

# Glasgow City Public Protection Newsletter



Welcome to the  
Autumn 2024  
Edition.

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Message

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UNCRC

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## Welcome

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. It feels futile for me to continue talking about unprecedented crises and challenging times. We have now reached a point where the crisis driven increase in demand for health and social care and financial constraints on services have become the "new normal".

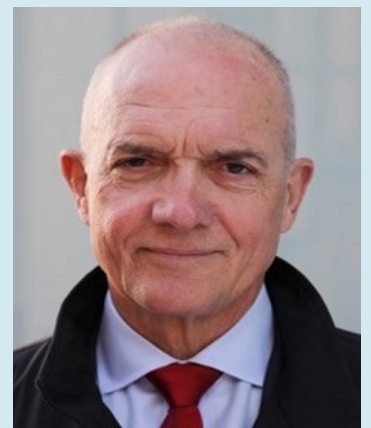
Indeed social scientists are adjusting health and social care outcomes against the new normal.

However this isn't an academic exercise and we really do need be mindful of the stress this new reality is placing on children, families and vulnerable people. We must also be aware of the unrelenting pressures on our staff and carers.

In this edition you'll find articles about the Incorporation of UNCRC, the launch of the ASpire Hub, young people's mental health supports. You will also find information about Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's Home Fire Safety Visits, Scottish Sport Futures and the Young Scot Promise Package.

As always, take care and stay safe.

**Colin Anderson, Chair of Glasgow City Adult and Child Protection Committees**



Colin Anderson

Chair of Glasgow City Adult and  
Child Protection Committees

# Incorporation of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)



On 16th July 2024, the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(Incorporation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#) came into effect. The incorporation of the UNCRC means it has been written into domestic law in Scotland, putting children's rights at the heart of everything we do. The UNCRC is the most comprehensive statement of children's rights ever produced and is the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history.

The UNCRC sets out children's rights relating to health and education, leisure and play, fair and equal treatment, protection from exploitation and the right to be heard.

The act will require all Scotland's public authorities, including the government, to seek to protect children and young people's rights, to consider them when making policy decisions and make it unlawful for them to contravene UNCRC requirements. The new law ensures that if they do not uphold those duties, it's easier for this to be challenged in the Scottish courts. The act will allow the Children's Commissioner's office to intervene in legal matters and to bring cases forward when children and young people's rights are not being respected. It will also allow children and young people to use the courts to enforce their rights.

The Scottish Government has published [Guidance on Taking a Children's Human Rights Approach](#) to provide information and resources to support public authorities and other organisations to implement a children's human rights approach.

The Children & Young People's Commissioner for Scotland has also published information about the UNCRC for children and young people on their [website](#).

You can also find out more on the [Improvement Service](#) website.



In August, IRISS launched the ASPIre Hub - a place for everyone working in Adult Support and Protection in Scotland to access and share resources. The Hub contains a wide range of useful resources covering the diverse issues and topics relating to Adult

Support and Protection in Scotland to access and share resources. The Hub contains a wide range of useful resources covering the diverse issues and topics relating to Adult Support and Protection practice.

The ASPIre Hub brings together practice-based resources developed by Iriss, the National Adult Support and Protection Coordinator (NASPC), ASP Partnerships and other ASP-stakeholder organisations, with a view to strengthening and disseminating work undertaken by national groups and networks.

If you have any resources these can also be submitted to the ASPIre Hub for sharing.

For further information and to access the Hub, visit the [ASPIre Hub](#) website.

## Young People's Mental Health Supports



Nationally, there is growing concern about the mental health of children and young people. The [2022 Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children \(HBSC\) study](#) found that over a third of children and young people were classified as experiencing low mood or at risk of depression. Around a third reported experiencing anxiety, with girls experiencing higher levels of anxiety than boys between the ages of 13 and 15. Findings indicated that poor mental health is correlated to lower family affluence, with the exception of anxiety which was not related to wealth.

Prevention and early intervention approaches to children and young people's mental health are likely to improve their quality of life, protect their safety and wellbeing and may reduce the need for support from adult mental health services in later life. A fundamental part of this is ensuring that children and young people have access to appropriate support services when they need them. There are a number of support services available to help support children and young people in Glasgow with their mental and emotional wellbeing depending on their needs:

**[Kooth](#)** – an evidence based, clinically moderated, 24/7 online peer to peer mental health community for young people aged 10 to 15 years with a Glasgow postcode. Young people can talk to qualified counsellors through the text-based service. They can also use the moderated support forums, access an online magazine and self-help tools. Kooth supports young people with any issues impacting their mental or emotional wellbeing. Young people can sign up online for a free account.

**[Togetherall](#)** - an evidence based, clinically moderated, 24/7 online peer to peer mental health community for young people aged 16 to 23 years with a Glasgow postcode. Togetherall can be used for anyone experiencing concerns with their mental health, low level anxiety and depression, common life stressors or anyone who would like to gain 24/7 community and professional support online to help enhance their own wellbeing. Young people can sign up online for an account.

**Young People's Compassionate Distress Response Service (CDRS)** - an alternative, non-medical response for young people aged 16 to 25 (26 if care experienced) experiencing acute emotional distress. Referrals must be made by professionals: GP practices, CAMHS, Youth Health Service, social work and education. Young people will receive a phone call from a Distress Response Worker within 24 hours; they will receive compassionate listening and distress alleviation and can receive follow up support for up to 4 weeks. To make a referral, call 0141 406 0899 Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

If you believe that a child or young person is at risk of harm, contact Glasgow City Health and Social Care Connect on 0141 287 0555 or out of office hours social work 0300 343 1505. If it's an emergency or you believe that a child or young person is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.

**Prevention, Protection  
and Preparedness**



## Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Home Fire Safety Visits

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is looking to develop existing referral pathways and to create new referral pathways to increase the number of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) referrals for those at high risk of home fires. 1,698 HFSV's were completed by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in City of Glasgow from 1st April to 31st July 2024, with only 22% of these being deemed High Risk. They are looking to increase High-Risk HFSV's to better support those most in need within the city.

Although HFSVs are available to everyone, they are asking partner agencies to refer those individuals who identify with several risk factors. These can include age, living alone, limited mobility, dependency on substances and lifestyle choices.

If you have safety, health or wellbeing concerns about anyone you support in a working capacity who meets one or more of the criteria listed below, submit a referral for a HFSV:

- Over 65 years of age;
- Lives alone;
- Has a physical and/or learning disability;
- Has any sensory impairment;
- Is known to be substance or alcohol dependent;
- Unable to protect themselves from harm;
- Experiencing mental health problems;
- Fire risks identified. For example: burn marks on bedding, furniture or carpets; electrical faults in the home; unsafe practices with fire, cooking or heating; hoarding; the occupier smokes.



Please note that individuals must provide their permission for a referral to be made.

Further information about HFSVs and how to make a referral can be accessed in the [Guidance for Partner Organisation](#).



## Scottish Sport Futures

SSF is a national charity supporting thousands of young people across Scotland.

SSF's vision is of a world where all young people have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. They believe in the power of sport to transform lives and use sport and physical activity to enable young people to be healthier, more confident, and more resilient so that they are better prepared to combat the effects of poverty, trauma and adversity.

They are focused within some of the most challenged communities and support young people to reach a positive destination and become champions for good within society through our range of trauma informed, needs based and person-centred youth work and sport programmes.

In Glasgow, they currently work with young people in the Govan, Barrowfield and Dalmarnock areas.

To gain a better understanding of what SSF does, watch this [short video](#) and hear [Aiden and Caleb's stories](#). You can also find further information on their [website](#).

You can also access their [annual report for 2023-24](#).

## Promise Package

Young Scot and Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) have come together to offer support for young people who are care and justice experienced. The Promise Package aims to ensure the approach to children and young people in conflict with the law is rights-respecting and that 'offending behaviours' are treated as an indication of the need for support rather than punishment.

The package includes items and experiences which young people can choose to claim or enter to win, such as wellbeing boxes, shopping vouchers, moving out kits, mobiles, phone credit and more.

To be eligible, a young person must be between the ages of 11 and 25, be care experience **and** justice experience or justice experienced.

To find out more information, visit the [Young Scot website](#) or [complete a short referral form](#).



# Speak to Someone

If you suspect that an adult or child is being harmed you need to report your concerns.

Don't assume that someone else has reported it. The person being harmed or neglected may not be able to report it themselves. Remember, the person who did this may be doing this to others too.

## Phone

Health and Social Care Connect on 0141 287 0555.

Textphone - 18001 0141 287 0555

Out with office hours - 0300 343 1505

Police Scotland - 101 (non-emergency)  
999 in an emergency

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration - 0131 244 2100

Childline - 0800 1111

Glasgow City Carers' Partnership Carers Information Line - 0141 353 6504

[Glasgow Adult Protection Committee](#)

[Glasgow Child Protection Committee](#)

