



**SOCIAL POLICY - POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SERIOUS INCIDENT REVIEWS (SIR's) 2015-2017**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Panel with an overview of the report by the Care Inspectorate on Criminal Justice Serious Incident Reviews 2015-17, published on 30 October 2018.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

The Panel is asked to:

1. Note the contents of this Report.
2. Note that performance in relation to SIR's is overseen by the Senior Manager for Young People and Public Protection.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>I Council Values</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Focusing on our customers' needs</li><li>2. Being honest, open and accountable</li><li>3. Making best use of our resources</li><li>4. Working in partnership</li></ol> |
| <b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b> | In line with council obligations under the Management of Offenders Act 2005.  |
| <b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>   | None.   |
| <b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>  | None.   |
| <b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>  | <p>We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities</p> <p>People most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances</p>  |
| <b>VI Resources - (Financial,</b>   | None.   |

## **Staffing and Property)**

<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	Social Policy, Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel 18 January 2019
<b>VIII Other consultations</b>	None

### **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

The national report on Serious Incident Reviews (SIR's) was published by the Care Inspectorate on 30 October 2018. The Care Inspectorate have responsibility to oversee the work of criminal justice services (CJSW) and all council CJSW are required to notify the Care Inspectorate when a significant incident occurs

Serious incident review guidance states that a serious incident review should always be carried out when:

1. An individual on statutory supervision or licence is charged with, or recalled to custody on suspicion of, an offence that has resulted in the death of, or serious harm to, another person
2. The incident, or accumulation of incidents, gives rise to significant concerns about professional or service involvement or lack of involvement
3. An individual on supervision has died or been seriously injured in circumstances likely to generate significant public concern.

To date only criteria 1 and 3 have been reported on.

Serious incidents are rare but when they happen it is important that services learn from them and undertake reviews of events to ensure service processes robust. In the last report published in 2015, there was a concern nationally that there was a level of under reporting. West Lothian has been one of the best in terms of compliance and this remains the case with West Lothian having the third highest number of notifications (23), lower only than Glasgow (44) and Edinburgh (25). It is likely that all other areas are still under reporting. There were 200 notifications nationally (see appendix 1 page 5).

Commission of sexual offences, serious violence and death during supervision periods are the most common reasons for notification.

The report notes that;

- Appropriate use of risk assessments was present in 80% of cases reviewed, the remainder did not make it clear whether that had happened or not.
- 84% of case reviews had taken place within timescales
- Non-compliance with supervision was appropriately reported in 84% of cases

### **E. CONCLUSION**

The report on SIR's provides a helpful overview in relation to responses by services across Scotland. It also provides assurance that West Lothian is both compliant in terms of submitting reviews timeously, but also in terms of quality of those reviews.

### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 – Criminal Justice Social Work Serious Incident Reviews – An overview of themes arising from notifications submitted between February 2015 and December 2017

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