



Mental Health Advocacy Project (West Lothian) SCIO
Mental Health Resource Centre
Strathbrock Partnership Centre
189a West Main Street
Broxburn
EH52 5LH

Tel: 01506 857230
Email: admin@mh@p.org.uk
Website: mh@pwl.org



Mental Health Advocacy Project (West Lothian) SCIO

Annual Report 2021-22



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

MHAP (West Lothian) SCIO is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Charity no. SC011560

Our mission statement

“To provide mental health service users and service users with addictions the opportunity to take control over their own lives by helping them to exercise choice based on their own needs and wishes and have their views heard.”

Our outcomes

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

Our Aims

- To create a fairer more equal society where people can fully participate.
- To deliver good quality advocacy which is: accountable, available and easily accessible.
- To be a strong voice for some of the most vulnerable and potentially discriminated members of society.

Feedback



Management Committee

Ian Keith	Chair—MC
Jim Watson	Treasurer—MC
Norma Gray	Secretary—MC
Evelyn Whitefield	MC Member
John Nisbet	MC Member
Karen Currie	MC Member
Dr J Hendry	MC Member
Claire Sharkey	MC Member
Hugh Sutherland	MC Member

Staff Team

Karen Campbell	Project Manager
Fiona Angus	Deputy Manager
Hazel Gowrie	Senior Worker
Ross Burton	Advocacy Worker
Cara MacInnes	Advocacy Worker
Iain Pringle	Advocacy Worker
Ashley Hope	Advocacy Worker
Kathleen Mathieson	Advocacy Worker

Contents

page

4.	Chair Report
5.	Chair Report
6.	Individual Advocacy
7.	Statistical Information
8.	Collective Advocacy Volunteering
9.	Annual Accounts
10.	MC Details Staff Details
11.	Feedback

Chair's Report

The year 2021 - 2022 saw many significant and positive developments for MHAP. Covid 19 restrictions remained in place throughout this year, so for the main, staff continued to deliver a full advocacy service whilst working from home. We took this opportunity to start a much-needed redecoration of the MHAP office.

Regardless of the difficulties imposed by the restrictions MHAP still provided an individual advocacy service to 497 people in West Lothian. This was an average of 29 referrals per month and an increase overall of 10% from the previous year. So, once again caseloads remained at capacity throughout the year.

Collective Advocacy, namely our Mental Health Service Users' Forum and The Voice Forum, were unfortunately still unable to resume indoor meetings. However, The Mental health Forum Facebook page along with monthly Zoom meetings remained in place and The Voice members were able to provide feedback to the West Lothian Alcohol and Drug Partnership regarding the implementation of the new Medication Assisted Training Standards. Our collective worker was also able to maintain informal groups on Wards 1 & 17

Our MHAP Volunteers were also still unable to carry out most of their invaluable work due to pandemic measures. The Step Out volunteer facilitator Marilyn continued to support members by phone and our volunteer Claire, continued to produce her newsletters. The project continued to support MHAP volunteers by phone.

This was the final year of our contract for independent mental health advocacy work therefore the tender for this was opened again to include other organisations. This is always a very time-consuming task and puts pressure on all staff and the service itself.

Annual Accounts

INCOME	
Funding*	£289955
Interest	£8
Total	£289963
EXPENDITURE	
Advocacy provision	£239945
Property costs	£15806
Independent examination	£1386
Admin costs	£14250
Total	£271387

If you would like a full copy of our independently examined accounts please contact 01506 857230.

Funding*

Income for this contract is from West Lothian Health & Social Care Budgets, including West Lothian Council and West Lothian Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

Additional funding includes NHS Lothian for the provision of individual advocacy in HMP Addiewell.

Collective

Collective Advocacy, namely our Mental Health Service Users' Forum and The Voice Forum, were unfortunately still unable to resume indoor meetings due to continuing Covid –19 restrictions.

However, The Mental Health Forum Facebook page along with monthly Zoom meetings remained in place and The Voice members were able to provide feedback to the West Lothian Alcohol and Drug Partnership regarding the implementation of the new Medication Assisted Training Standards. Our collective worker was also able to maintain informal collective groups for people on Wards 1 & 17. at St John's Hospital.

Volunteering

Our MHAP Volunteers were also still unable to carry out most of their invaluable work due to pandemic measures. The Step Out volunteer facilitator Marilyn continued to support members by phone and even gained new members. We also took this opportunity to update Step-Out leaflet. Our volunteer Claire, continued to produce her newsletters.

The project continued to support MHAP volunteers by phone.

Therefore we would like to thank all staff for each playing their part in successfully securing the contract which starts on 1st April 22 and ends in March 26, with a possibility for extension.

In addition MHAP was awarded further funding from West Lothian Alcohol and Drug Partnership to deliver individual advocacy on behalf of people with addiction issues and an additional 4 year funding to establish a Lived Experience Panel.

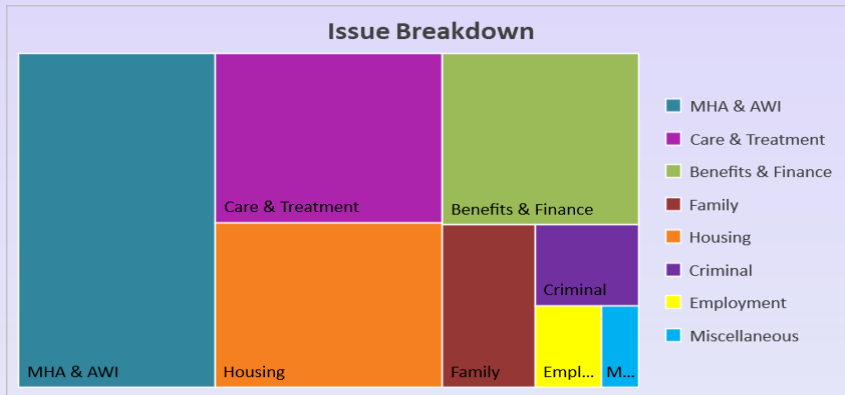
The Management Committee meetings continued via Zoom as did the 2020-21 AGM. Regretfully Emma Boothroyd left the Management Committee in May 21 due to other commitments and we thanked her and wished her all the best. Then on a very sad note one of our long serving Management Committee members, Kenny MacLeod passed away in September 2021. He will be missed and remembered by everyone at MHAP.

We were also sad to see Kathy Hamilton retire in March 22 after 17 years as Project Manager. The service users, volunteers, staff and Management Committee would like to express their gratitude to her and wish her all the best. Karen Campbell who had been MHAP Deputy Manager secured this post after interview. As a consequence of this, 2 further posts became available. The post of Deputy Manager was secured by Fiona Angus and the post of Senior Worker was secured by Hazel Gowrie. We congratulate them and welcome them into their new roles.

To conclude, the above is a mere snapshot of the MHAP work this year: There were many important and positive developments and staff continued to work under pressure from high service demand and the ongoing restrictions posed by Covid 19. The Management Committee therefore continue to be grateful and extend thanks to all staff members.

Individual Advocacy

We continued to operate a full caseload and worked with 497 people over 21-22. The range of issues were:



MHA, AWI, ASP

- We supported individuals at 73 Tribunals under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland 2003) Act.
- Detention matters and Compulsory Treatment Orders continued to be the largest volume of work for MHAP at 35% , an increase of 3% from 20-21.

Care & Treatment

- 19% of people referred to us had issues relating to Care & Treatment.
- Main issues are treatment matters and complaints.

Housing

- Homelessness continues to be the largest concern accounting for nearly 62%
- The number of issues relating to tenancy support continues to rise in line with care charges being implemented. This has increased by 50% from 20-21.

Benefits & Finance

- The majority of work in this area was in relation to ESA & PIP following the re-instatement of reviews etc. as Covid-19 restrictions reduced.
- Issues relating to debt increased by 43% from the previous year.

Family Work

- Work relating to family matters also saw an increase of 35% from 20-21 as Covid-19 restrictions reduced and more appointments were able to take place.
- Work in this area continues to be very complex and often very lengthy

Criminal, Employment & Miscellaneous

- These referrals account for overall 7% of our individual work.

HMP Addiewell

- The main areas of work with residents remain similar to 20-21; including complaints regarding care, treatment and medication.

Addictions

- Our statistics include the provision of individual advocacy for 66 people who experience problems with drugs and/or alcohol.

Demand for individual advocacy remains high so we continue to operate a waiting list for non - priority work.

MHAP did not refuse any referrals

One in three
Service users referred had previously worked with MHAP

13%
of service users referred were facing multiple issues

33%
Increase in Appointments
497
Service users supported by MHAP

Average
29 referrals each month

One in three
People were subject to the Mental Health Act