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REPORT
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DATE: February 9, 2015

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

FROM: Brian Adams, Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the 2014 Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse report be received as information by the Police Services Board as part of the annual reporting requirements.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2014 thirty-six (36) incidents of Elder Abuse were reported to Peel Regional Police.
- The Regional Elder Abuse Coordinator provided thirty-five (35) speaking engagements. The audiences were front line sworn members, police communicators, and community groups.
- Approximately one thousand and forty-three (1,043) residents and two hundred and eighty-two (282) Peel Regional Police officers were educated on the issues involving Elder/Vulnerable Adult abuse.

DISCUSSION

1. Introduction

This report provides information on the mandate of the Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Coordinator and the number of investigations entered into relating to elder abuse and vulnerable adult abuse in adherence with Ontario Policing Standards LE-021.

Peel Regional Police Directive I-B-701(F) provides instructions for the action to be taken by all members when incidents of abuse and neglect of elderly and/or vulnerable adults are encountered.

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.

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- (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 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 60 YEARS OF AGE

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

<u>Census 2006</u>		<u>Census 2011</u>	
Total population	1,198,854	Total population	1,237,354
Persons 60 +	165,325	Persons 60 +	291,430 (24%)

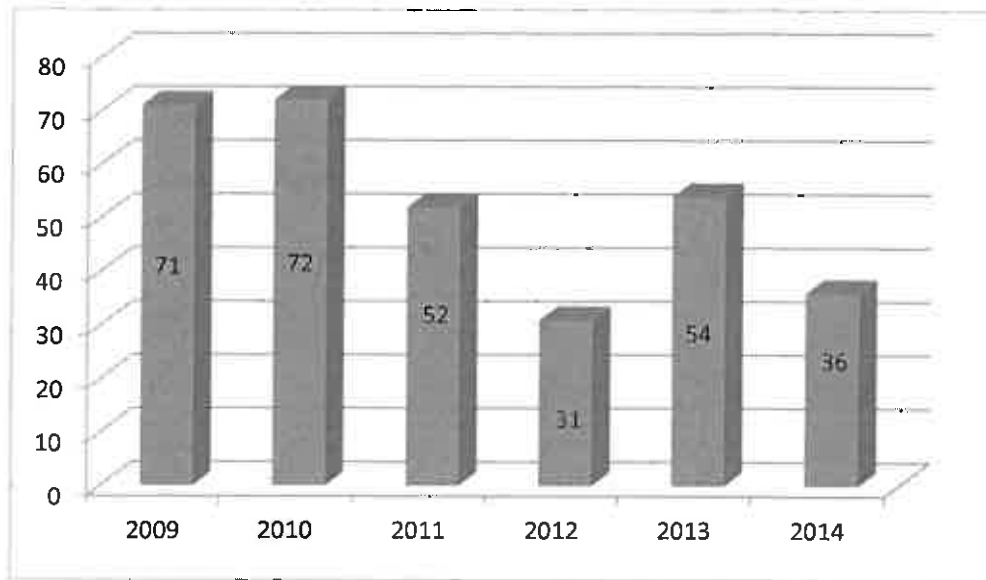
Source: Region of Peel Planning Department

Role of Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Coordinator:

- Act as a 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; and,
- 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.

2. Background

Between January 1st, 2007 and December 31st, 2010 there was an increase in the number of reported elder abuse incidents, from fifty-four (54) to seventy-two (72).



New legislation came into effect January 2011. Ontario Regulation 299/10 under The Services and Support to Promote The Social Inclusion of Persons With Developmental Disabilities Act brought mandatory reporting for "A service agency who suspects or witnesses incidents of abuse of a person with a developmental disability" (part 11, sec.8).

In 2011, fifty-two (52) incidents were reported to police.

In 2012, thirty-one (31) incidents were reported to police.

In 2013, fifty-four (54) incidents were reported to police.

In 2014, thirty-six (36) incidents were reported to police. Of these incidents seventeen (17) were assault, five (5) were financial, three (3) were physical, five (5) were fraud related, one (1) was forcible confinement, one (1) was robbery, one (1) was sexual assault, one (1) was theft over \$5,000, one (1) was psychological, and one (1) was neglect. These investigations resulted in eight (8) being deemed unfounded, two (2) were found to be non-criminal, one (1) incident was cleared by caution, and eight (8) incidents are currently still under investigation. Sixteen (16) incidents resulted in criminal charges being laid, with a total of thirty-three (33) counts.

The variation in the number of reported occurrences, year over year, are within a normal range.

3. Presentations

In 2014, The Elder Abuse and Mental Health Coordinator provided thirty-five (35) speaking engagements internally to front line and communications staff and externally to the community. Presentations delivered to community members comprised of community agency workers, long term care service providers and residents, private care givers, elders living in their own homes, post-secondary students, volunteers and neighbourhood associations. Approximately one thousand and forty-three (1,043) residents and approximately two hundred and eighty-two (282) officers from Peel Police were educated as to the issues surrounding vulnerable adult abuse, including Project Lifesaver training to the Sergeants and newly promoted Inspectors.

On December 3rd, 2012, Peel Regional Police, in partnership with the Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network (PEAPN), launched the "Scams Wow" DVD that reflects the common scams and frauds that target seniors in our community. The DVD was created to educate seniors and community members alike. The follow-up "Scams Wow II" DVD was launched in October 2013.

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

To ensure effective and efficient coordination of resources, the Elder Abuse Coordinator sits on the following committees that also have member representation from the Region of Peel:

- Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network (P.E.A.P.N.) – Co-Chair
- Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network (P.E.A.P.N.) – Senior Crisis Team (sub-committee)
- Project Lifesaver – Committee member and police liaison (location tracking device that assists in the location of vulnerable persons suffering from Dementia and Alzheimer's, Autism, brain injury and being 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, Spectrum Care Services, Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga Fire Departments)
- Brampton Senior Council – Member

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 would include:

- Peel Crime Stoppers launch on Elder Abuse – January 2014
- PEAPN Money Smart Expo – March 2014
- Diversity Unit Community Inclusion Meeting – March 2014
- Applewood Probus Club – April 2014 (participated with Chief Evans)
- Probus Club of Brampton – May 2014 (participated with Chief Evans)
- Southbrook Retirement Community 25th Anniversary – June 2014
- Newcomer Centre of Peel Seniors Seminar – July 2014
- Newcomer Centre of Peel Day of Caring: Get Connected, Get Involved Symposium – November 2014
- AIPN event – November 2014

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 2014 eighty-two (82) members of the public were registered with Project Lifesaver within the Peel Regional Policing area in addition to four (4) participants in the Caledon Area. Since training commenced in October 2009, training has been provided to one hundred and eighty (180) Peel Regional Police front line officers, and twenty-nine (29) OPP officers, qualifying them as Electronic Search Specialists. There are now twenty-three (23) Peel Regional Police officers trained as Electronic Search Instructors. Peel Police have had seventy (70) searches for registrants since the program commenced.

In 2014, 55 new registrants entered the program, and a total of nine (9) Project Lifesaver searches were conducted.

7. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in regard to this report.

CONCLUSION

As the population of the Region of Peel continues to age, the Elder Abuse Coordinator will, in collaboration with other service providers in the Region, endeavor to educate the public and the members of the Police Service on the complex issue of Elder and Vulnerable Persons Abuse.

Approved for Submission:



Brian Adams, Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

For further information regarding this report, please contact Superintendent Robert Strain at extension 3300 or via e-mail at robert.strain@peelpolice.ca

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