

# NHS Shetland

<b>Meeting:</b>	Shetland NHS Board
<b>Meeting date:</b>	16 December 2025
<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	Board Paper 25/26/48
<b>Title:</b>	Shetland Public Protection Committee Annual Report 2024-25
<b>Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:</b>	Jordan Sutherland, Interim Chief Social Work Officer
<b>Report Author:</b>	Sandra Summers, Lead Officer, Shetland Public Protection Committee

## 1 Purpose

**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 ambitions:**

- Safe
- Person Centred

## 2 Report summary

### 2.1 Situation

This report presents Shetland Public Protection Committee's Annual Report for 2023-2024. The Annual Report sets out the key activities of Shetland Public Protection Committee in Shetland in 2023-2024, 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 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

## 2.1 Background

In 2024-2025 the key issues for **Shetland Public Protection Committee (SPPC)** as detailed in the report at Appendix 1 were:

- Creation of a 3-year Strategic Plan for SPPC, focusing on 4 priority areas, chronologies, lived experiences, gender based violence and digital safety.
- Updating and monitoring local procedures for Child Protection and Adult Support and Protection.
- Supporting training requirements, refreshing protection training materials and developing Council Officer training for Adult Support and Protection Social Workers to conduct ASP investigations and interviews.
- Delivering a successful Shetland Public Protection Committee Development Day in August 2024. We showcased local services who work within a protection framework, exploring early intervention and the role they play. Highlighting Shetland Link Ups 30th year of provision, looking back at how the service has adapted was particularly insightful.
- Supporting the delivery of Child and Adult Protection level 2, there continues to be a poorer uptake from NHS staff.
- Dedicated time given to preparing for a potential Care Inspectorate inspection for Children's Services.

## 2.3 Assessment

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

### 2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care

NHS Shetland Public Protection Lead Nurse, Nicola MacLennan is a key role in the Public Protection Partnership in Shetland.

### 2.3.2 Workforce

Appropriate Child and Adult Support and 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**

The Board has carried out its duties to involve and engage external stakeholders where appropriate: 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. One of our actions for the committee is to explore and establish a link for 'lived experiences' to be heard within the committee.

### **2.3.8 Route to the Meeting**

This has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

- Education and Families Committee, Shetland Island Council – 17th November 2025

## **2.4 Recommendation**

That the board of NHS Shetland have awareness of the Shetland Public Protection Committee Annual Report 2024-25. 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 2024-25.



# Shetland Public Protection Committee

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

*"Working together to keep Everyone Safe in Shetland"*





# Introduction from SPPC Chair



It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Shetland Public Protection Committee's Annual Report for 2024-25. This report highlights the important work carried out over the past year by our partners and communities to safeguard and protect people across Shetland. It reflects the commitment, professionalism, and compassion shown every day by those who work tirelessly to support children, adults, and families who may be at risk of harm.

This year also marks the launch of our new Strategic Plan for 2025-2028, which sets out our shared priorities for the next three years. The Plan builds on the strong foundations already in place and focuses on how we will continue to strengthen collaboration, enhance learning, and improve outcomes for everyone in our community.

At the heart of our strategy is our shared vision:

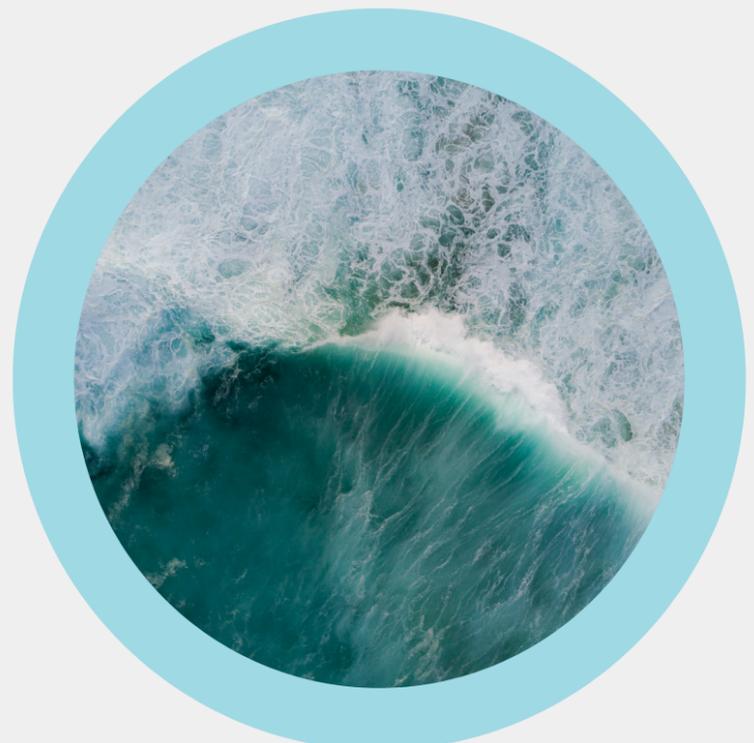
*"Working together to keep everyone safe in Shetland"*

This vision captures what unites us as partners and as a community. It is a reminder that effective protection depends on trust, communication, and collective responsibility. I would like to thank all those professionals, volunteers, and community members whose efforts make this vision a reality every day.

I commend this Annual Report and our new Strategic Plan to you, and I look forward to continuing our shared work to make Shetland a place where everyone can feel safe, supported and respected.

**Lindsay Tulloch**

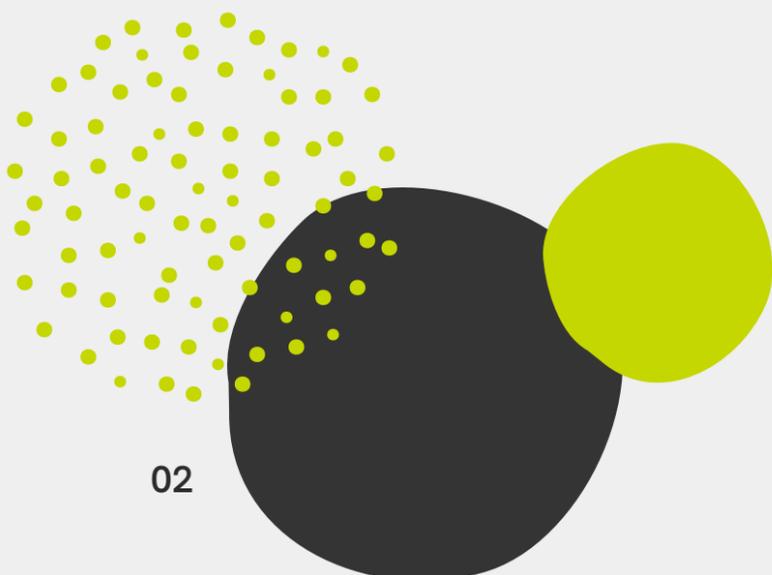
September 2025





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# Executive Summary 2024/25

## WHAT WENT WELL?

- Created a Strategic Plan for the next 3 years, including high priority topics, whilst not ignoring other public protection issues. The plan is attached as appendix 1.
- Completed remaining updates to the Adult Protection Procedures and Child Protection Procedures Protocols and made accessible on Safer Shetland Webpage.
- Created shared outcomes of the Public Protection Inter-Agency Training Group.
- Completed the rebrand of the Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership, to be the Shetland Violence Against Women and Children and Young People Partnership; completed the review of the Strategy and raise awareness locally of violence against women and children and young people using the 16 Days of Activism 2024.
- Quality Assurance preparation work in preparation of any potential inspections and implementation of actions from previous inspection and file reading exercises.
- Successful appointment of new Lead Officer, Sandra Summers.
- Refresh and update of training materials across multiple topics.

## WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER

- Development of ways to include lived experiences in the work of Shetland Public Protection Committee
- Engagement with parents in relation to their role and responsibilities to support their children with navigating a digital life safely
- Incorporating personal experiences of those with lived experiences, a topic that most Local Authorities find challenging, this is now a focus in our Strategic Plan.

## WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?

### Strategic Oversight & Monitoring

- Develop a monitoring framework to track progress on the four strategic priorities of our Strategic Plan 2025-28
- Align business plans with strategic goals.
- Continue monitoring actions from inspections and file reading exercises.
- Establish a biennial file reading process for Adult Social Work.

### Training & Awareness

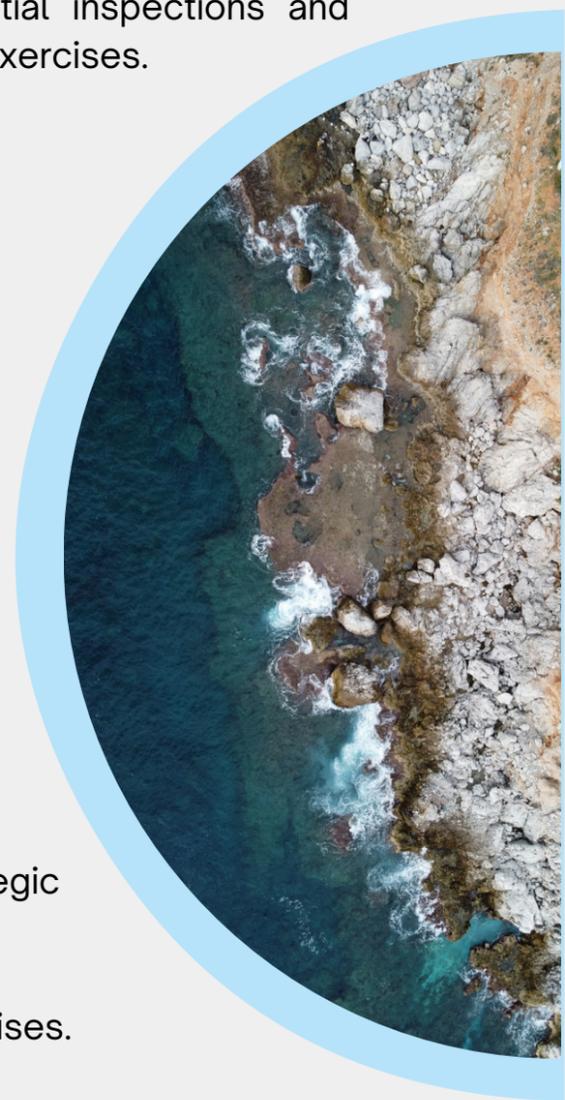
- Roll out updated Child and Adult Protection training, incorporating new legislation, Children's Rights, and trauma-informed practice.
- Develop an interagency mandatory training plan via the Inter-Agency Training Group.
- Support training and awareness initiatives led by the Violence Against Women, Children and Young People Partnership, including Level 2 training on gender-based violence.

### Public Engagement & Safeguarding

- Expand protection work through public engagement and awareness campaigns.
- Develop workshops for primary-aged children on digital risks.
- Create a parent engagement strategy to address digital life risks and safeguarding roles.

### Service Development & Lived Experience

- Prepare for inspections across services.
- Establish processes to include lived experience in service development and protection planning.



# SVAWCYP

## SHETLAND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP

In 2024, the partnership was renamed from Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership (SDAP) to Shetland Violence Against Women, Children and Young People Partnership. A new logo and strapline has been discussed and currently in final stages.

Key outcomes for the partnership:

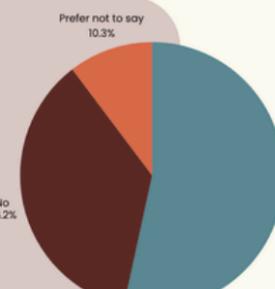
- In February 2024, the SVAWCYP Coordinator stepped down from her role. The Safe & Together funding for the coordinator post run until 25 March 2025. Following a recalculation of hours, the role is now valued at 16 hours per week. In the interim, the coordinator’s responsibilities have been shared between staff from Women’s Aid and SPPC.
- Following the introductory Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Level 1 training—developed in line with national guidelines—GBV Level 2 training was created and officially launched during SPPC Development Day on 25 September 2024. The Level 2 training was successfully piloted on 26 November and 2 December, as promoted through Workforce Development. ESiP Kitemark Accreditation is currently being pursued, as the training already meets several of the required criteria.
- The Scottish Safe & Together Model is an adaptation of the internationally recognised Safe & Together Model, designed to support professionals working with families affected by domestic abuse. It focuses on creating domestic abuse-informed systems, services, and workforces across Scotland. The partnership is taking part in national meetings to monitor the model’s rollout.
- Work was under way to organise a VAWG Development Day with support from the Improvement Service to co-design the agenda. Plans to complete a self-assessment checklist activity to help define the strategic direction. Additionally, a session was developed to reflect on data from a recent report following the women’s survey conducted in partnership with SIC.
- Women in Shetland Survey: In November 2024, a Shetland wide survey was done. The purpose of the survey was to gather insights into the key issues, challenges, and opportunities experienced by women in Shetland.

Developed by Shetland Women’s Aid, the findings of the survey will be used by the Shetland Violence Against Women Children and Young People Partnership (SVAWCYP) to improve specialist services for those affected by gender-based violence (GBV) in Shetland.

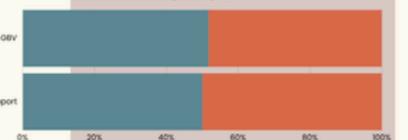
### KEY FINDINGS OF THE WOMEN’S SURVEY

Based on 58 women’s response over a 2-week period

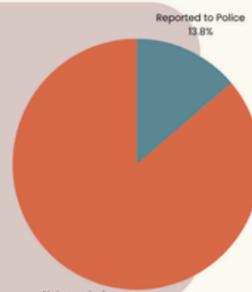
31 women (over 54% of respondents) stated that they had faced discrimination in Shetland as a result of being a woman. 21 stated that they had not, and 6 preferred not to answer.



30 women (51.7% of respondents) stated that they have been affected by gender-based violence 28 stated that they had not.

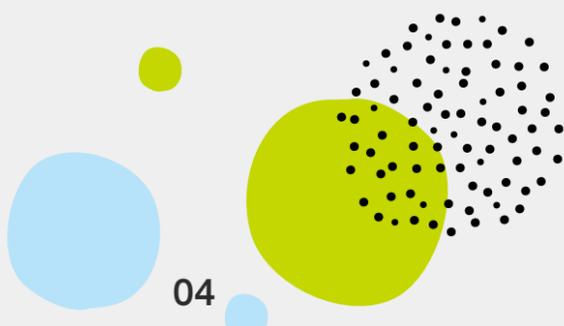


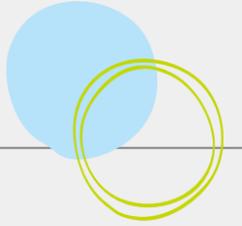
8 women stated that they chose to report their experience to the police. This means that over 73% of those affected by GBV in Shetland chose not to report to the police.



15 women stated that they have received support for gender-based violence in Shetland. This means that half of those affected by GBV in Shetland did not receive support.

Of the 58 respondents, 47 women gave detailed feedback on areas requiring change, including housing, transport, healthcare, and employment





# Quality Assurance

## CHILD PROTECTION

The Quality Assurance Child Protection Committee have held 6 meetings throughout the year, led by the Independent Chair of SPPC. Inspection preparation work has been a big focus for the group, and the committee was meeting every 6 weeks to ensure work was progressing if called for inspection. Other work of the committee includes:

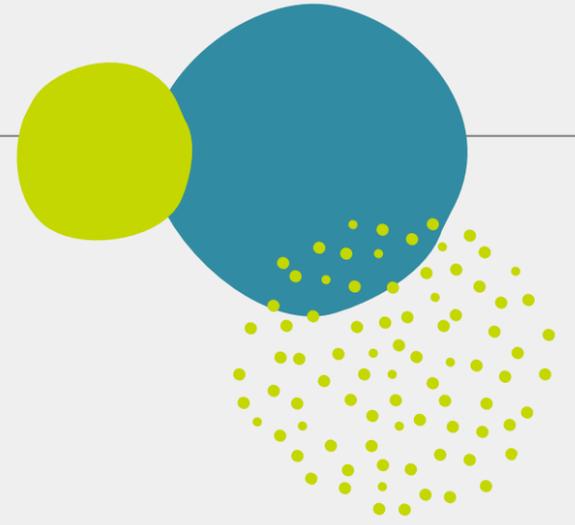
- Analysis of data
- Training
- Staffing
- S21 Historic Child Abuse Inquiry – David McQueen, Improvement Reviewing Officer co-ordinated a detailed response in relation to the latest request.
- Cybercrime
- Missing Persons Protocol established and attached to procedures
- Learning Review – we have appointed an independent reviewer working in partnership with local review panel to complete the review in line with the Care Inspectorate’s guidance in relation to a death.



## 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:

- Develop and deliver Council Officer Training, training for Social Workers to conduct interview in relation to Adult Support and Protection inquiries. Deliver Second Worker training for those assisting with Adult Support and Protection inquiries, an action from our last inspection.
- Oversight of Phase 2 in Adult Support and Protection data submissions nationally.
- Missing People – Local Protocol established and return discussion training held for 12 staff.
- Gradually developing ways to include lived experience in the work of Adult Protection, working alongside Adult Social Work to explore how we capture information in a sensitive and timely manner.
- Monitoring staffing situations
- Internal case review – working in partnership with other agencies to identify issues in relation to a specific case, monitor progress of outstanding actions.



# Participation

## YOUNG PEOPLE

The SPPC in partnership with OPEN encourages the engagement and participation of young people's views throughout work. The Lead Officer has been attending a regular meeting with representatives from OPEN and other statutory organisations to explore how we support bridging the gap between young people's voices, their experiences and the organisations who provide services. This live working group has been called 'Shifting Up' and will explore how we engage and listen to the wishes and needs of Shetland's young people.

An OPEN peer youth worker sits on our Digital Safety and Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Committee and is encouraged to attend our Development Days to actively participate and share their voice. We were delighted to have OPEN present at our Development Day this year.

## ADULTS

### Keep Safe Initiative

The Keep Safe initiative was launched in August 2024, with 11 premises signed up to participate in the national provision. Training was offered from the SPPC team and resources from Keep Safe. The initiative was set up to tackle Disability Hate Crime, the most underreported crime in the UK. Sadly, the initiative ceased in February 2025 due to a Police Scotland review that concluded the initiative was no longer feasible or proportionate to continue. We are currently exploring how we can develop a Shetland approach to supporting people in our community and will most likely link in with Compassionate Communities initiative from the Shetland Partnership.





# Development Day

25 September 2024

The SPPC Development Day took place at the Town Hall with 33 attendees representing various agencies. Throughout the day, participants heard from six different services and initiatives, each highlighting aspects of public protection.

The OPEN young research team presented their findings on Drug and Alcohol use among young people. The purpose of their research was to understand how Shetlands' culture influences our young people and the choices they make in relation to alcohol and drug use.



*“Excellent to hear the views of the young people. I will take back some thoughts to our organisation and have invited you to talk to our staff organisation. I will commit to making and contributing to the culture change required.”*

Mind Your Head introduced a pilot program called ‘Distress Brief Intervention’ which is a service that provides immediate, compassionate support for preventing and managing distress in the future and signposting to other services.

*“Fantastic topic, really good to publicise the great work DBI via Mind Your Head are doing. Really good work, supporting people in distress and teaching people coping strategies and how to support themselves in the future “*

Next, Dawn Smith spoke about the ‘I Am Me/Keep Safe’ campaign, a Police Scotland initiative that works with local shops and public buildings to create safe spaces and tackle hate crime.

*“Really interesting to consider disability hate crime how it starts and can escalate and build to serious situation. Enjoyed hearing case study. Albeit harrowing”*

After lunch and networking, Sarah Johnston presented Virtually Safe, Virtually Sound (#VSVS), a program that runs in all secondary schools to help raise awareness of internet safety and cyberbullying among young people and their parents.

*“Interesting to hear the approach and understand the early intervention.”*

Shetland Link-Up talked about their service which begun after an in-depth survey of people, known to the Mental Health Team, felt a need for an informal meeting place for people with mental ill-health. The service now celebrates 30 years.

*“I think it is so amazing that this service exists, feels like a total community asset. Presenters did super, very easy to understand. Loved that loneliness was highlighted in rural areas.”*



Before feedback and closing the day, Ashlea Tulloch from Women’s Aid and Ellie Ratter from Compass Centre introduced the newly developed Gender Based Violence Level 2 training. Training has been built in response to growing local need for specialist GBV support and to provide up to date information & guidance for frontline workers. Training is now available on the VOR website. More info on [safersheland.com](http://safersheland.com).

*“Really in support of this work. Ellie and Ashlea shared knowledge so well. I am so impressed by the time and effort that has gone into both services to keep people safe/support individuals’ safety. Your work is invaluable and a lifeline.”*



# Work of Sub Committees

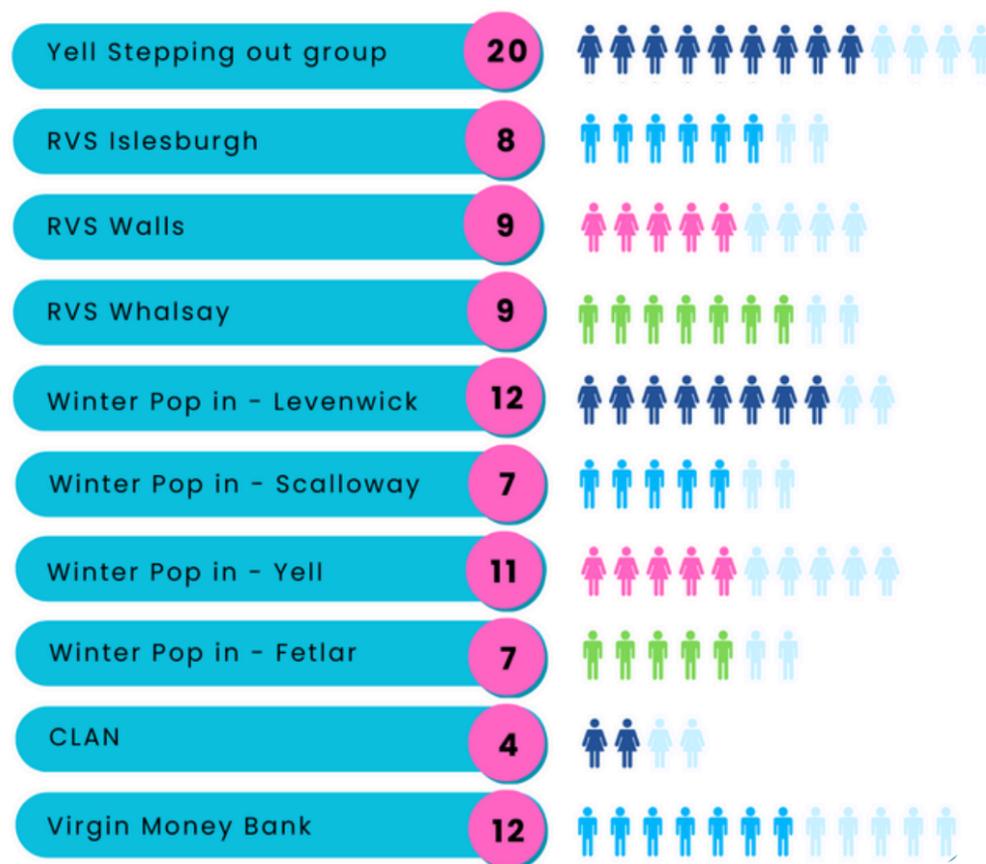
## PROTECTION IN THE COMMUNITY

Held every quarter, it brings together a range of service providers supporting wider community groups and provisions to consider issues impacting the public.

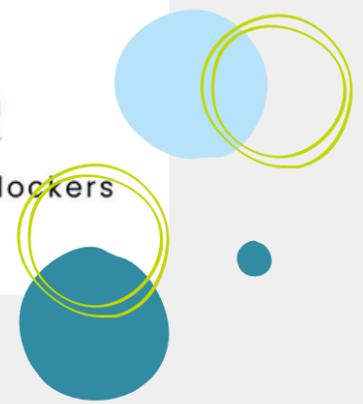
- Monitoring progress of Street pastors Initiative
- Rolling out Keep Safe training for premises and launching the Keep Safe Initiative
- Monitoring changes to PVG scheme for sports and community groups
- Upkeep of training and support to third sector and sports groups
- Promoting Adult and Child Protection locally and nationally.
- Included Financial harm into Protection in the Community and updates of this work are reported at each meeting
- Took part in Safer Islander – 180 S1 pupils were given twelve 10 minute presentations around safety. SPPC Team went with Keeping Yourself Safe and Artificial Intelligence.
- Fire and NHS reps invited to attend PComm on recommendation from SPPC.
- The scambusters team continued to visit community groups mainly to speak about scams and financial harm.

### SCAMBUSTER SESSIONS

Scambuster sessions that were delivered and attended



In addition to these Trading Standards have fitted 50 call blockers





## INTER PARTNERSHIP TRAINING GROUP

Purpose of this group looking at wider remit among partnerships and third sector training, having training information available and bookable by all organisations. This group meets bi-annually.

- Training Calendar accessible by all available on [safershetland](#) website.
- GBV Level 2 training developed and rolled out. Level 1 available online at [safershetland](#) website.
- Trauma Skilled Level 2 training, six trainers across SIC support the delivery of this.
- Fastforward visit to shetland offering schools awareness around gaming and its link to gambling and addiction.
- Access for Level 3 CP and ASP E-Learning made available on [safershetland](#) website.
- ‘Wir ain peerie bodies’ training packs were updated and provisions made available to all ELC and private providers. Mhairi Garnier and Sandra Summers delivered refresher training to all ELC staff, having around 120 attendees in the Town Hall during the October in-service. This teaches children the importance of keeping themselves safe from sexual abuse, with each establishment asked to deliver this course annually, some schools also deliver this in lower primary classes as well as ELC.

## DIGITAL SAFETY AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION COMMITTEE

Held quarterly, this group has a specific focus exploring the impact of our digital life, information sharing, training and raising awareness in topics that are forever changing. Exploring issues that impact across all ages and how we work together to minimise risk. This group also manage the overall content of the Virtually Safe Virtually Sound training.

- Safer Internet Day 2025 planned for theme of how to protect yourself and others from online scams.
- Promoting online safety workshops information to Parent Council Chairs Meeting in November to highlight the importance of online safety and the work that the SPPC team carry out to help protect children.
- CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) delivered to young people at Bridges
- Refresh Train the Trainer CEOPS and create a generic presentation for delivery by CEOPS – training then held for Train the Trainers.
- Rolling programme of **VSVS events** – this year Yell and Unst S1 to S4 in October and AHS S1 pupils in February. We offered the following workshops:

Standing item

### CEOP

#### Child Exploitation and Online Protection

This workshop will give you advice and knowledge on how to keep safe online and will help you to identify the risks you may face

### ONLINE SEXUAL VIOLENCE

This interactive workshop explores examples of online sexual violence, especially on social media used by young people. It encourages discussion around what behaviours are acceptable, using the Allport Scale to show how minor acts can escalate. Topics include banter, sexist language, sexual violence, and how to seek or offer support.

### DIGITAL ABUSE AND RELATIONSHIPS

This interactive workshop explores the signs and impact of digital abuse among young people. Delivered by specialist practitioners, we’ll discuss how technology and social media can be misused in relationships to control and intimidate. Young people will be equipped with the knowledge to recognise harmful behaviours, support those affected, and promote healthy digital boundaries in a relationship

### CHILD PROTECTION

Everyone has the right to be safe and everyone has a responsibility to help you. All children and young people have the right to be protected and kept safe from harm. Awareness of types of abuse, UNCRC and how to access support

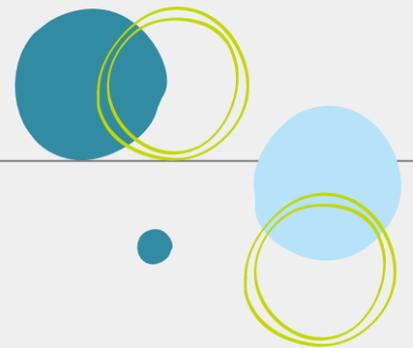
### SMOKING AND VAPING

The NHS Shetland Health Improvement team providing information on smoking and vaping; Awareness raising on health effects, the law, the role media plays in marketing and targeting young people and where to find support

# Publicity and Awareness Raising

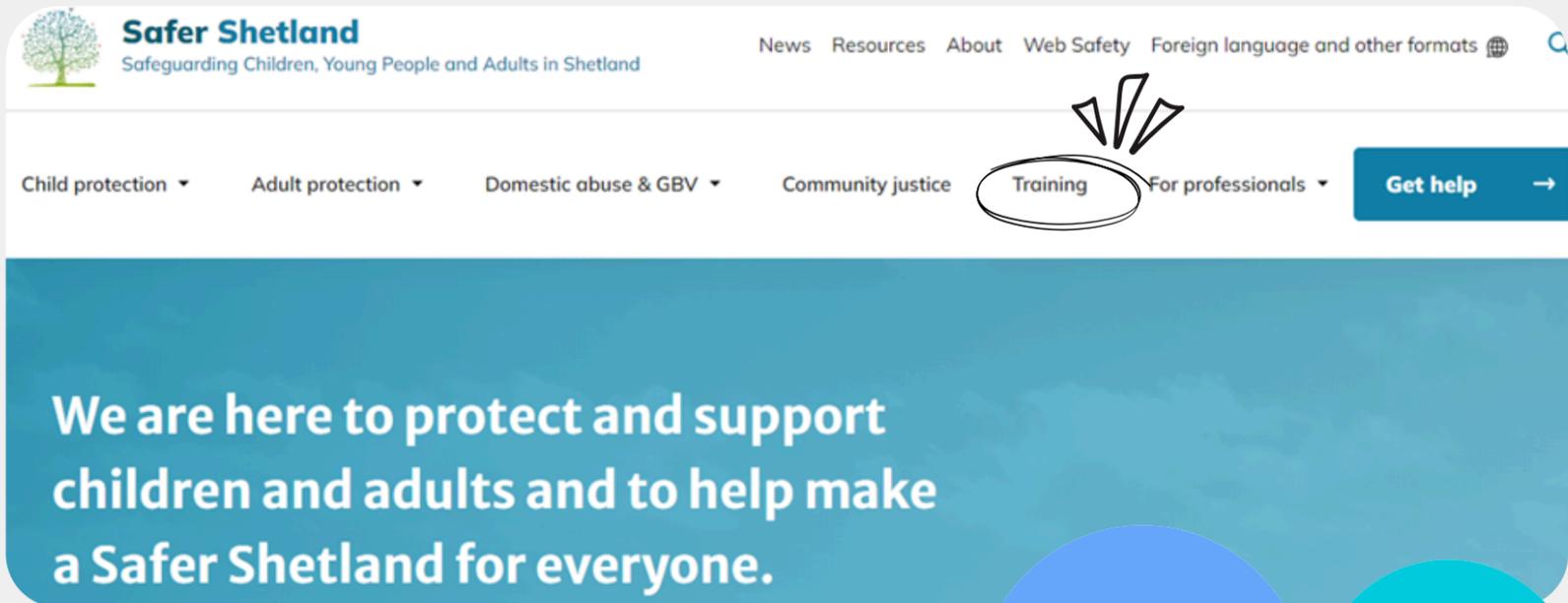
- National Adult Support and Protection Awareness Day is held every year on 20 February. This year, 2025, the theme focussed on vulnerable adults in the community who are more susceptible to financial harm. A press release was circulated as well as information on safershetland website. A newsletter was prepared and circulated to all our committees and further explaining what Financial Harm is including information on Relationships Scams with information on who to contact if worried and if any groups wanted scambuster sessions.
- Safer Internet Day held on 07 February 2025 with press release and newsletter circulated.
- Carers Week was held at Voluntary Action Shetland from 10-14 June 2024 where scambusters information was given out.
- The Public Protection Committee Team attended the **Cunningsburgh Show in August 2024**. A competition was held for younger children to decorate a pair of pants in line with the Pantosauraus campaign in keeping young children safe while parents were given a questionnaire around mobile phone / technology use. Many leaflets were handed out about scams.
- Local response to national campaigns led to information shared on safershetland website for Safer Internet Day including Social Media Advice for Parents and Carers Support for using computers for adults workshops held at Shetland Library / Cyber Byte Information from Police Scotland; Anti Bullying Week on 11-15 November 2024, #Social Media Kindness Day, 05 November 2025, .National Cybersecurity Awareness Month October 2024 including Cyber Security – A guide for parents and carers and further information posted throughout the month; launch of the Keep Safe Campaign on 1 August 2024, Scam Alert Bulletins focussing on scam bank calls; National Hoarding Awareness Week 13-17 May 2024; NHS information on Mental Health and NHS talking therapies for anxiety and depression; Care Day celebrating young people with Care Experience;



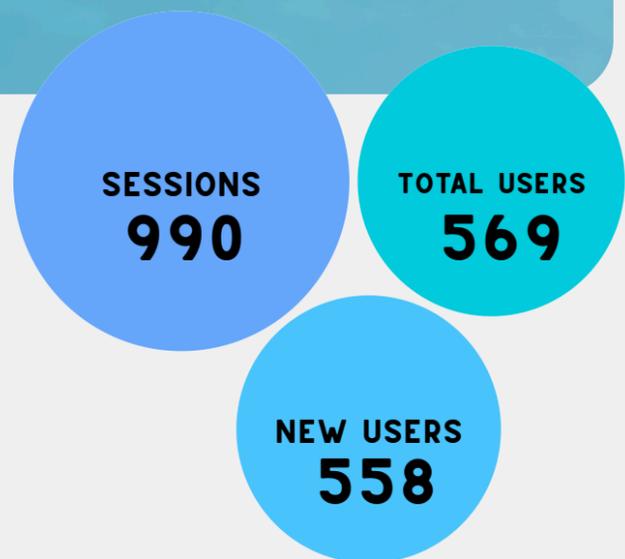


# Website Activity

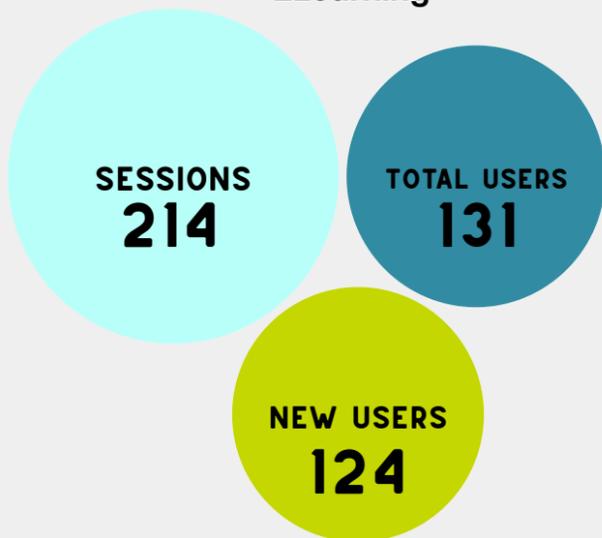
The safershetland website continues to evolve and be updated regularly. Training pages have been added to reach organisations and public who do not have access to SIC and NHS systems.



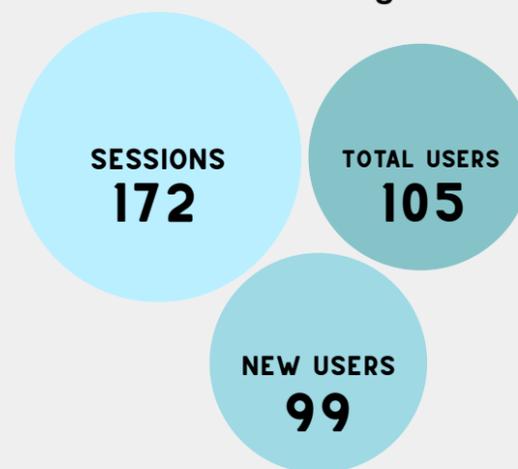
The “Keeping Adults and Children Safe” Level 1 E learning had 990 sessions through the period of April 2024 to March 2025. The number of sessions continue to increase from year to year.



### Introduction to Trauma Informed Practice ELearning

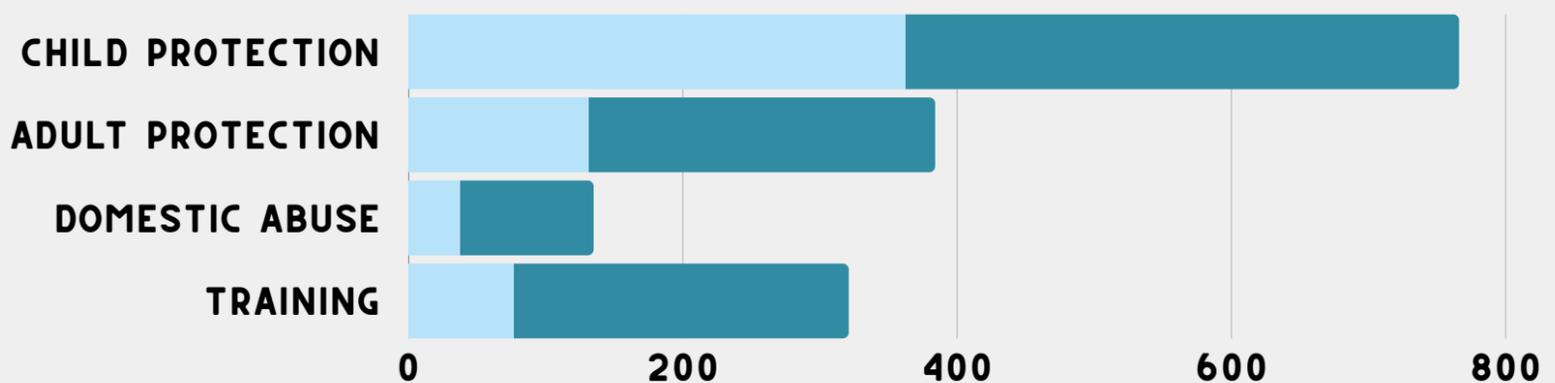


### Understanding Gender Based Violence ELearning



\*a session is a period of time during which a user interacts with a website

● 2023-24 ● 2024-25



- Safershetland website page session numbers -

# Training

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. Over this year Level 3 Child Protection training has been a priority with commitment from the trainers to deliver 6 courses to ensure those who need an update get the opportunity in a timely manner.

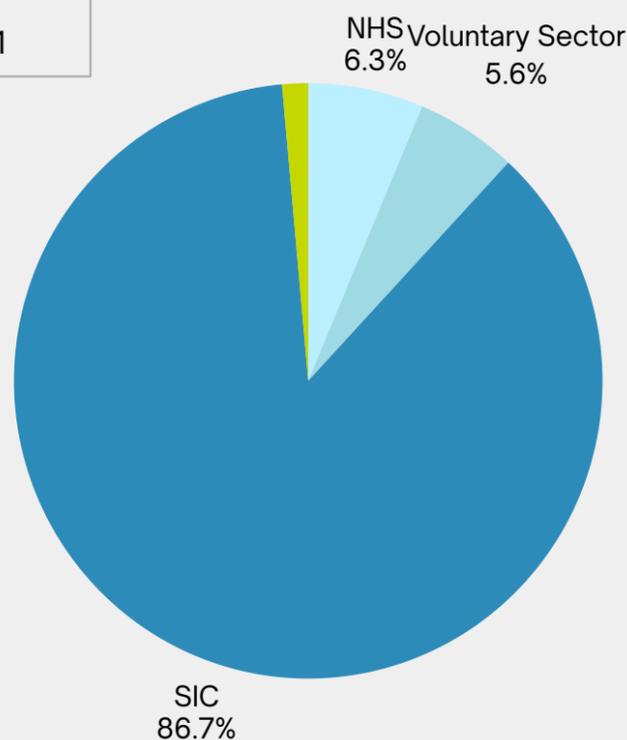
Level 3 Adult Support and Protection is being delivered regularly to ensure easy access to those who require it. A priority for 2025-26 is to explore the inclusion of Sexual Exploitation training within current courses and the introduction of Police Scotland delivering a standalone course.

## ADULT AND CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING STATISTICS

Training numbers reported by Workforce development between 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025

	2023	2024
Total number of people trained	710	787
Number of Training sessions held	62	61
Elearning course completion (SIC staff)	655	681

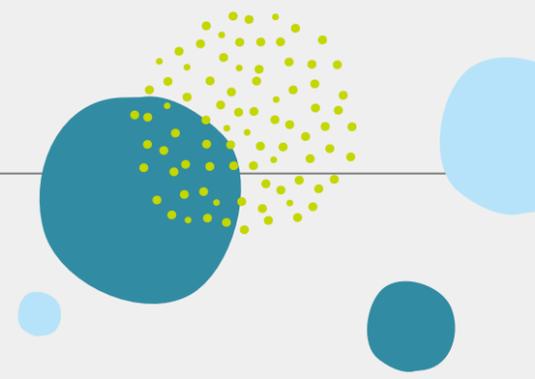
	2023	2024
NHS	49	37
Voluntary Sector	43	46
SIC	670	594
Private/Business	11	2



Number of Training Sessions	
ASP Level 2	21
ASP Level 3 Blended Learning	6
Council Officer	1
CP Level 2	23
CP Level 3	6
Gender Based Violence Level 2	4

eLearning Course Completion SIC/NHS staff	
ASP Level 3	57
Child and Adult Protection - It's Everyone's Job	444
Child Protection Level 3 Refresher	21
Level 1 Understanding Gender Based Violence	61
Prevent	78





# Analysis

## of Adult and Child Protection Data

### CHILD PROTECTION

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the following information on Child Protection Planning Meetings in line with the National Guidance for Child Protection Scotland 2021 was noted.

The number of Interagency Referral Discussions (IRDs) and Joint Investigative Interviews (JIIs) decreased during the reporting period, and this has been monitored closely. Due to Shetland’s small population, minor fluctuations in data can appear significant and need to be interrogated and viewed in context. The Children and Families Social Work team have proactively engaged with partners, including Police, Health and Education to explore the decrease, and this is being monitored on a quarterly basis by the Child Protection Quality Assurance Group.

Child Protection	No. of Children 2022-23	No. of Children 2023-24	No. of Children 2024-25
Initial Referral Discussion	109	95	35
Joint Investigative Interview	27	30	12
Initial Child Protection Planning Meeting	9	20	16
No. of children on the Child Protection Register during the year	14	34	24
No. of children on the Child Protection Register on 31 March 2025	13	16	11

Child Protection statistics, numbers can fluctuate creating challenges when considering what the ‘norm’ would be for Shetland.

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

- Improvement in young people attending their meetings
- Ensuring their voice is being heard, especially if they are not in attendance
- Continued work to support professional staff to understand their role at Planning Meetings. Some staff attending find it difficult to make a recommendation regarding registration, sometimes attending in relation to one child in a family but will be asked for their opinion on all children being considered from that family. This is being explored via the level 3 Child Protection training materials.





## ADULT PROTECTION

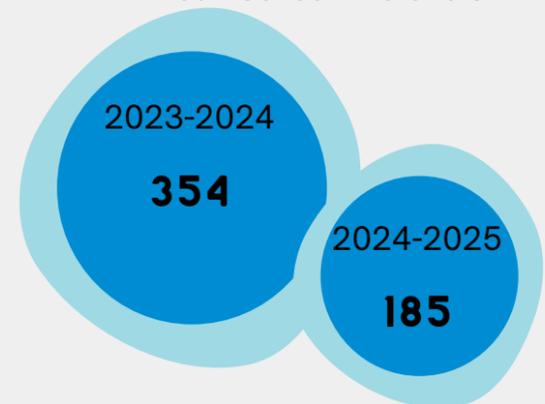
Improving data and information, in particular strengthening the focus on outcomes, was identified as a key strand of the ASP improvement programme (2019-2022), informed by the 2018 thematic inspection by Care Inspectorate & Scrutiny Papers. It is known that different local practices mean that data has not been comparable or robust enough to show national as well as local trends; or more frequent data captured quarterly. There was also a lack of person-centred indicators to show the whole ASP journey for people in it.

A quarterly ASP Minimum Dataset, that works both locally and nationally was designed to provide robust and comparable data. This came into effect in phases, with Phase 1 rolled out in April 2023 and Phase 2 for year commencing 2024. As the National Dataset evolved the way Adult Support and Protection data is recorded has therefore been changing.

Improvements have been made to how the ASP stats are recorded locally meaning that the figures presented are much more accurate in terms of the local picture. As a result of this the number of Adult Concern Referrals have reduced significantly from previous years which is due to improvements in triaging and recording Concerns following on from the adult support and protection inspection.

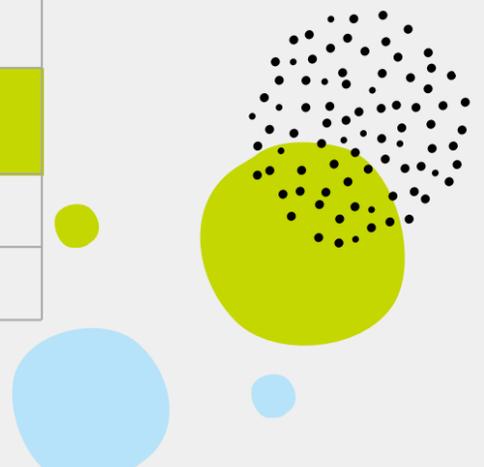
The increase in investigations can be caused by a Large Scale Investigation (LSI) being carried out in a local care home, resulting in multiple residents being interviewed to ensure that any issues linked to their safety and wellbeing are being addressed as a priority. During this year we have had 2 LSI that have been concluded with input from the Care Inspectorate.

Adult Concern Referrals



## ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION DATA

Adult at Risk Referrals (Meeting 3 point criteria)	2023-2024	2024-2025
Number of investigations (Inquiries using investigatory powers)	20	72
Number of Case conferences	<5	15
Number of Protection Plans	<5	8
Legal Orders	0	0
Ongoing ASP work	-	29
Advice and Support	-	41
No. Opportunity for further ASP intervention	-	<5
<b>Outcomes for those not meeting 3 point criteria, not classed as ASP</b>		
No Further Action	282	75
Advice and Support	52	38



# Conclusion



In 2024-25 the priorities for the Shetland Public Protection Committee have been:

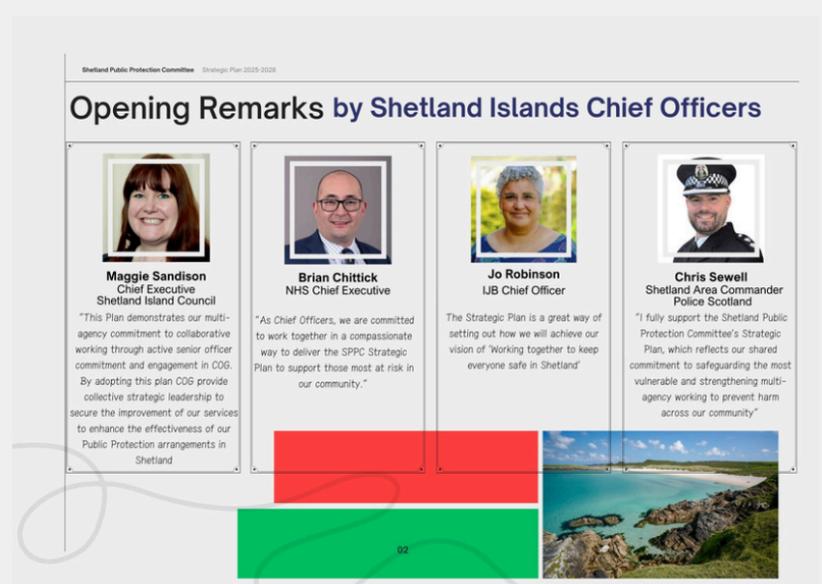
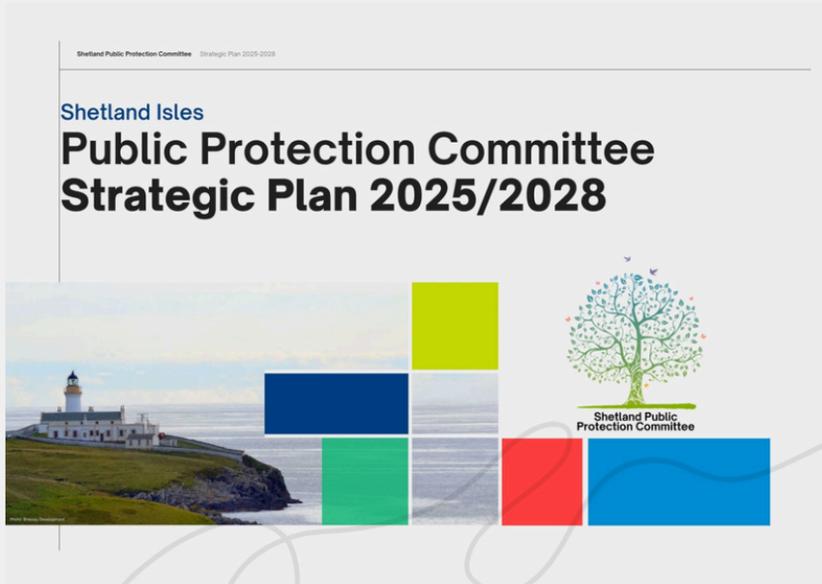
- Complete the updates to the **Adult Protection Procedures** and the Child Protection Procedures;
- Re-start the **Inter-Agency Training Group**;
- Continue to build on the good work of Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership to increase awareness in our community of **gender-based violence**;
- Ensure 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.

In 2025-26 the priorities for Shetland Public Protection Committee will be to:

- Support preparation for inspection work, continue to monitor progress of any outstanding inspection actions;
- Explore training needs to support robust Learning Review process and implementation;
- Develop an **interagency training plan** for mandatory training within the Inter-Agency Training Group;
- Lead Officer to review all Adult and Child Protection Training and re design where necessary;
- Develop protection work in raising awareness and **improve publicity awareness** through public engagements in Adult and Child Protection;
- Develop the work led by **Shetland Violence Against Women, Children and Young People Partnership** to improve training, publicity and awareness of gender-based violence and support the roll out of level 2 training;
- Explore highlight sessions for staff to update professionals on changes within Child and Adult Protection Procedures updates.

# Appendix 1

## SPPC STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-28



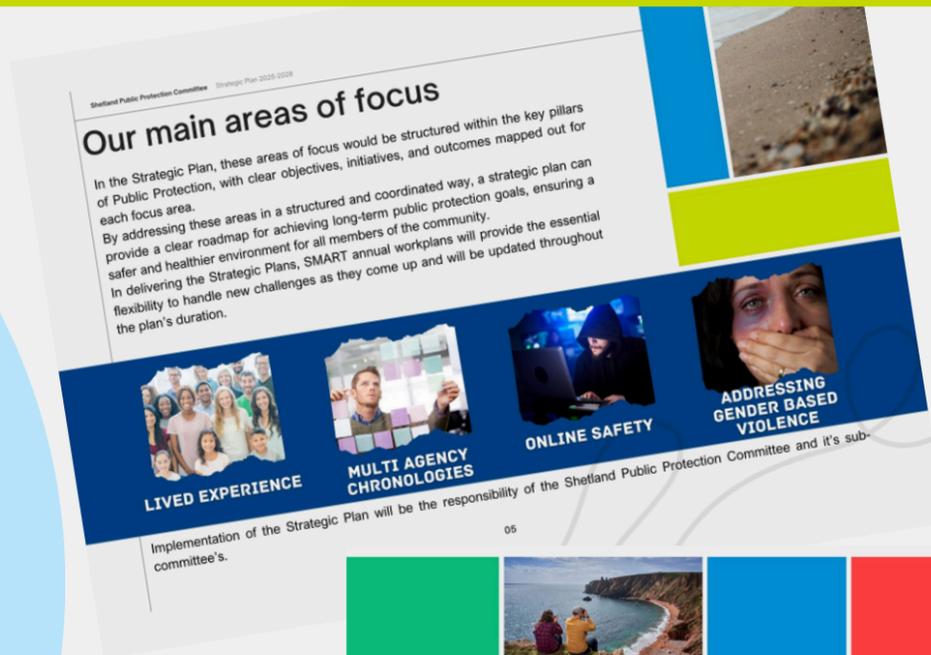
## Key foundations of Public Protection

The Shetland Public Protection committee, under the direction of the Chief Officers Group, plays a dedicated role in addressing protection issues and overseeing all protection work. It is tasked with the significant responsibility of strategically developing and delivering services to the most vulnerable individuals at risk of significant harm. The committee will continue coordinating efforts across various partners to ensure it fulfills its responsibilities to work around:

Adult Support and Protection

Child Protection

Violence Against Women Children and Young People



**Shetland Public Protection Committee Strategic Plan 2025-28 on a page**

**Vision**

"Working together to keep everyone safe in Shetland"







**Strategic Aims**

<b>Prevention</b> Prevent harm by identifying risks, raising awareness, and implementing early interventions.	<b>Protection</b> Ensure safety by providing immediate support, safeguarding measures, and effective responses.	<b>Partnership</b> Collaborate with agencies, organizations, and communities for a coordinated approach.	<b>Participation</b> Involve individuals and communities in developing and implementing strategies, considering their voices.	<b>Assurance</b> Set up mechanisms to monitor, evaluate, and improve public protection efforts.
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**Main Areas of Focus and Description**

Lived Experience	Multi Agency Chronologies	Online Safety	Addressing Gender Based Violence
We will explore the involvement of lived experience and how it can be used to strengthen our public services and communities.	We will focus on creating a comprehensive framework for the use of multi-agency chronologies to support cases and information sharing.	We will provide resources to educate about online safety and handling cyberbullying. We will engage schools, organisations, and communities in creating a safer online environment.	We will address, reduce and eradicate stigma by engaging the community in discussions and initiatives to combat Gender Based Violence.