is held. All the staff who have been involved with Ms Jones are invited and a protection plan drawn up. The plan sets out all the actions required to keep Ms Jones safe. For example the plan includes the need to regularly monitor Ms Jones's state of health, her weight, and dietary needs. The dietician is asked to do this and to attend a monthly meeting to share progress. The housing officer is asked to visit the family home on a fortnightly basis to ensure the tenancy is appropriately maintained. Alternative accommodation for Ms Jones's brother is also to be considered as he is now stating he no longer wishes to look after his sister. Finally, after discovering that regular amounts of money have been withdrawn from Ms Jones's bank account, plans are put in place to use the Adults With Incapacity Act to consider an application for financial guardianship and the council's legal services and mental health officer are contacted to support this.

As you will see from this relatively common case example, considerable resources are required from all agencies to support adults to remain safe in the community. Protection plans, and therefore ongoing co-operation amongst all professionals, should remain in place until the risks to the adult are reduced and they is no longer at risk of harm. However, while the duty to co-operate applies to public sector staff, this is not binding on the adult who, if they have the capacity to do so, may choose to refuse support and protection no matter how serious the risks to which they are exposed.



## **Adult Protection: Learning from a National Significant Case Review**

### **Glasgow SCR (Mrs A.)**

Mrs A was an 83 year old woman who died in July 2013. Her son later pled guilty to her culpable homicide and was sentenced to imprisonment.

Mrs A had been diagnosed with dementia in 2010 and assessments found she had a MMSE score of 10/30, indicating substantial impairment. Between 2010 and 2013 she was admitted to hospital on six occasions. On the 4th and 5th admission she was regarded by medical and nursing staff as having been neglected at home and on the 5th admission an adult support and protection referral was made to the hospital social work team. The duty to inquire concluded she was not able to make decisions about her own safety and needed a Welfare Guardian. Shortly after this she was discharged home.

When home the recommendations were for her son to apply to become her Guardian and a need for careful monitoring and review at home. Her son was undoubtedly under pressure caring for her. He stated he lived with his mother although there was uncertainty about this. Also, decisions in hospital were based on Mrs A having four times daily support from a care agency when in fact the most she received was twice daily.

Regrettably the Guardianship did not advance and also there was no care management reviews of her safety/wellbeing. This (it appears) was devolved to the home care agency who did not (it appears) refer her as ever at risk of harm/neglect. When she was admitted to hospital for the 6th time no referral was made for social work assessment. This despite that her son reportedly brought her to the hospital, said he could not cope any longer and then was not in contact with his mother for the next 16 days while she was an inpatient.

She was however discharged home again and seven days later her son suffocated her and set fire to the house.

The Significant Case Review compiled for Glasgow APC stated a continuing problem was a lack of challenge to her son. He insisted he could cope when there was significant evidence he could not. Also had the inquiry under section 4 of the 2007 Act (on Mrs A's 5th admission to hospital) been advanced to a more intensive analysis (an investigation of all factors) that it was likely the fact he was not coping may have been detected or at least levels of concern would have been higher.

For fuller details of the case (the full report is accessible) see [www.glasgowadultprotection.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=30627&p=0](http://www.glasgowadultprotection.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=30627&p=0)



## **Update from Adult Protection Committees across Forth Valley**

Section 42 of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) 2007 Act states each Council area must have an Adult Protection Committee.

Until 2015 there was a Forth Valley wide Adult Protection Committee covering all areas/agencies across the area. In February, 2016, two newly formed Adult Protection Committees came into operation, the Falkirk Adult Protection Committee, chaired by independent chair Freda McShane who also chairs the Falkirk Child Protection Committee, and the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Adult Protection Committee, chaired by independent chair Liz Taylor, who also chairs the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Child Protection Committee. Both Adult Protection Committees work to strategic improvement plans. If you would like more information on these plans contact Ian Kinsley, Falkirk Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer, on [ian.kinsley@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:ian.kinsley@falkirk.gov.uk) or 01324 506555, or Graeme Hendry, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Adult Support and Protection Co-ordinator, on [GHendry@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:GHendry@clacks.gov.uk) or 01259 452519.



In 2016, the Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) and the Forth Valley Child Protection Committees, developed and launched good practice guidance for practitioners working with children and families affected by problematic alcohol and drug use.

At the heart of Getting Our Priorities Right (GOPR) is the principle of working in partnership, at the earliest opportunity, with families and other services (single and multiagency), to support the wellbeing of children, young people and their families where there is problematic alcohol and drug use. Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) is an approach to the delivery of this commitment to early intervention and partnership working. This approach requires

all children and adult, public and voluntary sector services to put children and their families at the centre of planning and action. Supporting better futures for children by building knowledge and understanding of each service and how different roles can work separately or together to create effective support networks for children. All professionals must respond promptly to concerns and working as a team, communicate skilfully. This “team approach” must be made explicit to families, helping them to understand that services working together, consistently and effectively with children, young people and their families, maximises the use of resources, provides the family with the right “network” of support and, most importantly,

improves wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and the adults within the family.

To support the further roll out of the guidance, the Forth Valley ADP has invested in a two training course to support staff to understand their individual and collective responsibility in protecting children and families affected by substance misuse. Courses run to date have evaluated very positively with participants finding the multi-agency learning and information sharing particularly helpful.

Full details of the training can be obtained from Elaine Brown (Clackmannanshire and Stirling ADP Lead Officer) on [browne@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:browne@stirling.gov.uk)



**Alcohol Focus**  
SCOTLAND

A new report from Alcohol Focus Scotland (AFS) highlights the need for action on alcohol marketing in Scotland. It states that an alcohol-free childhood is the healthiest and best option for children. However, evidence suggests that nearly a third of children have drunk alcohol by the age of 13, and two-thirds by age 15. Drinking during adolescence can pose risks both in the short and long term, from interfering with developmental processes to being a predictive factor of harmful drinking in middle age.

The AFS report claims that alcohol advertising is expensive and pervasive, and is designed to promote positive attitudes to brands, giving the illusion that life is improved by the experience of drinking alcohol, with the

youngest demographics of legal drinkers sometimes being targeted. It cites evidence that:

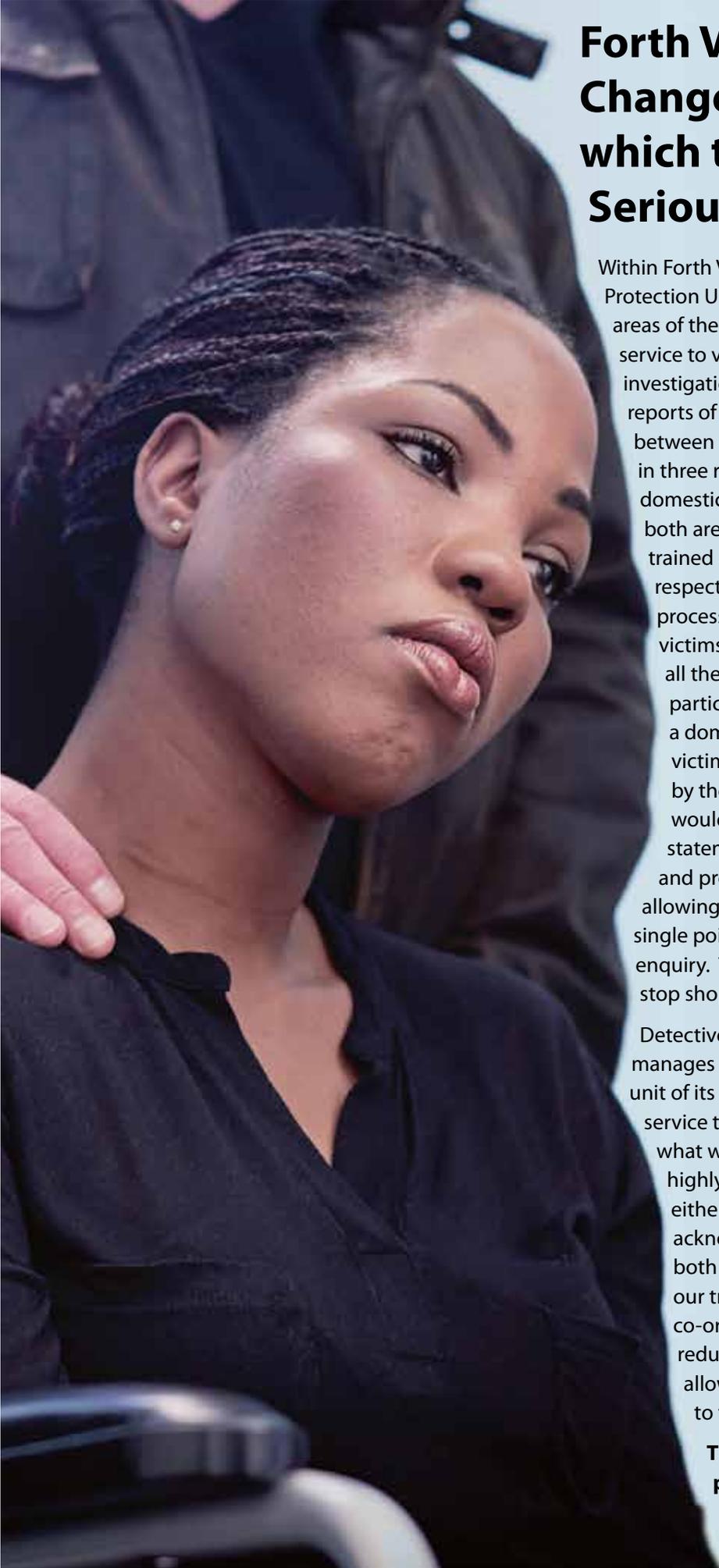
- **Children find alcohol marketing messages appealing**
- **Alcohol marketing influences children's attitudes**
- **Alcohol marketing encourages children's drinking**
- **The more alcohol marketing children see, the greater the impact**
- **Different marketing channels influence children's attitudes and behaviour**
- **More engaging forms of alcohol marketing are more influential** (i.e. owning merchandise and downloading screensavers)

The report goes on to say that the alcohol industry maintains that it does not target its advertising towards children and young people. AFS refute this saying that children

are regularly exposed to alcohol messages, despite the regulatory codes that are currently in place. Reference is made to a survey of Scottish Primary Schools which found that 10 and 11 year olds were more familiar with certain beer brands than leading brands of biscuits, crisps and ice cream.

The report makes a number of recommendations aimed to reduce the impact of alcohol marketing on children in Scotland. These include recommending that the Scottish Government prohibit outdoor alcohol advertising and advertising in public places, including parks and sports grounds, ending alcohol sponsorship of sports, music and cultural events and a range of other recommendations.

To read the summary report, go to: [www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/media/213609/Promoting-good-health-from-childhood-report.pdf](http://www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/media/213609/Promoting-good-health-from-childhood-report.pdf)



## Forth Valley Police Change the Way in which they Respond to Serious Sexual Crimes

Within Forth Valley, Police Scotland Public Protection Unit has joined two previously distinct areas of their business to provide a bespoke service to victims. It became clear from investigations into domestic incidents and reports of rape that there was a correlation between both areas where just under one in three rapes were perpetrated within a domestic setting. Although previously both areas had detective officers who were trained and equipped to deal with the respective crime types, within the new processes there are now clear benefits to victims in that the investigators will have all the specialist skills relative to that particular investigation. For example if a domestic abuse enquiry revealed the victim had been raped or sexually abused by the perpetrator the initial enquiry team would remain in place and able to obtain statements, provide victim safety planning and provide ongoing court updates whilst allowing the investigator to remain the single point of contact for the duration of the enquiry. This would effectively offer a 'one stop shop' for victims.

Detective Inspector Gordon Rae who manages both teams noted, "This is the first unit of its type in Scotland which offers this service to victims and which joins together what was two separate teams who were highly skilled and trained in relation to either domestic incidents or rape. By acknowledging the clear link between both areas we are now able to focus our training and respond in a more co-ordinated fashion which clearly will reduce the impact for the victims and allow for a more professional response to this type of crime."

**The 'new' Unit operates from the police office at Larbert and can be contacted on 101.**



## Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Department

Community Safety within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has evolved from firefighters offering basic safety messages to a separate department which is staffed by specialist officers. Specialist community safety officers are now fully entrenched within the wider community safety world, both at local and national government level.

At local level, community safety officers train the operational firefighters in how to conduct Home Fire Safety Visits. They also monitor these visits and if any visit is classed as high risk or the person is particularly vulnerable then the Community Action Team (CAT) step in and take over.

On receipt of a vulnerable person notification, CAT members will assess the risks to that individual. Any concerns regarding the individual, which the Service cannot deal with, will be raised with partner agencies who may be in a position to assist. This could be through the weekly MATAC meetings or more commonly by a phone call direct to the particular agency that is best placed to offer support.

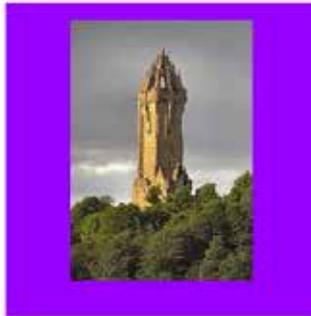
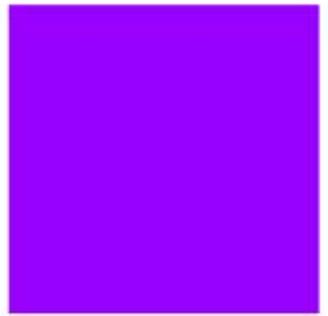


These could be mental health, alcohol and drug teams or any service which is offered by the local authorities.

Specialist CAT members are also able to offer one to one counselling with children and teenagers who have been proven to start fires or are showing an unhealthy interest in fires.

CAT members also offer Youth Engagement courses to young teenagers who are getting ready to leave school and need some experience of life outside the education system. These course normally last for one week and give an insight into the life and work of a full time firefighter.

# Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements



## MAPPA Matters

Late last year, we said farewell to Audrey Mistry after a number of years service as MAPPA Co-ordinator. Here would be a good place to record my personal thanks to Audrey for being such a supportive and valuable colleague. So, while January 2017 saw a new MAPPA Co-ordinator in post, the focus was very much on business as usual. This included our two Winter Programme of Seminars events.

Firstly, we welcomed Adam Mahoney and Kirsty Halliday from the Scottish Prison Service. Their presentation on attachment disorders was well received by a mixed audience made up of personnel from Local Authority social work services, Scottish Prison Service, NHS Forth Valley, Police Scotland and the third sector. Our second seminar, Relationships of Concern: MAPPA Offenders & Vulnerable Adults, had certainly generated a lot of interest both locally and nationally. This was reflected by the composition of the audience. Two highly informative

presentations from Detective Inspector Nigel Thacker from Police Scotland and Ian Kinsley, Falkirk Council's Lead Officer for Adult Support & Protection, provoked some thoughtful questions from the floor and interesting debate on what is a very difficult and current issue.

At the time of writing, the planned seminar on internet offending, which had to be cancelled due to a combination of circumstances beyond our control, has yet to be re-scheduled.

The winter programme of Seminars is a key part of Forth Valley MAPPA's commitment to share best practice and knowledge. We are very pleased to offer these events at no cost to participants, despite the venue, printing, administration and refreshments costs we incur. In the two above described events, there were a total of thirty-two people who asked for a place to be reserved, yet did not attend on the day. To put that figure into some context, both events were

attended by a total of eighty-six participants. It is not uncommon in our respective lines of work for plans to change, often quite late in the day. To help us keep our costs down and ensure these seminars continue to be free to attend, please do your best to let us know if you have to cancel your place.

In April and May, Forth Valley MAPPA will be holding two continuous improvement events. One will be for MAPPA Standing Members, the other is for MAPPA Chairs. If you would like information on these events please drop us a line at [MAPPAForthValley@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:MAPPAForthValley@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Forth Valley MAPPA will also be welcoming another new recruit to the team as we approach summer. Rachel Williams, after being in the team since July 2015, is moving on to pastures new. We wish Rachel much success in her new post and look forward to letting you know about our new recruit in the next newsletter.