

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Audit and Governance Committee
Date:	23.04.2019
Subject:	Corporate Health and Safety Annual Report
Head of Service:	Dylan J Williams Head of Service Regulation and Economic Development
Report Author:	Stephen Nicol Corporate Health and Safety Advisor
Nature and Reason for Reporting: ACTIONS PROPOSED during meeting 12.02.2019: The Corporate Health and Safety Officer be asked to clarify the following – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether there are any specific reasons for the increase in the number of physical assaults and whether the upturn reflects an emerging trend. • The differentiation between the two categories of “Physical Assault by Person” in the Types of Incident Table at Page 6 of the report. 	

1. Introduction

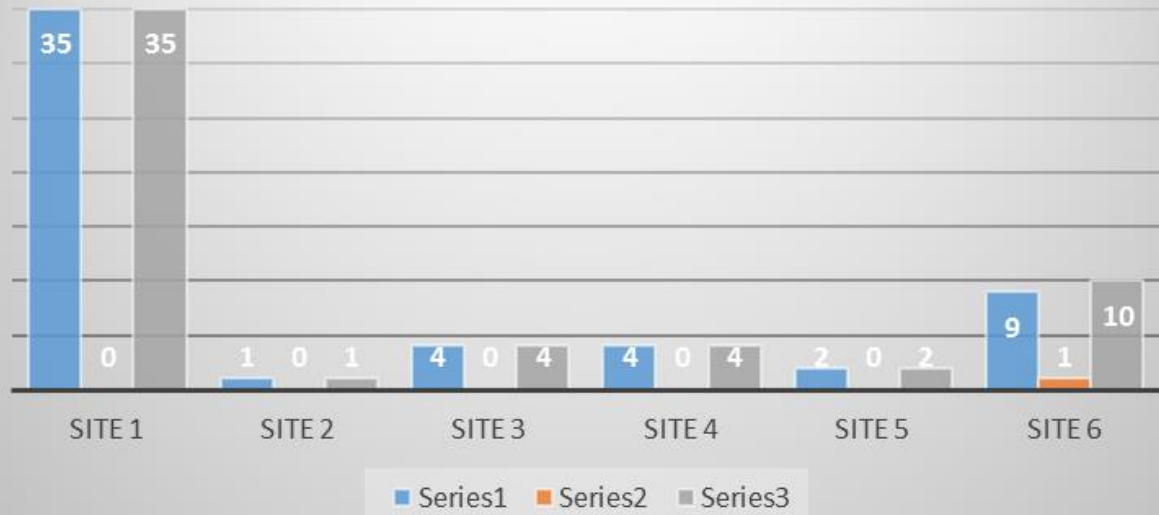
The Annual Corporate Health and Safety Report was provided to the Audit and Governance Committee on 12.0.2.2019. The Committee noted that although the total number of incidents has reduced from the previous year, the number of physical assaults (client and pupil related incidents) has almost doubled in the same time from 56 in 2016/17 to 103 in 2017/18. The Committee noted also that incidents under a separate category for physical assaults by a person were recorded although no satisfactory differentiation was made between the two categories. The Committee sought an explanation for the rise in physical assaults and how this trend might be countered.

2. Background

Whether there are any specific reasons for the increase in the number of physical assaults and whether the upturn reflects an emerging trend.

During review of the incidents between 2016/2017 and 2017/18. It was found that incidents were reported from an additional eleven sites across the Services. This may be due to increased awareness across all Services for the need to report these incidents. Only six sites had reported incidents in 2016/17. In 2017/18 two sites which had reported incidents in 2016/17 did not report incidents.

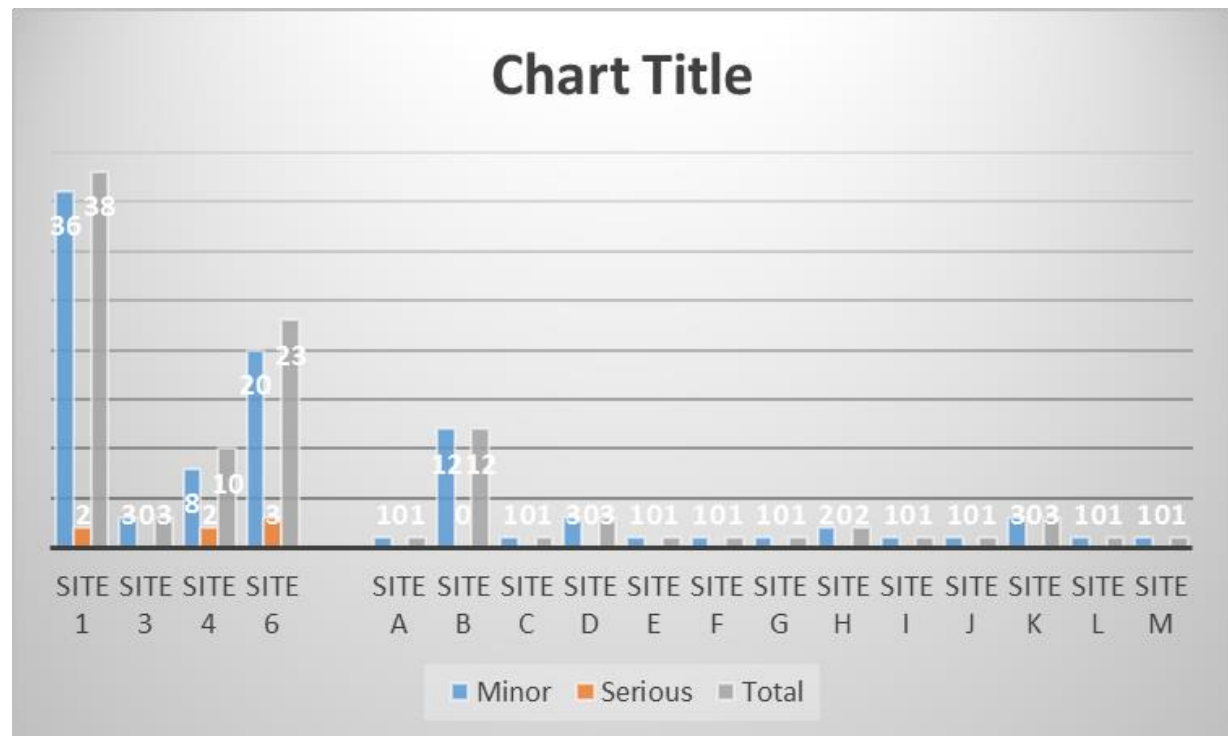
2016/17



Sites 2 and 5 did not report incidents in 2017/18

Location	Minor	Serious	Total
Site 1	35	0	35
Site 2	1	0	1
Site 3	4	0	4
Site 4	4	0	4
Site 5	2	0	2
Site 6	9	1	10

Below is a representation of incidents report per site in 2017/18. Site which had reported in 2016/17 have a numerical label. Sites which reported no incidents in 2016/17 but reported incidents in 2017/18 have an alphabetical label. This is to help identify which site reported incidents two years in a row.

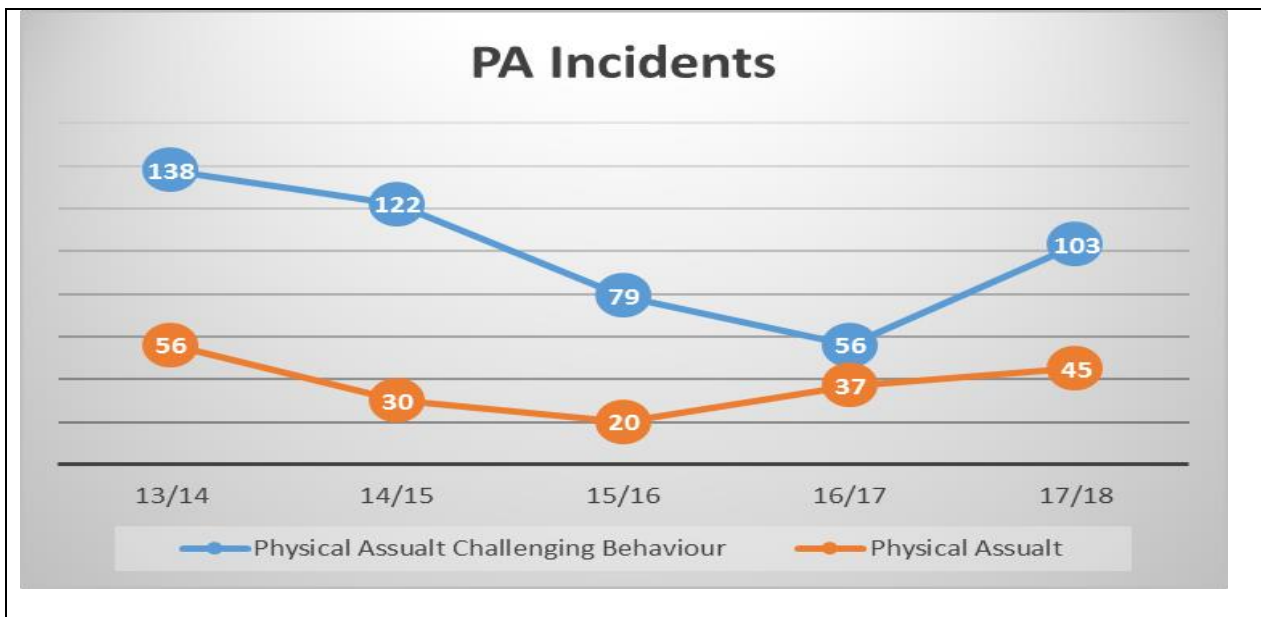


Location	Minor	Serious	Total
Site 1	36	2	38
Site 3	3	0	3
Site 4	8	2	10
Site 6	20	3	23
Site A	1	0	1
Site B	12	0	12
Site C	1	0	1
Site D	3	0	3
Site E	1	0	1
Site F	1	0	1
Site G	1	0	1
Site H	2	0	2
Site I	1	0	1
Site J	1	0	1
Site K	3	0	3
Site L	1	0	1
Site M	1	0	1

Site 1 reported an increase of 3 incident in 2017/18 over 2016/17. This is minimal and not considered significant.

Site 6 reported 23 incidents in 2017/18 compared with 10 incidents the previous year. This is an increase of 13 incidents. Review of these incidents indicated most related to two clients with specific issues.

The additional sites reporting in 2017/18 accounted for 29 incidents. This may be due to increased awareness.



Above is a graph displaying Physical Assault incident figures over the past 5 years. It appears there has been a decline from 2013 to 2017. This trend appears to have reversed between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The incidents of Physical Assault Challenging Behaviour has always been higher than just Physical Assault. As stated these incident include incidents where there is possibly no intention to harm. Therefore increased awareness may be the reason for an increase in the figures recorded.

The Physical Assault figures dipped to a low of 20 in 2015/16 but have risen since. These figures should be monitored more closely as there may be the intention to cause harm.

The differentiation between the two categories of “Physical Assault by Person” in the Types of Incident Table at Page 6 of the report.

The accident reporting system has two categories for Physical Assaults. These are Physical Assault and Physical Assault Challenging Behaviour. Physical Assault categories include incident where one person has been struck by another.

The figures of 103 (2017/18) and 56 (2016/17) related to Physical Assault Challenging Behaviour incident. These are incidents where mental capacity could be questioned and the intention may not have been for physical assault.

The category Physical Assault includes incident where the mental capacity has not been questioned. These figures were 45 (2017/18) and 37 (2016/17). In 2017/18 nine incidents all recorded as minor were against staff.

3. Recommendation

Monitor the figures for 2018/19 and compare with the above. If there is a continued increase in the figures further investigation would be required with a view to reducing future incidents.