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REPORT  
Police Services Board  
For Information

File Class: 1-02-02-03

Cross-Reference File Class: 3-03-08-06

DATE: February 6, 2018

SUBJECT: **ELDER ABUSE AND VULNERABLE ADULT - 2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

FROM: Manuel Rodrigues, Acting Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the 2017 Elder Abuse report be received as an information item by the Police Services Board as part of the annual reporting requirements.**

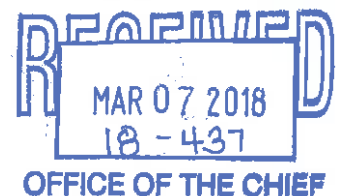
#### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2017, 324 incidents of Elder Abuse were reported to Peel Regional Police (115% increase from 2016).
- The Peel Regional Police (PRP) Elder Abuse Coordinator (the Coordinator) delivered 22 presentations to 550 persons including police officers, police communicators and community groups (29% decrease from 2016).
- The Coordinator provided 594 consultations (17% increase from 2016) and 372 referrals to Social Services, Public Guardian and Trustee, and Criminal Investigations (18% increase from 2016).
- The Coordinator reviewed 1475 police occurrences for potential Elder Abuse (97% increase from 2016).

### DISCUSSION

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides information on the mandate of the Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Coordinator (the Coordinator) and the number of investigations Peel Regional Police undertook relating to Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Abuse in adherence to Ontario Policing Standards LE-021. Peel Regional Police Directive 1-B-701 (F) additionally provides



instructions and guidelines for all members including the definition of Elder Abuse/Vulnerable Adult Abuse.

Elder abuse/vulnerable adult abuse refers to any act or behaviour 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 and psychological abuse and neglect, whether active or passive.

### Persons Over the Age of 60

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

Total population	1,315,240
Persons 60 +	239,915

Source: Statistics Canada; 2016 Census of Population.

Elder Abuse Ontario reported that the number of seniors in the Region of Peel is increasing at three (3) times the rate of the rest of Ontario and Canada.

*Note: Elder Abuse Ontario is a provincial, charitable, non-profit organization focused on supporting the implementation of The Ontario Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse, since 2002.*

### Role of Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Coordinator

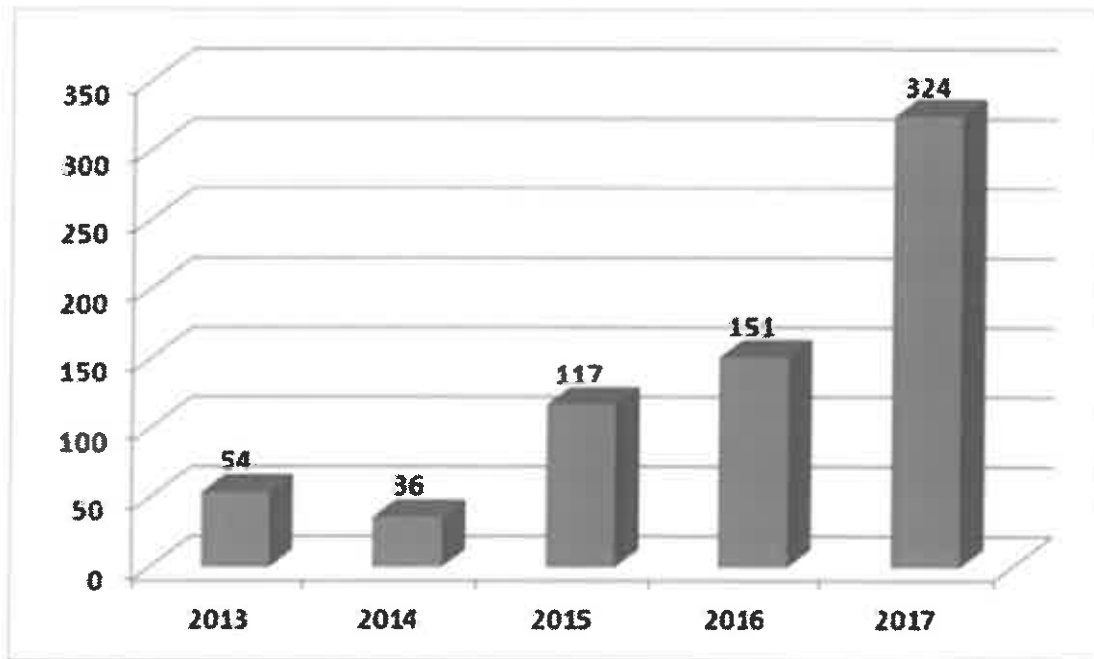
- Act as a consultant and/or resource to members of this Service and the community.
- Provide assistance and guidance to officers, victims, complainants and families of victims as appropriate.
- Establish and maintain a liaison with internal police bureaus including Frauds and Criminal Investigations Bureaus. Liaise with external police agencies, family and criminal justice agencies, local hospitals, community and social agencies, the Coroner's office, Victim Services and all organizations within Peel Region.
- Coordinate training programs, conduct lectures, and disseminate information to the members of this service and the public in relation to Elder Abuse.
- Review all police occurrences involving Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse.
- Maintaining the Project Lifesaver Program and the Vulnerable Person's Registry for Peel Regional Police (PRP) has been a duty of the Elder Abuse Coordinator; however in late 2016 the Region of Peel initiated a comprehensive review of the Project Lifesaver Program which prompted a decision to re-assign both the Project Lifesaver Program and the Vulnerable Person's Registry to Emergency Support Services.

## **2. FINDINGS**

Between January 01, 2017 and December 31, 2017 there was a significant increase in the number of Elder Abuse cases reported to police.

This increase may be due in part to the rapidly aging population of our community coupled with education and information. Police, civilians and community organizations are raising awareness and encouraging reporting of Elder Abuse.

In 2017, the coordinator reviewed 1475 police occurrences reported involving any person sixty years of age or older to exercise due diligence. As a result, 324 incidents were further investigated for Elder Abuse.



Of the 324 incidents reported in 2017, 50 cases were cleared by charge, 221 were solved, but deemed non-criminal, seven (7) were unsolved, 21 were unfounded and 25 cases are on-going.

### **Presentations**

In 2017, the Elder Abuse Coordinator provided 22 speaking engagements internally to Divisional personnel and communications staff. Externally, presentations were delivered to community members comprised of Emergency Medical Services, community agency workers, long term care service providers, residents, caregivers, elders living in their own home, volunteers and neighbourhood associations.

Citizens, external agencies and police officers from PRP were educated as to the issues surrounding elder abuse and vulnerable person's abuse. This training included, the newly promoted sergeants, staff sergeants, recruit officers, along with Communications Bureau personnel and Records Bureau staff.

## Elder Abuse Committee Involvement

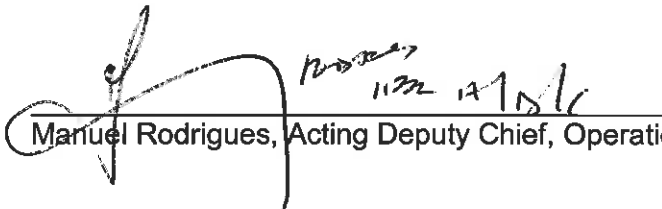
The Elder Abuse Coordinator sits on eight (8) committees in the Region of Peel that impact Elder and Vulnerable Person's issues. Our role on these committees is to provide interpretation, direction and guidance from a police perspective on issues tabled. It is also an opportunity to engage stakeholders and partners. The Elder Abuse Coordinator is not the lead or Chair of any of these committees.

- Law Enforcement Agencies Protecting Seniors (L.E.A.P.S.)
- L.E.A.P.S. Management Team
- Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network (P.E.A.P.N.)
- P.E.A.P.N. Management Team
- Adult Injury Prevention Network (A.I.P.N.)
- Brampton Senior Counsel (B.S.O)
- Making Our Seniors Matter (M.O.S.M.)
- Peel Hoarding Coalition

## CONCLUSION

As the percentage of reported Elder Abuse continues to rise in the Region of Peel, the Elder Abuse Coordinator and Peel Regional Police will, in collaboration with community partners, continue to provide resources and education to address this complex issue. This supports the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan to strengthen community engagement (1.2) and provide assistance to victims of crime (1.4).

### Approved for Submission:

  
 Manuel Rodrigues, Acting Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

*For further information regarding this report, please contact A/Inspector Raff D'Angela at extension 3617 or via e-mail at 1832@peelpolice.ca*

Authored By: *Constable Angela Kennedy #1793 - Elder Abuse Coordinator*