



# PUBLIC PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, 2026

## Welcome to the re-launched North Lanarkshire Public Protection Newsletter!

We're delighted to bring back our quarterly update, designed to keep you informed, connected and supported in the vital work of keeping people safe across North Lanarkshire.

Each issue will share a blend of **local and national news**, **policy updates**, and **emerging themes** in public protection, along with **development opportunities**, **training**, and **practical tools** to support your role.

In this first edition, we'd also like to **introduce the Public Protection Team**. Our role is to provide coordination, learning, advice, and support that strengthens public protection practice across all services. More information on who we are and how to contact us can be found at the end of the newsletter.

We would also encourage you to have a look at our website: [Public Protection North Lanarkshire - Public Protection NL](#)

For North Lanarkshire Council Employees please join our [Public Protection Viva Engage](#)

### Staffing news

**Judith Tait** - the Independent Chair for the Adult Protection and Child Protection Committees in North Lanarkshire, stepped down from her role in the end of March 2026. We are sad to see Judith leave and we are grateful for the commitment, knowledge and skill she has brought to the APC and CPC agenda in her three-year tenure; we wish her well in her next endeavours.

**Johanna Johnston** - we are pleased to inform that Johanna, senior officer for Learning and Development for the APC, has secured and commenced a new temporary post as a Public Protection Co-ordinator for Learning Reviews in North Lanarkshire. We are delighted for her, wish her all the best and looking forward to working with her in her new capacity. A replacement for her post is under recruitment.

**Fiona Sloan** - the Public Protection Team was pleased to welcome Fiona Sloan as the new Safe and Together Co-ordinator in August 2025. Fiona will lead a programme of training over the coming year, and we are delighted to have her on board. We greatly appreciate the knowledge, commitment and expertise she brings to the team.

**Agnieszka Sekula** - we wish to extend a warm welcome to Agnieszka. She has recently joined the team as the new resource assistant to the Public Protection Team. Agnieszka will be supporting both Audrey McGhie and Angela White, our resource supervisors for the adult and child protection committees.

## Public Protection North Lanarkshire

*It is everyone's job to make sure all the people of North Lanarkshire are protected.*

# Adult Protection Committee



North Lanarkshire  
Adult Protection  
Committee

It is a busy time for Adult Support and Protection (ASP) on both national and local levels. It is fantastic to see the growing commitment to support and protect adults in North Lanarkshire.

North Lanarkshire APC continues to support the improvements of practice and systems to ensure the adults are safe and protected.

Some of the ongoing work and opportunities are highlighted below.

## **Local developments and opportunities**

### **Learning and development**

The APC continues to provide ongoing and learning and development opportunities for staff across multi agencies. Our 2026 training programme is up and running and information on the training we deliver and how to sign up can be found [here](#).

Can we politely remind colleagues to let us know if you can't attend training sessions, to enable us to give the place to someone else.

We are also delighted to host [twelve one-hour long bite-sized learning sessions on our website](#). Topics include:

- What is an AP1 and how do I make a referral?
- Adult Support and Protection & Domestic Abuse
- Undue Pressure
- Executive functioning and Ability to Protect
- Lifestyle Choice?

Please use these for yourself, for discussion and learning in team development or meetings, and as tools in MDTs. If you have any suggestions for new subjects, or want to volunteer to support these, please get in touch.

## **National resources for Adult Protection**

In this relaunch of our Newsletter, we want to alert you to the fabulous developments nationally in adult support and protection. Largely supported by IRISS [Adult Support and Protection - Iriss](#) . This includes guidance, toolkits and positional papers covering many aspects of ASP.

These include:

[Adult Support and Protection belongs everywhere - Iriss](#), a good general introduction for a wide range of practitioners and managers

[Improving chronology practice in ASP - Iriss](#) – this is part of a wide range of work IRISS is leading to support use and development of chronologies across services [All resources - Iriss](#)

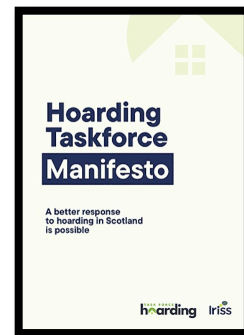
[Multi-Agency Adult Support and Protection Case Conferences - Iriss](#) . A course supporting professionals to understand and improve practice in multi-agency adult support and protection conferences

[Professional curiosity in public protection - Iriss](#) , published in March 2026 and an essential read for practitioners.

[Large scale investigations - Iriss](#) – an online learning resource aimed at council officers, managers of those undertaking LSIs, contract and procurement staff, care providers, nursing staff, GPs and allied health professionals

### **Supporting people who hoard**

The Scottish Hoarding Taskforce recently launched the first Hoarding Task force [Manifesto](#). This reflects growing national understanding and awareness of hoarding, and the need for trauma informed and fit for purpose support. This reflects growing national understanding and awareness of hoarding, and the need for trauma informed and fit for purpose support for people with hoarding behaviour.



There are also tools and links to training available from North Lanarkshire [Adults - Public Protection NL](#) to support practitioners and managers.

# Child Protection Committee



## North Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2024–2025

Our recently published Annual Report highlights the collective work of partners across the public protection system to keep children and young people safe. Covering the period August 2024 to July 2025, the report sets out key achievements, learning and challenges, with a strong focus on listening to children and families, strengthening joint practice, and using data to drive improvement. It reflects continued progress in embedding trauma-informed, child-centred approaches such as Signs of Safety and Healing, Contextual Safeguarding and Safe and Together, while responding to ongoing demand and national developments. You can access the report [here](#).

The Child Protection Committee Business Plan for 2026-2027 is currently being developed and engagement sessions will be planned with staff to gather their views, so please keep an eye out for these in the coming months!

### Online Safety



In support of Safer Internet Day on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026, we launched a new [Online Safety section](#) for professionals on our Public Protection website. This new area brings together key research, resources, and practical information to help you protect and support children in their online lives. There are lots of resources to signpost parents/carers and children and young people to promote staying safe online including [#AskTheAwkward](#), [Online Behaviour & Safety | Parent Club](#) and [Report Remove | Childline](#).

### Child Protection Statistics for Scotland for 2024-2025

The Scottish Government has published child protection statistics for Scotland for 2024 – 2025, which highlight a 1% decrease from the previous year in the number of children on the child protection register, with almost half of children added to the register living in one of the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. The most common concerns identified at child protection planning meetings for

children registered during the year were domestic abuse (44% of children registered), neglect (43% of children registered), parental substance use (38% of children registered), parental mental ill health (38% of children registered), and emotional abuse (32% of children registered).

### **CYCJ Learning Resources**

**Digital Safeguarding in Practice** – The CYCJ in collaboration with the Lucy Faithfull Foundation have created a free eLearning module on Digital Safeguarding in Practice, to provide a greater awareness of the risks present for children using digital technology. Children have a right to access digital technology and online information, and it is critical when in that environment they are safe from abuse and harm. Key elements of this instance of learning are: building digital awareness, identifying indicators of online sexual abuse and grooming, promoting safe use of digital technologies and responding to harmful online behaviour. Those with access to LearnNL can access the module [here](#).

Those who do not have access to LearnNL can click this link to access the enrolment page: [M116: Digital Safeguarding in Practice | Centre for Lifelong Learning](#).

**The Children (Care and Justice) Act 2024** – The CYCJ have developed this instance of learning to raise awareness about the legislative changes made by the [Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#). It is relevant for professionals who have contact with children who may be involved with the children's hearing, care or justice settings for their care and protection or because they are in conflict with the law. The module has been developed ahead of all sections of the Act commencing to allow practitioners to understand and prepare for these changes before they fully come into force in practice. The module will continue to be updated as the Act commences and new guidance or resources specific to particular sections of the Act are developed. The e-module can be accessed via this link: [Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024 - E-module](#).

# Violence Against Women and Girls



Here is our update this quarter.

## **Violence Against Women and Girls Prevention work in schools**

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) is a peer mentoring programme that gives young people the chance to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin all forms of gender-based violence in our society. The programme addresses a range of behaviours including physical violence, name-calling, sexting, coercive and controlling behaviour and harassment. Individuals are not looked on as potential victims or perpetrators but as empowered onlookers with the ability to support and challenge their peers whilst keeping themselves safe.

Of the 23 secondary schools in North Lanarkshire 19 have implemented MVP. An additional 3 schools have staff training in MVP and are working through their plans for implementation.

## **Equally Safe at Work**

North Lanarkshire Council as part of the work to maintain the Bronze Award for the employer accreditation launched its Sexual Harassment Policy. Employees of North Lanarkshire Council can find the policy on MyNL [here](#)

## **Safe and Together**

The Public Protection Team welcomed Fiona Sloan as the new Safe and Together Co-ordinator in August 2025. Fiona will be working on a programme of training for the next year. North Lanarkshire Council employees can find details of the training on LearnNL. Fiona will also be working on developments to support workers to take the learning from Safe and Together training into practice.

Colleagues from child protection will be working with Fiona to consider the interface between Safe and Together and Signs of Safety.

To keep up to date with developments in domestic abuse practice we would encourage you to join North Lanarkshire Domestic Abuse Informed KHub [Home - North Lanarkshire Domestic Abuse Informed - Knowledge Hub](#)

North Lanarkshire Council employees can also join [Domestic Abuse Informed Practice | Community in Viva Engage](#)

### **FiLiA Snapshot Report on the characteristics, experiences and needs of women involved in the prostitution and sexual exploitation**

New snapshot report reveals levels of harm and violence perpetrated against women involved in prostitution. The snapshot is an analysis of the experiences and needs of 91 women supported by five grassroots services in towns in England and Wales. Most of the women had been involved in street prostitution, but others were subjected to different types of commercial sexual exploitation, such as brothels or online activities. The snapshot reveals that:

- 85% of the women experienced traumatic childhoods, with very high rates of physical and sexual abuse
- Three-quarters of the women have experienced domestic abuse
- Two-thirds have been homeless, and half have had substance misuse problems
- 98% of the women have mental health issues and need support with this
- Three-quarters of those who are mothers have had one or more children removed from their care.

If you would like to read the report you can find it [here](#)



### **National developments**

#### ***New gender-based violence requirement for universities and colleges***

The Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill was passed in January 2026 and is awaiting Royal Assent. The Bill includes a

provision on gender-based violence, which will (once it is in force) require post-16 education bodies funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) to take action to prevent gender-based violence against staff and students, and to support students and staff who have experienced such violence.

A copy of the Bill, as passed, is available on the [Scottish Parliament website](#).

### ***'How we convicted killer husband and made legal history'***

Lee Milne was convicted of killing his wife Kimberly after she jumped to her death from a motorway bridge, in the first prosecution of its kind in Scotland. He was convicted of engaging in a course of abusive conduct following his conviction. Prosecutors said Kimberly had suffered significant domestic abuse at the hands of Lee Milne in the 18 months prior to her death. If you would like to find out more about the case you can listen to this podcast with the head of the Crown Office, John Logue [Podcast](#)

### ***Guidance on the Delivery of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education in Scottish Schools***

The Scottish Government published revised relationships, sexual health and parenthood statutory teaching guidance on the 4 February 2026.

The revised guidance can be found [here](#).

# MAPPA



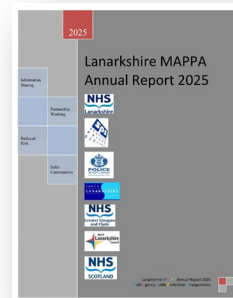
## MAPPA Annual Report

The Lanarkshire MAPPA Annual Report 2025 was published in November 2025 on the NLC website, see link below –

## [MAPPA Annual Report 2025 | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

The Scottish Government also published their Annual MAPPA Overview Report at the same time, please see link below -

## [Scottish Government - MAPPA Annual Report 2024/2025](#)



## MAPPA Awareness Sessions

The MAPPA Co-ordinator continues to provide MAPPA Awareness sessions on a quarterly basis throughout the year. These events are aimed at any staff member who works (or may work) with someone subject to MAPPA. All events will be via Teams and last 1 hour.

The new dates for 2026 are noted below –

### **2026 Dates –**

Thursday 4 June 2026 at 2pm

Thursday 3 September 2026 at 10am

Thursday 3 December 2026 at 2pm

Staff can sign up for these events by emailing the MAPPA mailbox – [MAPPA.Lanarkshire@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:MAPPA.Lanarkshire@southlanarkshire.gov.uk) and providing their name, agency/designation, email address and selecting their preferred date.

If any further information is required, please contact -

[MAPPA.Lanarkshire@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:MAPPA.Lanarkshire@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

A short film that explains what MAPPA is and how it operates is also available and can be accessed via this link - [MAPP2301 Final](#)

## **Development**

The annual MAPPA Development Day is scheduled for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May and includes keynote speakers from the Risk Management Authority and Police Scotland, as well as representatives from all the Lanarkshire responsible authorities. The Development Day also marks the change in SOG and MOG Chair from NLC to SLC reps for the next 12 months.

## **MAPPS**

The new Multi-Agency Public Protection System (MAPPS) being developed by the Home Office to replace ViSOR (Violent and Sex Offender Register) remains ongoing and latest national updates suggest a steady progression towards full implementation in 2028. SLC Justice Services staff are supporting the Home Office Project Team in testing the system and further updates will be provided as this progresses over the coming months.

## NHS Lanarkshire Public Protection Team

The NHS Lanarkshire Public Protection Service is committed to developing and sustaining a competent and confident workforce by promoting a culture of effective and reflective learning, review and support for all NHS staff, GP practices and external contractors for the NHS.

We work together with an aim to:

**“... prevent harm by delivering high quality, safe and effective services which promote the protection of unborn babies, children, young people & adults.”**

We are a Pan Lanarkshire service based at Glen Almond Building, Coathill Hospital, Coatbridge ML5 4DN.

The team can be contacted on 01698 753742



## Contact Details for the Public Protection Team



<b>Independent Chair for the Adult and Child Protection Committees</b>	Vacant	
<b>Adult Protection Committee</b>	Heather Irving, Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:irvingh@northlan.gov.uk">irvingh@northlan.gov.uk</a>
	Senior Officer, Learning and Development	
	Vacant	
	Audrey McGhie, Resource Supervisor	<a href="mailto:mcghieau@northlan.gov.uk">mcghieau@northlan.gov.uk</a>
<b>Child Protection Committee</b>	Sarah Jane Ramsay, Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:ramsaysar@northlan.gov.uk">ramsaysar@northlan.gov.uk</a>
	Dara Foster, Senior Officer, Learning and Development	<a href="mailto:fosterdara@northlan.gov.uk">fosterdara@northlan.gov.uk</a>
	Angela White, Resource Supervisor	<a href="mailto:whitea@northlan.gov.uk">whitea@northlan.gov.uk</a>
<b>APC &amp; CPC Resource Assistant</b>	Agnieszka Sekula	<a href="mailto:sekulaa@northlan.gov.uk">sekulaa@northlan.gov.uk</a>
<b>MAPPA</b>	Kenny Dewar, Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:kenny.dewar@southlanarkshire.gov.uk">kenny.dewar@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Violence Against Women and Girls</b>	Helen Sneddon, Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:sneddonhel@northlan.gov.uk">sneddonhel@northlan.gov.uk</a>
	Fiona Sloan, Safe and Together Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:sloanfi@northlan.gov.uk">sloanfi@northlan.gov.uk</a>
<b>APC and CPC Learning Review Co-ordinator</b>	Johanna Johnston, Public Protection Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:johnstonjoh@northlan.gov.uk">johnstonjoh@northlan.gov.uk</a>

If you are worried about someone being harmed it is important to tell someone now. Contact your [local social work office](#) during business hours or out of hours on: 0800 121 4114

## Public Protection North Lanarkshire

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