

MHAP's Volunteers

Alongside our Collective work we supported service user participation in a range of other personal development activities including:

The People's Conference, the Taking Stock Conference, the Voices of Experience Project. Medical Students Training Programme, Research into the emotional impact of Psychosis and the West Lothian Equality Forum.

In addition, MHAP continues to support the hard-working service user volunteer who delivers the two Step Out peer support groups aimed at people who experience depression, anxiety and phobias; as well as our volunteer who visits people in Pentland Court, Templar Rise and Burngrange to provide a social contact for service users in care homes and hospital settings and our service user volunteer who designs, researches, writes and produces our newsletter.

MHAP'S Outcomes

Following an internal evaluation and research into the impact of our service we have identified the following outcomes for those who access MHAP. We are now in the process of developing our recording systems and database to bring this into practice. Our identified outcomes are:

- ◆ Improved access to entitled public services and resources.
- ◆ Service users feel more listened to and understood by services and professionals.
- ◆ Increased understanding about rights and available options.
- ◆ Service users feel more confident and empowered.
- ◆ Service users have better opportunities to participate in decisions which affect them.

Training

The team at MHAP has continued to be proactive in keeping up to date with staff development and have participated in:

- Advocating for Human Rights
- Getting it Right for Every Child
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness
- Adult Protection
- Welfare Rights
- Mental Health Act Training,
- BPD Training
- OCD Training
- Agoraphobia Training
- Mental Health First Aid Training

Sadly, Noirin our chair of many years passed away this year. She will always be held dear to MHAP and will be missed by all of us.

Noirin MacMorran	Chair—MC
Jim Watson	Treasurer—MC
Norma Gray	Secretary—MC
Evelyn Whitefield	MC Member
John Nisbet	MC Member
Ian Keith	Vice Chair—MC
Kenny MacLeod	MC Member
Karen Currie	MC Member
Garry Logue	MC Member
Dr J Hendry	MC Member
Claire Sharkey	MC Member

MHAP thanks all of those who volunteer for us, support us and champion our cause.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Income	£
Core Funding	233320
Donation	20
Interest	32
TOTAL	233372
Expenditure	£
Staff Costs	190193
Property Costs	13450
Volunteer Costs	5468
Admin Costs	11415
Governance Costs	1320
TOTAL	221846

Funded by West Lothian Council and NHS Lothian

Mental Health Advocacy Project (West Lothian) SCIO

Annual Report 2016/2017



*...Services for you,
influenced by you...*

Mental Health Advocacy Project (West Lothian) SCIO

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*Mental Health Advocacy Project (West Lothian) is
a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity No. SC011560*

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

This has been yet another busy year for MHAP, and I can report that demand for our services has continued its upward trend. Our statistics show that we provided advocacy services for a total of 609 people this year compared to 553 people in 15/16, showing an increase of 56 people accessing individual advocacy this year. We ended the year on the 31st March 2017 with 32 people waiting to be allocated an advocacy worker.

We are pleased to report that in individual advocacy we once again succeeded in meeting all areas of priority provision within our stated timescales. However, as with previous years, demand for our advocacy services has again exceeded our staffing capacity: consequently, we regret we have had to continue to operate a waiting list for non priority groups for the duration of the year.

This year we welcomed confirmation of the continuation of NHS Lothian funding to assist with our work in Welfare Reform, as well as for advocacy provision for the residents of HMP Addiewell, both of which will run from March 2017 until March 2020.

Earlier this year MHAP took part in the Scottish Government Consultation into new Welfare powers for Scotland on behalf of West Lothian service users. Subsequently, West Lothian service users nominated MHAP to represent them on the Experience Panels established by the Scottish Government to hear people's direct experiences in order to identify what works well. I am pleased to report that MHAP will continue with this work into next year and hopefully until the devolved Welfare powers are fully operational.

In 2015 MHAP was one of the first independent mental health advocacy services in Scotland to be awarded funding to provide advocacy support for people with addiction issues. A full evaluation report was presented in July 2017. MHAP has maintained solid strategic relations with NHS Addictions Services, the Social Work Addictions Team and other 3rd sector providers to optimise the advocacy support we offer this client group. Our evaluation evidenced that MHAP accessed and liaised with over 60 organisations on behalf of service users in the course of this work.

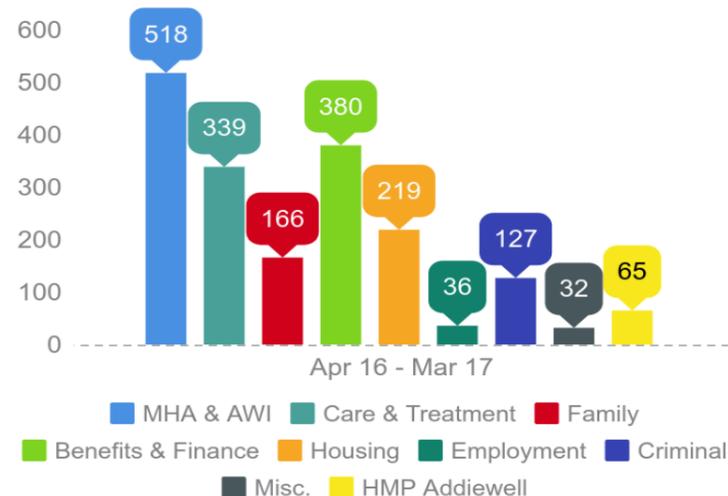
MHAP also participated in a variety of meetings and forums this year to contribute and keep up to date with mental health development in the wider context, including :

- CHP Community Planning Working groups
- Mental Health Day
- Mental Health Service Redesign Meetings
- Advocating for Advocacy Event
- Alcohol and Drug Partnership Meetings
- Lothian Independent Advocacy Providers meetings
- Lothian independent Advocacy Steering Group
- Advocacy Prison Forum
- Advocacy Mental Health Tribunal Forum

In conclusion, the challenges MHAP has experienced this year, such as the increase in the demand for our services, have been significant. However, the MHAP team have continued to respond to these challenges and remain flexible and adaptable, continuing to co-operate and liaise with other services and organisations to achieve the best possible outcomes for those who access our advocacy service.

Ian Keith (Vice Chair)

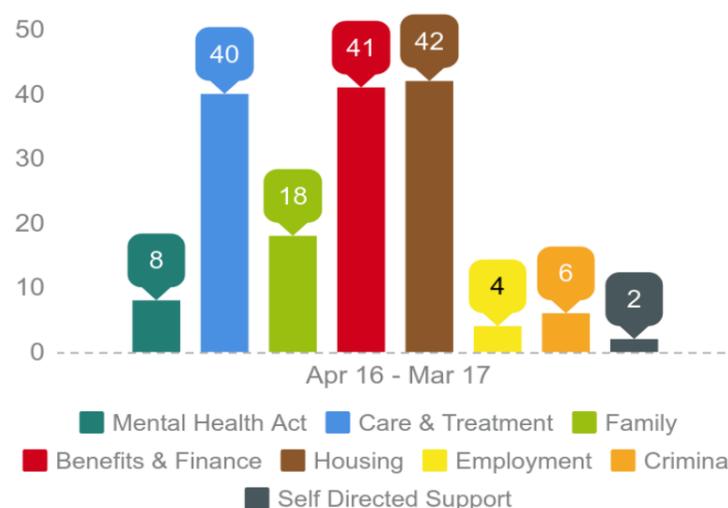
Individual Advocacy Appointments



Individual Advocacy Breakdown	15/16	16/17
Total number of individual appointments	1993	1882
Total number of service users	467	489
Carried forward from previous year	86	120
Total number of individuals new to MHAP	331	330
Total individuals already known to MHAP	136	159
Total number of individuals discharged	433	484

A total of 58 referrals were received for people who experience addiction issues in 16/17. The chart below shows the initial reason for referral number and how other issues emerged as work progressed. MHAP also provided a service for an additional 60 people who have a dual diagnosis of mental health and addiction issues.

Addiction Issues



Collective Advocacy

64 service users participated in our Collective and Volunteer work this year. The following is a brief snapshot of some of the work we supported:

Lynn Law from The Poverty Alliance came regularly to collect service users' experiences and views to include in their Dignity & Respect Report which has been submitted to the Scottish Government to inform the development of new social security powers for Scotland. WLSUF members were awarded a Certificate of Achievement from the Poverty Alliance for their participation in this.

Graham Morgan from the Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) came to WLSUF to listen to the views & experiences of mental health service users about mental health practices in West Lothian. On a subsequent visit he heard service users' experiences and opinions to feed into the current review of The Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.

Through WLSUF, Figure 8 Consultancy (commissioned by West Lothian Council) collected service users' experiences to include in their evaluation of mental health services in West Lothian which will inform the West Lothian Commissioning Plan and Mental Health Service Redesign.

John Maclean, West Lothian Outreach & Day Services Manager, came to talk and listen to service users about local mental health services and their development offering the opportunity for those who use services to participate in the process.

Kathleen Liddell, West Lothian Social Work Adult Team Manager visited WLSUF to directly hear and exchange views with service users on Self Directed Support.

Pentland Court survey of service users experience. We recorded individuals desired outcomes from this rehabilitation unit and forwarded our findings to mental health service managers.

Collective Advocacy Participation

