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REPORT
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DATE: February 25, 2016

SUBJECT: **ELDER ABUSE AND VULNERABLE ADULT PERSONS ANNUAL REPORT**

FROM: Brian Adams, Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Persons Annual Report be received by the Peel Regional Police Services Board.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2015 one hundred and seventeen (117) incidents of Elder Abuse were reported to Peel Regional Police.
- The Peel Police Elder Abuse Coordinator delivered twenty-nine (29) presentations to over one thousand (1,000) persons including police officers, police communicators and community groups.
- The coordinator provided two hundred and seventy-three (273) consultations and one hundred and fifty-three (153) referrals to Social Services, Public Guardian and Trustee and Criminal Investigations.
- Seventy-three (73) new persons were registered to Project Lifesaver
- Thirty (30) new officers were certified as Project Lifesaver Electronic Search Operators

DISCUSSION

1. INTRODUCTION:

This report provides information on the mandate of the Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator and the number of investigations entered into relating to Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Abuse in adherence to Ontario Policing Standards LE-021. Peel Regional Police Directive 1-B-701 (F) provides instructions for action to be taken by all members when incidents of abuse and/or neglect of elderly or vulnerable adults are encountered.

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For the purpose of this report, the following definitions apply:

- a) "elderly person" – means an older adult who is sixty (60) years of age or older;
- b) "vulnerable adult" – means a person who depends upon others to meet their everyday needs due to mental illness and/or developmental disabilities, or requires long term or indefinite care due to their age or medical condition;
- c) "elder abuse/vulnerable adult abuse" – means any act or behavior that harms or threatens to harm the health or well-being of an elderly or vulnerable adult. The abuse is caused by someone in a position of trust or authority that the elderly/vulnerable adult relies upon for their basic needs. Forms of abuse include, but are not limited to physical, sexual, financial, psychological abuse and neglect, whether active or passive.

Persons over 60 years of age:

The census statistics for the City of Brampton and City of Mississauga are as follows:

Census 2006		Census 2011	
Total population	1,198,854	Total population	1,237,354
Persons 60 +	165,325	Persons 60 +	291,430
			(Increased by 24%)

Source: Region of Peel Planning Department

The Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network recently reported that the number of seniors in the Region of Peel is increasing at three times the rate of the rest of Ontario and Canada.

Role of Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Coordinator:

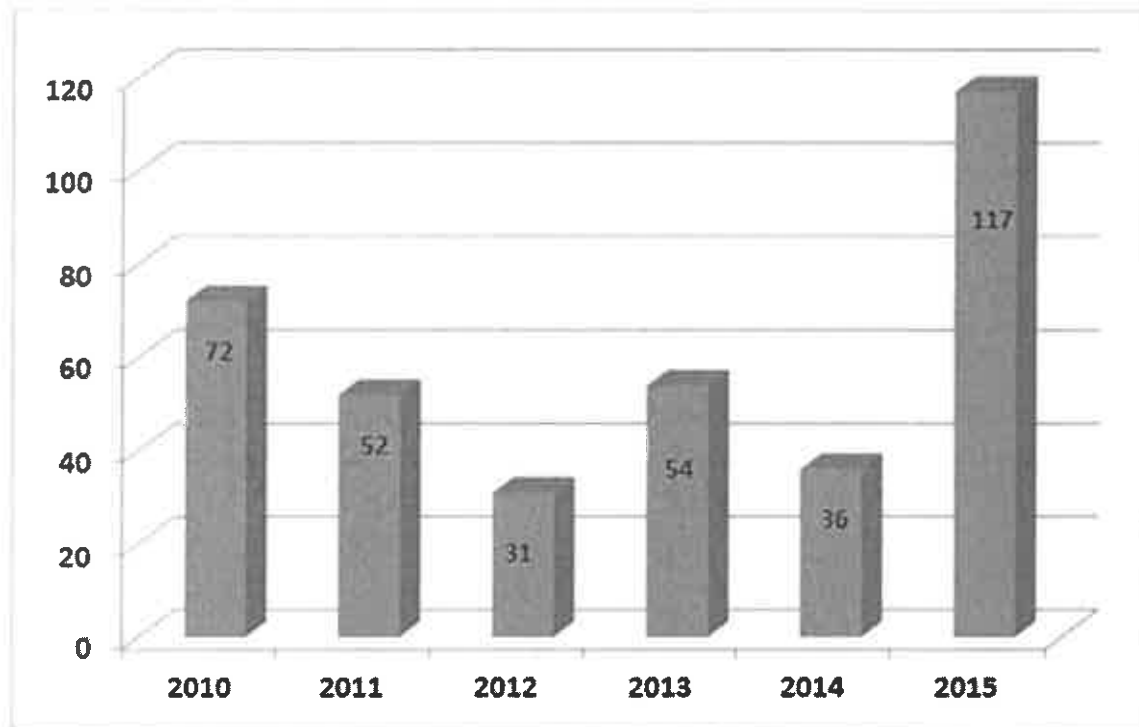
- Act as a consultant and/or resource to members of this service and the community.
- Provide assistance and guidance to officers, victims, complainants, and families of victims, as appropriate.
- Establish and maintain a liaison with other police agencies, family and criminal justice agencies, community and social agencies, the Coroner's office, and organizations dealing with issues relating to elderly and vulnerable adults.
- Liaise directly with Victim Services of Peel and provide such assistance as may be required.
- Coordinate training programs, conduct lectures, and disseminate information to the members of this service in relation to elder abuse. Such training shall include, but is not limited to, the role of this service in meeting the needs of victims/witnesses of incidents of elder/vulnerable adult abuse.
- Liaise directly with the "Seniors Fraud Officer", Fraud Bureau regarding frauds and scams perpetrated upon elderly and/or vulnerable adults within the community.
- Liaise with members of the various specialized bureau/units regarding any type of serial crime against elderly/vulnerable adults in the community and ensure appropriate dissemination of information to the public.
- Maintain the Project Lifesaver Program for Peel Police and as such, liaise with the Region of Peel Coordinator. This includes updating the website and coordinating training days to certify electronic operators.
- Maintain the Vulnerable Person's Registry

2. BACKGROUND:

Between January 01, 2015 and December 31, 2015 there was a significant increase in the number of elder abuse cases reported to police.

This increase is due in part to the rapidly aging population of Peel. It is also a reflection of the increased education that civilians and officers of this service have received in regards to the proper coding of occurrences and classifications of incidents involving Elder Abuse.

In 2015 there were one hundred and seventeen (117) incidents reported to police.



Of the one hundred and seventeen (117) incidents reported in 2015, fourteen (14) cases were cleared by charge. Sixty-four (64) were solved but deemed non-criminal. Five (5) were unsolved, eleven (11) were unfounded and twenty (20) cases are still open investigations.

3. PRESENTATIONS:

In 2015, the Elder Abuse Coordinator delivered twenty-nine (29) presentations. Approximately one thousand residents along with two hundred and fifty (250) Peel Police officers were provided information. Presentations delivered to community groups included audiences comprised of community agency workers, long term care service providers, residents, private caregivers, elders living in their own home, post-secondary students, volunteers and neighborhood associations.

Internally, updated training was focused on Communications and Occurrence Review staff along with the Advance Patrol course and the orientation sessions for newly promoted Sergeants, Staff Sergeants and Inspectors.

4. ELDER ABUSE COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT:

The Elder Abuse Coordinator sits on eleven (11) committees in the community that impact elder and vulnerable person's issues:

- Law Enforcement Agencies Protecting Seniors (L.E.A.P.S.) – Member
- Peel Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee – Member
- Joint Management Committee – Member
- Mental Health and Justice Management Committee – Member
- Peel Vulnerable Adults working group - Member
- Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network (P.E.A.P.N.)
- Project Lifesaver – Committee member and police liaison (tracking device that assists in the location of vulnerable persons suffering from Dementia, Alzheimer's, Autism, brain injury and developmentally delayed)
- Project Lifesaver Regional Steering Committee – Member
- Adult Injury Prevention Network (A.I.P.N.) – Member (comprised of representatives from local community agencies with an interest in protecting seniors and vulnerable persons. Agencies include: Region of Peel Health, Distress Centre Peel, Spectra Care Services; and Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga Fire Departments)
- Brampton Senior Council
- Community Transitions Work Group – Halton/ Peel LHIN

5. EDUCATIONAL/MARKETING EVENTS:

The Coordinator attends, in a supporting role, a number of educational/marketing events hosted by the various community agencies. Examples of this include:

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| • CASSIS – Celebrating Seniors Coalition of Agencies and Seniors Serving Immigrant Seniors – SCAMS Workshop | March, 2015 |
| • PEAPN Money Smarts Expo | March, 2015 |
| • ALZHEIMER'S Finding Your Way | April, 2015 |
| • PEAPN "Train the Trainer" | May, 2015 |
| • ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY Last Steps | May, 2015 |
| • Flower City Seniors Radio Show | June, 2015 |
| • CASSIS Seniors Expo | June, 2015 |
| • Making Our Seniors Matter Radio Segment | June, 2015 |
| • Ontario Seniors Secretariat Strategy | July, 2015 |
| • Region of Peel Co-Laboratory Workshop | August, 2015 |
| • Advance Communication Practices | September, 2015 |
| • Golden Years Expo | September, 2015 |
| • Community Crime Awareness Day | September, 2015 |
| • Elder Abuse Ontario Symposium | November, 2015 |
| • Essential Conversations Symposium | December, 2015 |

6. PROJECT LIFESAVER:

In May 2010, Project Lifesaver commenced in the City of Brampton, and expanded into Mississauga in September 2010. Project Lifesaver utilizes radio technology to locate children and adults with a history of wandering due to a cognitive disability or impairment. In 2015, seventy-nine (79) persons were referred to Project Lifesaver from the Elder Abuse Coordinator, of which sixty (60) members of the public were newly registered within the Region of Peel in addition to four (4) participants in the Caledon Area. In 2015, Peel Police conducted thirteen (13) searches. In total, Police have performed eighty-three (83) searches for registrants since the program commenced.

Currently one hundred and eighty nine (189) officers have been certified as Electronic Search Operators.

In October 2015, five (5) Peel Police Officers attended the Ontario Provincial Police General Headquarters in Orillia and participated in a two day advanced Project Lifesaver Search Course. This comprehensive educational opportunity included aerial training with the use of the OPP helicopter. These newly trained lead instructors will be utilized to advance the Project Lifesaver Training in 2016.

CONCLUSION:

As the percentage of seniors in the Region of Peel continues to well exceed the Provincial average the Elder Abuse Coordinator will, in collaboration with other community partners in the Region, endeavor to provide resources and education to address the complex issue of Elder Abuse.

Approved for Submission:



Brian Adams, Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

For further information regarding this report, please contact Acting Inspector Grozier at extension 3450 or via e-mail at douglas.grozier@peelpolice.ca

Authored By: Constable Yvette Logan #1261 - Elder Abuse Coordinator - Family Violence Unit