

# NHS Shetland

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Shetland NHS Board</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>12 December 2023</b>
<b>Agenda reference:</b>	<b>Board Paper 2023/23/59</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Shetland Public Protection Committee Annual Report 2022-23</b>
<b>Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:</b>	<b>Audrey Edwards – Lead Officer, Shetland Public Protection Committee</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Tam Baillie – Independent Convener, Shetland Public Protection Committee</b>  <b>Audrey Edwards – Lead Officer, Shetland Public Protection Committee</b>  <b>Denise Morgan – Chief Social Work Officer</b>

## 1 Purpose

Please select one item in each section and delete the others.

### **This is presented to the Board for:**

- Awareness

### **This report relates to:**

- Government policy/directive
- Legal requirement
- Local policy
- NHS Board/Integration Joint Board Strategy or Direction

### **This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambition(s):**

- Safe
- Person Centred

## 2 Report summary

### 2.1 Situation

This report is presented to Shetland NHS Board in order to share information about the work of local agencies and the Shetland Public Protection Committee. This 2022-2023 Annual Report sets out the key activities of Shetland Public Protection Committee in

Shetland, who work together to protect adults at risk of harm, and children and young people in Shetland in need of care and protection. It covers the key statutory functions of the Shetland Public Protection Committee to:

- continuously improve and quality assure
- provide public information, engagement and participation
- deliver appropriate training
- link to strategic planning and make connections
- annually report on the work of the Committee

## 2.2 Background

In 2022-2023 the key issues for Shetland Public Protection Committee as detailed in the report at Appendix 1 were:

- Leading on a case review as remitted by the Senior Officer Case Review Group.
- Supporting the preparation for and during the Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection in the Shetland Partnership Area. The inspection report was published by the Care Inspectorate on 28 March 2023. The Shetland Partnership area was found to be effective in the areas of key processes and strategic leadership with respect to adult support and protection. An Improvement Plan has been approved by the Care Inspectorate and is monitored by the Quality Assurance for Adult Protection Sub-Committee of Shetland Public Protection Partnership.
- Managing the transition of post-holder for the Lead Officer Public Protection role, at a time when both the Child Protection Procedures and the Adult Support and Protection Procedures required to be updated.
- Progress made by the Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership in updating its Strategy, and in developing Gender Based Violence training through having a dedicated part-time business support post located in Shetland Women's Aid. Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership is a sub-committee of Shetland Public Protection Committee.
- Delivering on a guided record reading exercise in June 2023 to examine the interagency records of 25 children who were subject to child protection processes or who were looked after. This was carried out as follow up to a similar exercise carried out in May 2021, where 50 files were read. A report has been prepared following the exercise, where improvements from the outcomes in 2021 can be evidenced. This work is important preparation for anticipated joint inspection of services to children at risk of harm in Shetland.
- Delivering a meaningful Shetland Public Protection Committee Development Day in August 2023. We brought a number of different agencies in our partnership together to focus on developing a vision for Shetland Public Protection Committee. By the end of the day we had agreed that this could be summed up simply as: "Working Together to Keep Everyone Safe in Shetland". This will feature in all our publicity work from now on. We also spent time considering we can improve the participation of those with lived experience in our work.
- We have been able to recommence the "I am me" project with staff in Islesburgh Community Centre now trained, and UHI Shetland and the Shetland Recreational Trust are also on board to undertake the training required.

- We have been able to make good progress in reviving our approach to publicity again, following the challenges of the pandemic. We have new banners, new wallet cards and fliers. We were able to attend the Cunningsburgh Show again, both in 2022 and 2023 to raise awareness of public protection issues, and we have reshaped the Safer Shetland website [www.safershetland.com](http://www.safershetland.com)

- More training has been able to return to being delivered face to face again. There is a particularly high demand for Child Protection Level Three training. This backlog is an impact of the pandemic. We have responded to this by adding in additional sessions, where possible. This training is vital, but is resource intensive.

## **2.3 Assessment**

No decision or actions are required. This report is for awareness raising only.

### **2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care**

NHS Shetland Nurse Protection Adviser is a key role in the Public Protection Partnership in Shetland.

### **2.3.2 Workforce**

Appropriate Child and Adult Support Protection training are critical for the NHS workforce.

### **2.3.3 Financial**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. It is for noting and awareness raising.

### **2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management**

There is a high risk both to the adult or child who may be harmed and a reputational risk to NHS Shetland if adult and child protection concerns are not dealt with effectively. Appropriate training, including refresher training, and full participation in the development work of the Public Protection Partnership are key mitigations.

### **2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities**

Adult and child protection affects everyone. Discrimination can become abuse e.g. disability hate crime.

### **2.3.6 Other impacts**

None.

### **2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation**

Protecting adults and children at risk of harm is a statutory duty. Work to include service users, patients and communities is part of the remit of Shetland Public Protection Committee in Shetland.

### 2.3.8 Route to the Meeting

This has been previously considered by Shetland Islands Council, Education and Families Committee on 20 November 2023, and by Shetland Integration Joint Board on 7 December 2023.

## 2.4 Recommendation

That the Board of NHS Shetland have **awareness** of the Shetland Public Protection Committee Annual Report 2022-2023. This report is presented for their information only.

## 3 List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

- Appendix No 1, Shetland Public Protection Committee Annual Report 2022-23



## What Went Well?

- The outcomes of the Adult Support and Protection Inspection of the Shetland Partnership area
- Transition to new Lead Officer Public Protection – dedicated time given to handover the role
- A Guided Record Reading Exercise for the Care and Protection of Children which demonstrated improvement in a number of key areas from the previous exercise in 2021
- Dedicated time given to the preparation for the anticipated joint inspection of Children at Risk of Harm in the Shetland Partnership area
- The work of the part-time co-ordinator role for the Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership
- The launch of a re-vamped Safer Shetland website
- Completed the revision to Shetland Public Protection Committee constitution
- The development of a new vision for Shetland Public Protection Committee

## What could have been better?

- Development of ways to include adults in the work of Shetland Public Protection Committee
- Publicity and awareness raising
- Due to new Lead Officer appointment, delays in updating the Child Protection Procedures and the Adult Protection Procedures
- Approaches to joint training in the Partnership

## What are we going to do now?

- Complete the updates to the Child Protection Procedures and the Adult Protection Procedures
- Share the learning from the 2023 Guided Record Reading exercise for children in need of care and protection
- Re-launch the Public Protection Inter-Agency Training Group
- Continue to seek ways to involve the lived experience of people affected by support and protection issues in the development of services
- Complete the rebrand of the Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership, to be the Shetland Violence Against Women and Children and Young People Partnership, complete the review of the Strategy and raise awareness locally of violence against women and children and young people using the 16 Days of Activism 2023, and the Survivors' Voices project
- Prepare for the anticipated inspection of services to children at risk of harm in the Shetland Partnership area

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## *Introduction from SPPC Chair*

I am pleased to provide introductory comments for the Shetland Public Protection (SPPC) Committee Annual Report for 2022-23.

This year has been a time of transition with the retirement of Kate Gabb, our longstanding Lead Officer in public protection. Kate gave exemplary leadership and service to the field of public protection in Shetland for over a 20-year period and made a most significant contribution to all aspects of work. We were fortunate to have her and now we are just as fortunate to have Audrey Edwards appointed as the new Lead Officer in November 2022. Audrey brings a wealth of experience to the role to take forward the work of the SPPC and we benefit from the fresh eye that she brings to the work – all of which has been warmly welcomed by members of the SPPC and Chief Officers' Group (COG) members.

Audit activity continues to be at the heart of improving services. The largest audit this year was the audit of child protection services, involving 13 file readers (9 who were newly trained) looking at 25 children's cases. As always there are things that we learnt and can improve upon, but the most significant fact was that overall, there were improvements that could be traced to the last audit activity – for instance, in terms of children's voices being evident, greater emphasis on children's rights and the use of child's plan format.

In March 2023, the Shetland inspection of adult protection services was published. The Care Inspectorate findings were that with regard to the partnerships key processes and strategic leadership the conclusion was these were both 'effective'. This indicates there are clear strengths which collectively outweighed the areas for improvement. I am satisfied this is a reasonably fair assessment and I applaud the collective efforts of staff in achieving these results. However, there is no room for complacency as we are average compared to the rest of Scotland. Clearly there are improvements we can make, specifically in the handling of initial enquiries and how well articulated is the vision of the partnership and I am pleased we are already addressing these matters.

Indeed, it was the establishment of a clear vision that formed the framework for the latest Development Day. It resulted in agreement on the formulation that for the SPPC, the vision is: **Working together to keep everyone safe in Shetland**. It sounds obvious when you get there and great to get the buy-in from all members of the COG, SPPC and associated members.

It is with some sadness that I inform you that this will be my last Annual Report as Chair of the SPPC as I finish up at the end of 2023. I have had an immensely enjoyable time as the independent chair and I have learnt a lot. I have greatly valued the positive working links I have and I am especially grateful to the support of the Public Protection Support Team and the members of the SPPC and the sub-groups which are the life-blood of the work. I know there will be more transition as a new Chair is identified, but I am confident there is sufficient resilience to navigate the next phase of change whilst continuing to make improvements.

**Tam Baillie, September 2023**



## Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership

The creation of a 20 hour a week Business Support post, funded by Delivering Equally Safe, established at Shetland Women's Aid has been significant in increasing the pace of improvement work, training and awareness raising in the Partnership.

The key outcomes for the post so far are:

- Developing and updating a Business Plan which accurately reflects the priorities of the Partnership
- Participation in 16 Days of Activism in 2022, particularly the Pollyanna Paradox Play
- Key work in re-branding the Partnership, to be the Violence Against Women and Children and Young People Partnership
- Progress in updating the Shetland Domestic Abuse Strategy, for 2023-2025
- Delivery of Safe and Together training locally, and the development of a plan to embed it, through the creation of a Governance Group to secure future Safe and Together training opportunities
- Development of Gender Based Violence training at awareness raising level, and at practitioner level, ready to roll out across the Partnership
- Updating the Domestic Abuse pages on the Safer Shetland website.

## Quality Assurance of Child and Adult Protection

### CHILD PROTECTION

Quality Assurance of Child Protection procedures have continued to be overseen by the Integrated Children Services Quality Assurance Group.

A Guided Record Reading exercise took place in May 2021 to examine the interagency records of 50 children who were in need of care and protection. The exercise was repeated on the 14 and 15 June 2023, with 13 record readers reading the files of twenty-five children who had been in need of care and protection. The exercise evidenced further improvement in several areas, which were already evaluated as positive from the 2021 exercise. These included:

- Quality of initial response to wellbeing concerns
- Quality of plans to address risks and needs
- Referrals to other agencies for specific interventions and the effectiveness of those interventions
- Progress of work towards permanency where this was required
- Support and guidance provided to care leavers
- Staff effectiveness in involving parents, carers and families in key processes
- Formal supervision of staff
- Improvements in children and in family wellbeing as a result of the help provided

There were no areas evaluated through the exercise which had regressed from 2021, but there were some aspects evaluated as almost the same in both the 2021 and 2023 exercises, and these areas will be the focus of the action plan arising from the exercise. These were:

- Quality of assessment of risks and needs
- SMART plans for Child Protection planning
- Continued improvements in our use of Chronologies

# GUIDED RECORD READING

## CHILDREN'S FILES 2023



**13 RECORD READERS**  
record readers were working in pairs



**9 NEW READERS TRAINED**  
record readers trained by the Care Inspectorate

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**25 RECORDS OF CHILDREN**  
Health, social work and education records of children subject to child protection processes or looked after

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**WHAT WE COULD SEE**



- the child's voice better evidenced
- the new child's plan format supporting clear planning
- improvement in awareness of children's rights e.g. to advocacy

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**WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW**



develop an action plan to address three key areas:

- SMART plans
- assessment of risks and needs
- further work on chronologies
- plan for a 2025 repeat exercise

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**WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT**



- working in multi-agency pairings works well
- these exercises are effective in evidencing improvements and working out steps
- the effort is resource intensive

[WWW.SAFERSHETLAND.COM](http://WWW.SAFERSHETLAND.COM)

## CASE REVIEW

In September 2022, the Senior Officer Case Review Group requested a Case Review under the newly issued National Learning Review Guidance for Child Protection Committees. The Case Review focussed on interagency learning and provided an opportunity to reflect on the situation of a young person who was looked after and accommodated in Shetland from October 2021 until August 2022, when they were placed off island.

The Review made a number of recommendations:

- Better awareness of the Care and Risk Management process. The updated Child Protection Procedures will include an additional protocol on this process.
- The development of a clear local Inter-Agency Missing Persons' Protocol. This work is being supported by Missing People Scotland, funded by the Scottish Government.
- Work to be done to continue to improve communication and inter-agency working relationships at all levels.
- Consideration by NHS Shetland as to whether Looked-After Child Lead Nurse would assist with better information sharing and oversight to escalate issues.
- Consideration as to whether, for Looked-After Children who have Additional Support Needs, a Lead Professional from the NHS, and one from the Quality Improvement Service (Schools) should be identified to work closely with the Lead Professional from Social Work.
- A reintroduction of the Children and Families Resource Panel. This has already been put in place.
- The need for future strategic service planning to better reflect the changing patterns of complex needs of children in our community.

The Senior Officer Case Review Group has required that a key group of managers continue to meet to monitor progress in implementing the improvements required from the Case Review.

## ADULT PROTECTION

The adult protection Quality Assurance Sub-Committee continued to meet quarterly, led by the Independent Chair of Shetland Public Protection Committee. The sub-committee has had the following priorities:

- Continued preparation for Adult Support and Protection Inspection, which then took place over the period December 2022 to March 2023.
- The development of the required Improvement Plan arising from the published outcomes of the Adult Support and Protection Inspection and the monitoring of progress in achieving the required outcomes.
- Oversight of ensuring that the new required quarterly National Minimum Dataset for Adult Support and Protection was accurately completed and submitted. Our own original data collection process had to be amended slightly to complete the return.

# ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION INSPECTION IN THE SHETLAND PARTNERSHIP AREA

## INSPECTION FOCUS

- ✓ effective operations of adult support & protection key processes
- ✓ leadership for adult support & protection

## METHODOLOGY

- ✓ staff survey
- ✓ scrutiny of social work records of adults at risk of harm
- ✓ scrutiny of ten records where an investigation had been required
- ✓ staff focus groups



## STRENGTHS

- ✓ adults at risk of harm nearly always experienced improvement to their safety, health and wellbeing
- ✓ strong investigation and case conference processes
- ✓ strong collaborative working between services
- ✓ processes for addressing financial harm were effective
- ✓ arrangements during the covid-19 pandemic were well organised
- ✓ strategic leadership team worked effectively

## PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- ✓ strengthen some initial inquiry processes
- ✓ update the vision and improvement planning led by the Shetland Public Protection Committee



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## Participation

### YOUNG PEOPLE

Shetland Public Protection Committee asked OPEN to develop a workshop for young people to support them and keep themselves safe. This project came from a previous case review which identified that young people needed to be better supported to understand what action to take if they felt unsafe, particularly in situations which may arise outside of their family.

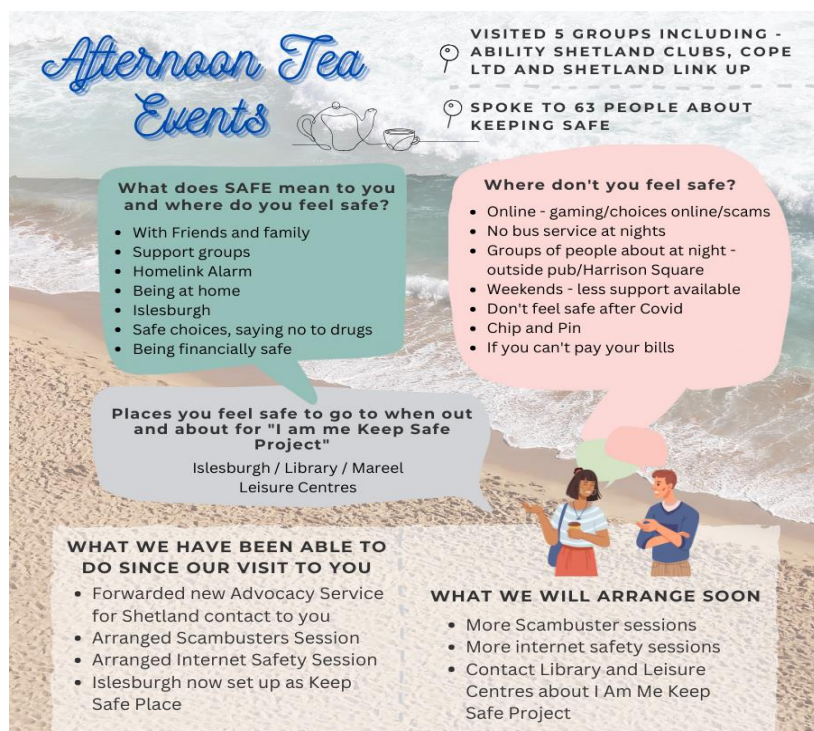
The workshop has been shared with the Public Protection Team in May 2023. It was showcased at the Shetland Public Protection Development Day in August 2023, and will be trialled in a secondary setting in the autumn of 2023.

### ADULTS

As noted in the 2021-22 annual report, Shetland Public Protection Committee continue to seek ways to meaningfully involve adults who require support, and adults at risk in the work of the Committee. This is reflected in the Shetland Public Protection Committee Improvement Plan for 2023-24, and was discussed at the Shetland Public Protection Committee Development Day on 30 August 2023.

We have also continued to have dialogue with Voluntary Action Shetland and have some possible ways of seeking to tap into existing groups to seek views on how services who support and protect, can do better.

Our "I am me" project is also now ready to be implemented in Islesburgh Community Centre. The Shetland Recreational Trust and UHI Shetland will be next. This project offers safe places, to anyone who is feeling vulnerable whilst out and about.



In September 2022 Shetland Public Protection Committee were able to restart visiting community groups to speak about Keeping Safe. This infographic summarises the discussions and outcomes.

The Shetland Public Protection Committee will continue to improve the inclusion of adults at risk of harm, and their carers, in the development of the work of the Committee.

Our annual Development Day was held on 30 August 2023 in the Town Hall. In attendance, were colleagues from NHS Shetland, Shetland Islands Council, Voluntary Action Shetland, Women's Aid, Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership, Children's Hearings Scotland and the Shetland Recreational Trust. The day started with an exercise where attendees considered what they personally bring to Shetland Public Protection Committee and what they gain from being part of Shetland Public Protection Committee. The feedback supported us to shape a vision for Shetland Public Protection Committee which we revisited at the end of the day.

The programme then asked attendees to learn and have discussion about different ways to gather feedback from people with experience of public protection systems in Shetland. This was followed by a presentation by OPEN of the work they have done to develop a Child Protection Workshop for young people around keeping safe. This piece of work had been commissioned by Shetland Public Protection Committee.

We also took the opportunity to have a soft launch of our new look Safershetland website, and sought feedback on any aspect of it. Our final presentation was from Anchor for Families, who shared the impact of all the work they have done to support families early in Shetland. The day closed with re-visiting the Shetland Public Protection Committee Vision which was agreed as:

*"Working together to keep everyone safe in Shetland."*

We also asked two key questions on this issue at our Development Day, about Participation, and were grateful for the rich responses which came from those who attended. We will use all of this feedback to help move forward with our Shetland Public Protection Committee Improvement Plan priorities around Participation for 2023-24.

# FEEDBACK ON PARTICIPATION

*from Shetland Public Protection Development Day*

30 AUGUST 2023



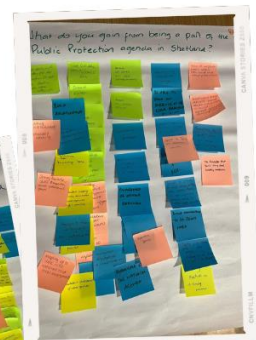
**How can we ensure people with experience of public protection systems in Shetland are involved in shaping the work of the Shetland Public Protection Committee, including vulnerable adults and care experienced young people?**

- Valuing the time and effort people with lived experience contribute - offering a voucher / paid opportunities where relevant or required and ensuring there is support
- Seeking feedback routinely in our protection work, and using feedback we already have, to tailor better questions for specific groups, and to use a variety of means of gathering feedback
- Have lived experience representation at public protection committee level
- Share examples of the stories we hear to be inclusive and encourage others
- Identify teams where within we find staff who can act as coaches and mentors, and offer peer support
- Empower our staff. Build on trusting relationships and ensure a mechanism for feeding back to managers
- Use audit and evaluation processes
- Use evidenced based practice to support our improvement
- Feed individual feedback from services into committees



**what are the barriers to gathering feedback?**

- Knowing who is best placed to ask
- Making actions from feedback
- Trust feedback directly
- Owning up to something that does not work
- Psychological safety
- Unknown expectations
- Lack of resources to ensure support



# Work of the SUB COMMITTEES



## Protection in the Community

- Lead Officer shared information about the Designated Person role to Sports Hub online meetings as well as learning from the Scottish Football Association Report
- developed training for outside organisations that is specific to their organisation
- Made links with Community Ethos Project
- I Am Me – Keep Safe Project – one keep safe space is identified with more in the process
- Afternoon Tea keeping safe sessions held with vulnerable groups
- Protection Training held for 50 Tall Ships volunteers Liaison officers
- Promoted the Basic Adult and Child Protection E learning training for all groups in wider community



## Digital Safety and Child Sexual Exploitation

- Digital Safety Group has delivered 3 Virtually Safe Virtually Sound events (#VSVS). Members of the group visited Anderson High School, Whalsay and Aith Junior High, with a total number of 328 pupils attending the different workshops. AHS #VSVS event had three workshops - CEOPs - Laws that can affect u18s online, Women's Aid attended and did a workshop on GBV and online respect, and Compass attended and did a workshop on online consent. Aith #VSVS also had an additional 3 workshops which were OPEN - child protection for children, drama by John Haswell - the reality of how words can affect young people online, and yoga by George Watson - to help young people de-stress and reflect. The Whalsay #VSVS discussion centered on the impact of social media use on peer groups.
- Internet Safety day was on 7 February 2023, where the group has released social media posts via the OPEN facebook and Instagram page. This was shared on by the social media pages of agencies involved with Digital safety and Child Sexual Exploitation group.



## Financial Harm

- Raise awareness and share financial harm information as widely as possible
- Shut Out Scammers! Shetland campaign – advertising feature in Shetland Times, on social media, circulated to SIC, NHS, third sector groups
- Scambusters sessions were held with clubs and groups from Ability Shetland, Shetland LinkUp and NHS reaching 43 people. Approximately 8 call blockers were fitted from these sessions and one person was supported to avoid a scam which had taken place the day before.

[www.safershetland.com](http://www.safershetland.com)



## Publicity and Awareness Raising

As the restrictions arising from the pandemic have eased, we have been able to return to more normal activity to raise awareness of protection issues as follows:

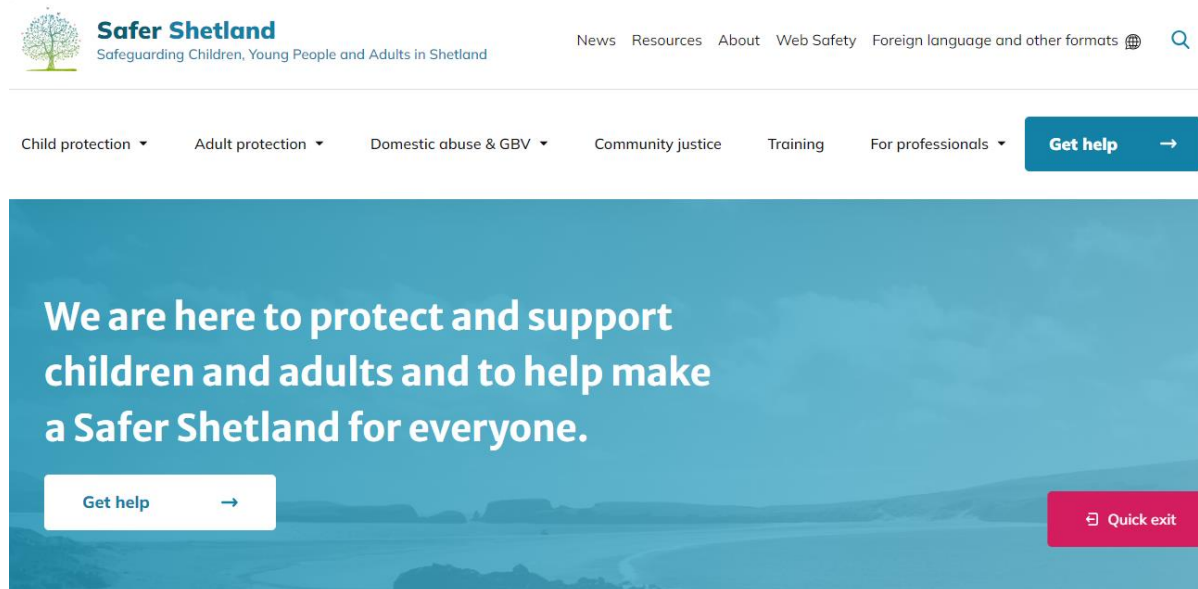
- We shared national publicity for Adult Protection Day on 20 February 2023 which included press releases, information on the [www.safershetland.com](http://www.safershetland.com) website and information down through our mailing lists.
- We took part in Safer Internet Day on 7 February 2023 – with public information through the Library Service, OPEN and the Quality Improvement Service (Schools).
- On Wednesday 15 March 2023, we shared publicity for Keep Safe Awareness Day. Keep Safe is a national initiative which works in partnership with Police Scotland and I Am Me Scotland to create safer and more inclusive communities for all.
- We provided leaflets and wallet cards to the Police for their Coffee with a Cop sessions.
- Shetland Public Protection Committee supported the Trading Standards Scotland and Police Scotland's nationwide Shut Out Scammers Campaign which ran from the 17 April to 14 May 2023. The campaign raised awareness of doorstep crime, the mis-selling of energy efficiency measures and other forms of financial harm to which consumers are susceptible. The campaign aimed to empower consumers rather than make them fearful and to encourage the reporting of scams.
- We have designed new banners and flyers which will be distributed widely. We will plan a programme of where our banners will be displayed at events in the incoming year.
- The Public Protection Committee Team attended the Cunningsburgh Show both in 2022 and in 2023. In 2022 the focus was to promote the PANTS campaign for Early Years in partnership with the NSPCC, and Pantosaurus visited the show. In 2023 we had a very busy day raising awareness of protection issues in general, and in turn, hearing a huge number of stories from visitors to the Show of a wide range of issues, but particularly phone scams, and financial scams.



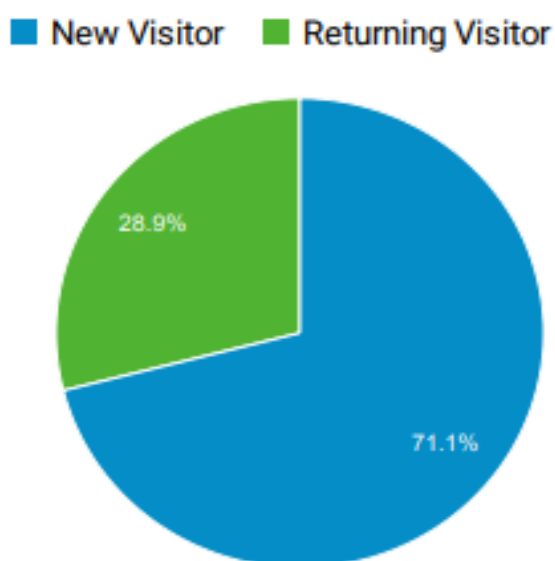
As well as this, in response to the outcomes of the Adult Support and Protection inspection, our Chair has developed a Communications Plan for Shetland Public Protection Committee which will augment our existing Publicity Plan. We will keep this up-to-date.

## Website activity

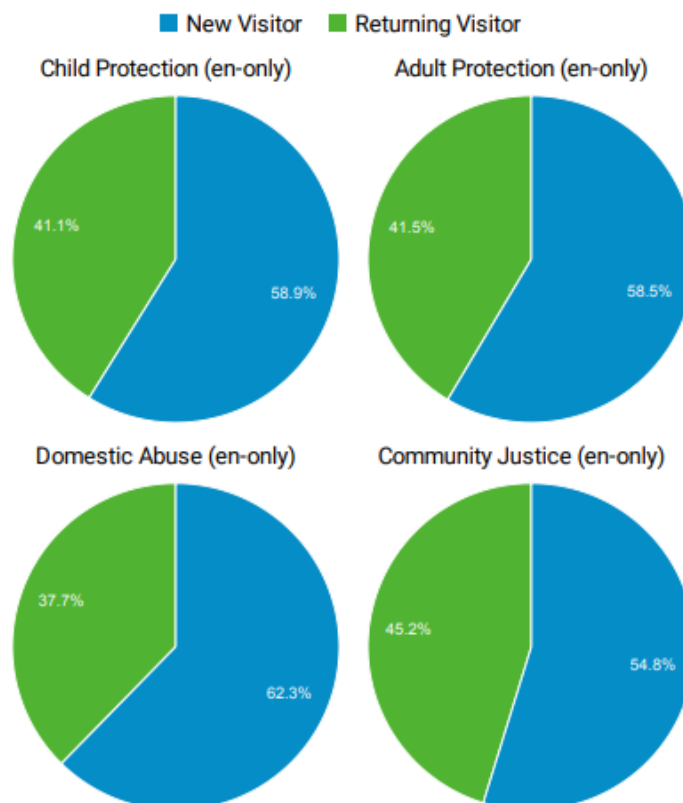
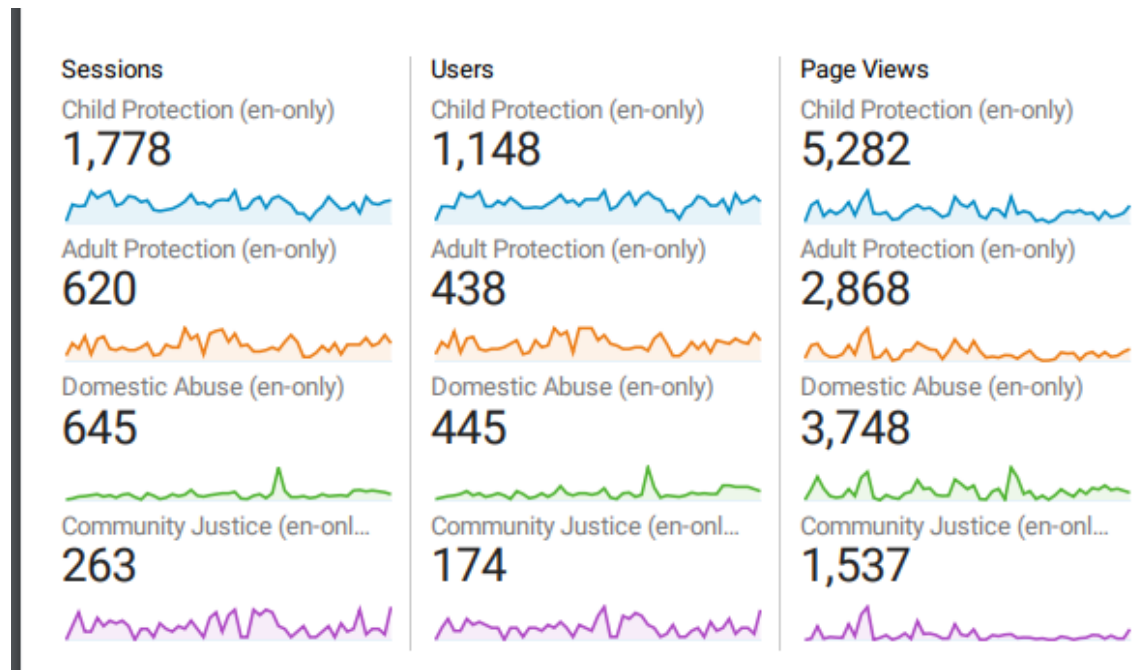
Staff in the Public Protection team have been working very hard with NB Communications to revamp our Safer Shetland website [www.safershetland.com](http://www.safershetland.com). It has a new look and materials on it have been meticulously checked and updated where that was needed. We were able to launch the renewed site at our Shetland Public Protection Committee Development Day on 30 August 2023. It is still not perfect, and we are keen to continue to receive feedback on the site and its contents.



The “Keeping Adults and Children Safe” Level 1 E learning had 1127 sessions through the period of April 2022 to March 2023. This is an increase from last year: 71.1% were new visitors to the site with 28.9% returning visitors.



Throughout April 2022 to March 2023 page views were 13,435, which is a significant increase from last year. All visits to the safershetland site were 3306.



## Training

As noted in the 2021-22 annual report, the Inter-partnership Training Group had set a wider framework for training development and delivery across the Partnership, however the Training Strategy was not finalised, and the group has not met since 4 May 2022, in part due to the changeover of the Lead Officer post. This work is a priority on the Shetland Public Protection Improvement Plan for 2023-2024.

Training has continued to be delivered with more face to face sessions being available, which is best wherever possible. Training for Adult Protection and Child Protection has been updated to take account of updated national advice and guidance. Level 3 Child Protection training is a particular pinch point, with demand post-COVID being difficult to meet. Courses are always full, and we continue to add more dates wherever this is feasible.

Please see Appendix 2 for more information about courses and evaluations.

## Analysis of Adult and Child Protection Data

### CHILD PROTECTION

#### Child Protection Planning Meetings

Between April 2022 and March 2023 the following information on Child Protection Planning Meetings in line with the National Guidance for Child Protection Scotland 2021 was noted.

There were ten Initial Child Protection Planning meetings involving fifteen children. One of the meetings was in relation to a family of five children. During the month of March 2023 there were four initial child protection planning meetings held where eight children in total were placed on the Child Protection Register (including the family of five).

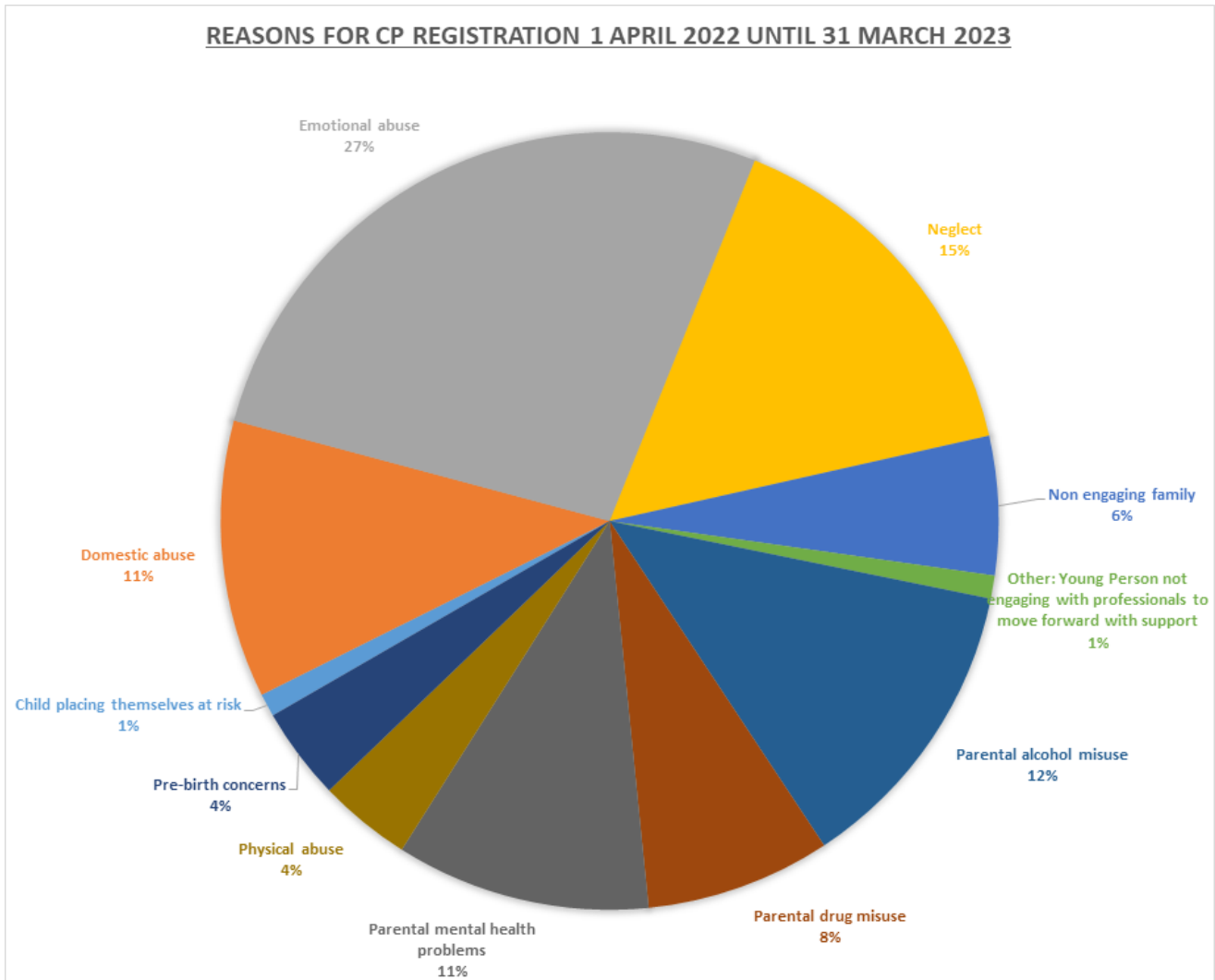
At 1 April 2022 there were fifteen children on the Child Protection Register. During the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, fourteen children were added and sixteen were removed, leaving thirteen on the register at the 31 March 23.

During the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, 123 children were discussed at Inter-Agency Referral Discussions, following which, there were 67 single agency approaches, five single agency Police approaches, and 35 joint investigative interviews. The 67 single agency approaches were as a result of Inter Agency Referral Discussions so they aren't child concerns, and some of them did lead to a joint investigative interview.

#### There are still areas for improvement for Child Protection Planning Meetings

- Improvement in young people attending their meetings

- Continued work to support professional staff to understand their role at Planning Meetings. Making recommendations about registration is still very difficult for staff.



Key to chart: Parental MH=Parental mental Health problems, Parental SM=parental substance misuse

More than one reason can be recorded for each child and a different reason may be recorded for the same child at Initial Child Protection Planning Meetings and subsequent Reviews. Nationally registrations for 2020-21 (the most recent national Scottish Child protection Data) show that the most frequently recorded reason for registration was domestic abuse followed by neglect and parental mental health problems. Whilst not a direct comparison it is useful to note this and further discuss where local and national information varies.

## ADULT PROTECTION

### Adult Protection Data

Type of Harm	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021	
Physical Abuse	23	13	18	Physical Abuse
Financial Abuse	24	14	24	Financial Abuse
Neglect	9	13	<5	Neglect
Self-Neglect	26	11	18	Self-Neglect
Sexual Abuse	<5	<5	5	Sexual Abuse
Self-harm	86	88	98	Self-harm
Psychological / Emotional Abuse	61	29	46	Psychological / Emotional Abuse
Substance Misuse	15	27	17	Substance Misuse
Discrimination	0	0	0	Discrimination
Not known	21	<5	13	Not known
Other	79	73	26	Other
TOTAL	346	275	267	Some cases may be referred for more than 1 cause

The Adult Protection Quality Assurance sub-committee has been analysing statistics and facilitating further discussion at Shetland Public Protection Committee meetings. The following has been noted.

- The above table gives a comparison with 2020-21, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. It shows an increase in referrals again, related to financial harm which is positive given the concerns about online scams that have grown during the pandemic.
- The reporting of neglect- which is the most common cause for concern nationally- has reduced and that may need some further discussion and reminders about this issue.
- There are no reported concerns about discriminatory harm and yet stories are often shared about people with disabilities having these experiences- it may be important for an understanding that this sort of issue can fall under Adult Support and Protection needs to be improved.

It is noted that self-harm, emotional and psychological distress have continued to show high numbers in the data. The cause and outcomes of a selection of these referrals were looked at in more detail. Analysis found the situations of these adults being referred was often very sad. They were highly distressed and in some cases mentally ill. This group of adults are not easy to help and there is seldom a straight

forward answer to meet their needs and the risks they place for themselves. It was evident that care planning was in place to provide support to these individuals.

- A further piece of work was also done to look at what was meant when the data collection spreadsheet noted the type of harm the adult was at risk of was “not known” or “other”. Over the three year period (2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22) there had been 42 referrals with type of harm noted as Not Known and 109 as Other. The most frequent recordings for Not Known were relating to mental health concerns, dementia, or infirmity due to age, with some related to the need for housing support, a deterioration in health or substance misuse. Frequent recordings for Other also related to ongoing mental health difficulties, dementia or welfare concerns for elderly, the physical state of the adult’s home (environmental health concerns or fire risks), with some relating to isolation during COVID-19, ill health, and physical ability. Thirteen gave no information, but it was noted that supports were already in place for those cases. In discussing this analysis, the Quality Assurance Group assessed that these were situations where there was not sufficient information or evidence to establish a specific type of harm, but that there were more general welfare concerns for the adult and it was positive to see that for most adults support was still offered. It was also agreed to revise the current data collection spreadsheet to identify different categories of harm.

#### Adult Support and Protection Case Conferences

Our approach to Adult Support and Protection Case conferences were evaluated as part of the Adult Support and Protection joint inspection. The inspection noted that case conferences were convened for every adult at risk of harm who required one. They effectively determined what needed to be done to ensure the adult at risk of harm was safe, protected and supported in six out of seven instances. Relevant professionals were routinely invited to attend case conferences and attended most of the time. Health representatives were invited to attend all case conferences and always did so. Police provided valuable contributions and attended nearly every time they were invited.

Five out of seven adults at risk of harm were invited to attend their case conference and almost all attended. The reasons for not inviting the adult at risk needs to be consistently recorded. Where appropriate, family members or unpaid carers were also invited to attend and attended on all occasions. Adults at risk of harm were well represented at case conference even when they chose not to attend. Six out of seven case conferences were rated good or better. All case conferences effectively determined what needed to be done to ensure the adult at risk of harm was safe, protected and supported

#### Conclusion

In 2022-23 the priorities for Shetland Public Protection Committee have been to:

- support the preparation for the Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection in the Shetland Partnership Area;

- work towards the anticipated inspection of services to children at risk of harm in the Shetland Partnership Area;
- Develop the work led by Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership to improve training, publicity and awareness of gender-based violence and to introduce Safe and Together in our community;
- work to complete the update to the Adult Protection Procedures in line with the New Code of Practice, and incorporating the outcomes of the inspection;
- work to complete the update to the Child Protection Procedures in line with the National guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021.

In 2023-24 Shetland Public Protection Committee needs to:

- Complete the updates to the Adult Protection Procedures and the Child Protection Procedures;
- Re-start the Inter-Agency Training Group;
- Continue to build on the good work of Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership to increase awareness in our community of gender-based violence;
- Ensure the priorities in the Improvement Plan following the Adult Support and Protection Inspection continue to move forward;
- Ensure that, some progress on including adults with lived experience in the work of Shetland Public Protection Committee can be practically demonstrated;
- Ensuring we continue to prepare for an inspection of services to children at risk of harm, through taking forward the outcomes of our Guided Record Reading, and completing self-evaluation work for the Scottish Government on the extent to which we have implemented the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021



## Appendix 1 – Adult Support and Protection Data

### SHETLAND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

### ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION STATISTICS

Referrals, case conferences and categories of abuse registered

Reporting Period Financial Year 1st April 2022 - 31 March 2023

<b>Number of Referrals</b>	<b>Number of repeat referrals</b>
346	44 people had 1 repeat referral, 10 people had 2 repeat referrals, 2 people had 3 repeat referrals, 3 people had 4 repeat referrals and 1 person had 6 repeat referrals Total 88
<b>Adult Concern Referrals</b>	
331	
<b>ASP Referrals (3pt criteria)</b>	<b>Source of referral meeting 3 point criteria</b>
15	Police x 12, Fire Service x 1, Carer x 1, Scottish Ambulance Service x 1
<b>Source of Referral</b>	<b>Referring Agency</b>
228	Police
<5	SIC Housing
8	Health - Primary
15	Health - Acute
6	NHS 24/GP
12	Scottish Ambulance Service
10	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
16	SIC Social Work Colleague
9	Carer
5	Member of Public
<5	Local Authority Care Home
6	Family Member
<5	Self-Referral
9	Unknown
<b>Number of referrals that <u>did not</u> meet 3pt criteria</b>	331
<b>Number of cases of harm</b>	<b>Type of Harm caused (some cases may be referred for more than 1 cause)</b>
23	Physical Abuse
24	Financial Abuse
9	Neglect
26	Self-Neglect
<5	Sexual Abuse
86	Self-harm

61	Psychological / Emotional Abuse	
15	Substance Misuse	
0	Discrimination	
21	Not known	
79	Other	
<b>Number of Council Officer investigations</b>	<b>Number of adults involved</b>	
10		10
<b>Number of adult protection case conferences</b>	<b>Number of adults involved</b>	
4 Initial 3 Review		7
<b>Number of protection plans established</b>	<b>Number of adults involved</b>	
7		7
<b>Total number of adults subject to protection plan</b>		7
<b>Any Legal Orders</b>		0
<b>Assessment Order</b>		0
<b>Removal Order</b>		0
<b>Banning Order</b>		0
<b>Any Legal Orders as at 31st March 2023</b>		0

**Referrals which met the Three Point Criteria were supported as follows:** Protection Plans were put in place for 5 cases where Justice Social Work, Police, Substance Misuse Recovery Service, Adult Social Work and Community Mental Health Team were involved. 3 cases received support from Adult Social Work and some supported by Adult Social Work also had help from Care at Home as well as Care Legislation in place such as Welfare Guardianship, Adults with Incapacity, NHS and Community Care Legislation.

**Of the 331 referrals of those that did not meet the 3 point criteria:** 81 were for No Further Action; there was Social Work Support and involvement given to 39 adults; for 29 there were referrals Community Mental Health Team support and then Mental Health Legislation was used.

**All other adults received services from one or more of the following:-** Children's / Adult / Criminal Justice Social Work, Care at Home Service, Hospital, Occupational Therapy Services, Family, Power of Attorney sought, Mental Health Officer, Adults With Incapacity Legislation used, Annsbrae Services, Police, Environmental Health, Psychological Therapy, Human Resources, health services, Local Authority Care Home, Dementia Services, GP, Domestic Support, Meals on Wheels, Local Authority Welfare Guardianship Order used, Housing, Family Mediation, Substance Misuse Recovery Service, residential rehab, Women's Aid, voluntary sector agencies, dentist, Royal Cornhill Hospital, Fire Service, Learning Disabilities Nurse, Community Nurse, Anchor Project, Health Visitor, Through Care and After Care Service.

*Appendix 2 –Adult and Child Protection Training Statistics*

## **ADULT AND CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING**

Training undertaken by agency and levels

Reporting Period 1 April 2022 - 31st March 2023

<b>No. of people trained</b>	<b>Number of training sessions held</b>
<b>202</b>	<b>19 Sessions</b>
<b>Number of people by agency</b>	<b>Agency Trained</b>
<b>148</b>	<b>Shetland Islands Council</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Voluntary Sector</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>NHS Shetland</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Police</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Hjaltland Housing Association</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Orkney Islands Council</b>
<b>Adult Support and Protection Level 2</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Adult Support and Protection – Train the Trainer</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Adult Support and Protection – Level 4 – Officer</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Child Protection Level 2</b>	<b>331</b>
<b>Child Protection Level 3 – Blended Learning</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Child Protection Train the Trainer</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Child Protection Train the Trainer Refresher</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>i-Learning SIC – Child Protection Refresher for Level 3</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>i-learning SIC – Child and Adult Protection - It's Everyone's Job</b>	<b>516</b>
<b>i-Learn SIC – Adult Support and Protection Level 3</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>E-Learning NHS – Child and Adult Protection – It's Everyone's Job</b>	<b>151</b>

Evaluations are completed electronically through the Councils on line training booking system - VOR. Workforce Development provide exemption reports on any negative or concerning feedback. It is confirmed that all feedback received for this period was positive and the courses deemed beneficial by participants.'