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## Public Protection Bulletin

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear colleague,

It is now clear that despite our most vulnerable citizens receiving their booster and winter flu vaccinations, the Covid 19 threat remains significant and will continue to be so over the winter months.

As society continues to open up, there is a real risk that our most vulnerable people will feel even more at risk and isolated. It is imperative therefore that we all continue, where appropriate, to wear masks and observe social distancing and other precautionary measures.

For the foreseeable future, our member organisations and front-line workers will continue to face significant challenges. As public protection leaders and managers have a responsibility to focus on how we continue to support our staff and volunteers.

As previously reported, our Adult Support and Protection and Child Protection Committees and subgroups have returned to the regular meeting schedules, albeit on video conferencing platforms. Despite some initial optimism that things might revert to face to face meetings, it is clear that this way of working will continue for some months.

People continue to tell us these bulletins are a valuable source of information and accordingly, we will continue to seek out the latest news and provide electronic links to more detailed articles.

As before, this needs to be a two-way process so please continue to share any interesting news or developments from your particular agency or organisation. We hope you find something of interest to you in the articles below.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Best wishes,

Colin

Colin Anderson,  
Independent Chair  
Adult Support & Protection Committee/Child Protection Committee

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## COVID – 19

### [Examining Changes in Parent-Reported Child and Adolescent Mental Health Throughout the UK's First COVID-19 National Lockdown](#)

A study that aimed to explore the trajectories of change in children and adolescents' mental health (as reported by their parents/carers) during the UK's first national lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### [Living Through a Pandemic: Experiences of Low-Income Families in Renfrewshire and Inverclyde](#)

Between November 2020 and March 2021, The Poverty Alliance spoke with 32 families with direct experience of poverty as part of Get Heard Scotland (GHS). The key aim of this research was to understand what works, what does not work, and what should be changed in relation to tackling poverty in Scotland.

### [Adapting Social Work Practice during COVID 19](#)

What Works for Children's Social Care has published a new report on 'How local authorities have adapted social work practice' during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The key findings are:

- Flexibility over the format of support, with changes to contact between professionals and families including an increased use of virtual and digital support
- A focus on multi-agency arrangements and increased communication and data sharing between partners
- An increase in practical help, concentrating on the provision of basics and reduced formality between professionals and families.

## Children, Young People & Education

### [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Implementation: Introductory Guidance](#)

Non-statutory guidance issued by Scottish Ministers to provide those involved in public service delivery in Scotland with an introduction to giving effect to children's rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

### [National statistics overview: Children looked after in England including adoption: 2020 to 2021 - GOV.UK](#)

Information on looked-after children at both national and local authority levels for the financial year 2020 to 2021.

### [Screening Decisions for Non-Abuse Concerns Reported to Child Protection Agencies- a Structural Equation Model for Referral Content and Decision Outcome](#)

An investigation into which factors affect the decision to screen-in cases with other types of child protection concerns.

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### [Pupils pressured regularly for nude photos, Estyn report finds](#)

Pupils are pressured regularly to send nude photos and girls harassed over the length of their skirts, a school inspection report has found.

### [Podcast: technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour](#)

NSPCC Learning has released the final part of a three-part series of podcast episodes focusing on working with children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). This episode explores the use of technology to facilitate HSB, and what's available to professionals to help them make sense of the issues surrounding technology-assisted HSB.

### [National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children](#)

The Home Office is to make its National Transfer Scheme temporarily mandatory for all local authorities, which means local authorities across the UK will be required to take unaccompanied asylum-seeking children into their care, unless this cohort already makes up 0.07% or more of their general child population.

### [Child Poverty in Scotland since the 1960s](#)

The Scottish Parliament has published a research briefing on child poverty in Scotland which charts the data and policy on child poverty since the 1960s, and looks in detail at the different approaches to measuring child poverty.

### [NSPCC Podcasts on Neglect](#)

NSPCC Learning has released a two-part podcast series about recognising and responding to child neglect. Over two episodes the NSPCC's development lead for neglect talks to expert practitioners who have worked with children and young people experiencing neglect. The episodes cover: what neglect is; why it can be challenging to conduct assessments around neglect; why neglect happens; and what can be done to support parents or carers when there is neglect.

### [The death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes raises hard questions – we must address them all](#)

Opinion piece by Harry Ferguson (in The Guardian): Social distancing and school closures may have played a part, but other factors were at play.

### [GIRFEC consultation](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on refreshed GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child) materials which aims to ensure that the materials provide practitioners with the confidence, clarity and practical support to continue to implement GIRFEC. The public consultation is open until 4 February 2022, and there will be an invitation-only stakeholder-focused consultation running until 10 December, with the aim to publish refreshed GIRFEC materials in the first half of next year.

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### [Drug and alcohol services - improving holistic family support](#)

This paper seeks to provide a framework, in line with the national drug/alcohol strategy Rights, Respect and Recovery (RRR) and linked policy initiatives for the development of a consistent approach for families affected by substance use.

### [Choosing Digital: Embedding digital practice in children's social work](#)

A new dedicated website, Choosing Digital provides a collaborative decision-making tool that recognises the benefits of a blended approach to interaction (both in-person and digital) between young people and their social care workers.

## Mental Health

### [Suicide Prevention Strategy Development Questionnaire](#)

Scottish Government and the Convention for Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) have committed to jointly develop a new suicide prevention strategy for Scotland. This will use the available evidence and intelligence to build on the work which has already been undertaken across Scotland to help prevent suicide, address any gaps in our knowledge, actions or implementation and develop any new priorities and/or emerging areas of work from, for example, the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19). This questionnaire forms one part of the first stage of engagement to develop the next suicide prevention strategy, and closes on 07/01/22.

### [The Importance of Work and Other Everyday Activities for Wellbeing Among People with Mental Illness: Does Additional Vulnerability Matter?](#)

A study that aimed to investigate how activity factors were related to well-being and functioning among three vulnerable groups using outpatient mental health care – young people with psychosis, people with a history of substance use disorder, and immigrants with post-traumatic stress disorder.

### [The Mediating Effect of Difficulties in Emotion Regulation on the Association Between Childhood Maltreatment and Borderline Personality Disorder](#)

A study that examined differences between patients with borderline personality disorder and patients with depressive disorder, regarding childhood maltreatment and difficulties in emotion regulation.

## Disability

### [Psychosocial Interventions for Older People with Intellectual Disabilities and the Role of Support Staff](#)

The life expectancy of people with intellectual disabilities has increased. The implications of ageing have resulted in changes in their support needs and challenges to support staff. Access to evidence based strategies for support staff providing care to elderly with intellectual disabilities remains scarce. This systematic review was conducted to provide an overview of available psychosocial interventions.

## **Autism, ADHD & Learning Difficulties**

### [Using Ketso Connect to engage with adults on the autistic spectrum](#)

When usual activities were not possible, with lockdown restrictions, Ketso Connect was used to enable adults on the autistic spectrum to meet, socially distanced and in an outdoor space.

## **Older People & Dementia**

### [Systematic Review of 29 Self-Report Instruments for Assessing Quality of Life in Older Adults Receiving Aged Care Services](#)

A review that aimed to identify quality of life instruments used in aged care and discuss factors to consider in deciding on the suitability of these instruments.

### [Ageing well – Alcohol and other drugs use in later life: Evidence Review](#)

Explores key issues relating to alcohol and other drugs use in later life. It discusses the various factors which may contribute to the use of alcohol and both prescription and non-prescription drugs, including long-term health condition or loneliness, as well as recreation and social connection. The chapter discusses how those working in adult social care may be better equipped and supported to respond positively to the diverse and often complex needs of this group of older adults, while underscoring the value of integrated working across different types of services.

## **Housing & Homelessness**

### [More than half of homeless deaths are drug-related](#)

There were 256 people who died while homeless in Scotland in 2020, an increase of 40 on the previous year. More than half of homeless deaths in Scotland (59%) were drug-related, the figures suggest. There were no deaths where the underlying cause was Covid.

## **Substance Use & Addictions**

### [New good practice guidance on the provision of injecting equipment published](#)

This is the first such publication since the 2010 Guidelines for services providing injecting equipment. Since then, there have been significant changes in what drugs people use, in the way drugs are being used, as well as research on the role and provision of IEP services. These factors mean that there has long been a need for new guidance.

### [Lord Advocate implies establishing drug consumption rooms in Scotland is possible without changes in UK legislation](#)

Lord Advocate, Dorothy Bain, has said she awaits detailed proposal on providing a drug consumption room.

## Equality & Poverty

### [Major victory for charities as Scottish Government doubles child payment](#)

Poverty Alliance, CPAG Scotland and Citizens Advice Scotland are among the groups who have campaigned hard for the uplift and they welcomed news the payment would increase to £20 a week from April. The Scottish Government is aiming to expand the payment to all under-16s by the end of 2022, with more than 400,000 children and their families eligible.

### [Lights Off to Lights On – Wise Group Insight Report Fuel Poverty Nov 2021](#)

The report, Lights Off to Lights On, presents solutions to fuel poverty and achieving net-zero. By focussing on the root cause of individuals rationing and self-disconnecting their energy supply, and how vulnerable households see themselves contributing to net zero, the report presents recommendations and examples of successful mentorship which can help make fuel poverty history.

## Gender Based Violence

### [Forensic Medical Services Act: Retention Period](#)

The Act will establish a legal framework for consistent access to “self-referral” where a victim can access healthcare and request a Forensic Medical Examination (FME) without first having to make a report to the police. The analysis report on the consultation on the appropriate length of time that health boards are allowed to keep any evidence before they must destroy it has now been published by Scottish Government.

### [Gender, Risk Assessment and Coercive Control: Contradictions in Terms?](#)

A paper that uses empirical data gathered in one police force area in the South of England, to offer an exploration of the feasibility of the extent to which existing risk assessment practices and understandings of risk embedded within them, can incorporate the phenomenon of coercive control.

### [Violence against women and girls: Helping to understand the scale and impact of the problem](#)

Crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls, such as sexual violence, domestic abuse, and stalking have devastating consequences. Meghan Elkin explains how the Office for National Statistics has worked collaboratively across government and with charities to produce its first analytical article on this important topic, highlighting not only the scale and severity of the problem, but also where there are evidence gaps.

## Refugees, Asylum and Immigration

### [Prevalence of Psychiatric Disorders Among Refugees and Migrants in Immigration Detention](#)

A study that aimed to estimate prevalence rates of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder in child and adult refugees and migrants in immigration detention.

## Crime, Justice & Prisons

### [Deaths in custody: Prison deaths 'must be investigated within months'](#)

Every death in prison custody should have an independent investigation completed within months of it happening, a new report has said.

### [Invisible Women](#)

A report from the Prison Reform Trust on women's experiences of long-term imprisonment.

### [Glasgow Health & Social Care Partnership MAPPA Annual Report 2020-2021](#)

The purpose of this report is to highlight to the IJB the Annual Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) report which was published on 5 November 2021.

### [Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements \(MAPPA\): overview report 2020 to 2021](#)

Scottish Government report on the operation of MAPPA in Scotland from 2020 to 2021.

## Online & Financial Harm

### [Loneliness and Problematic Internet Use](#)

A study that examined how and in what way loneliness influenced problematic internet use (also known as internet addiction).

### [Pensioner conned out of five-figure sum by bogus police officer](#)

A 76-year-old woman has been conned out of a five-figure sum by a man pretending to be a police officer. Police said the scammers also attempted to defraud two other Tayside pensioners in a similar scheme days before.

## Social Care & Practice

### [Adult support and protection - GP and primary care guidance: consultation analysis](#)

An analysis of the responses to a Scottish Government consultation on the proposed updating of the Adult Support and Protection guidance for GP and Primary Care Teams.

### [Hostile relationships in social work practice: anxiety, hate and conflict in long-term work with involuntary service users](#)

This paper draws from research that observed long-term social work practice in child protection and shows how relationships based on mutual suspicion and even hate were sustained over the course of a year, or broke down.

## Events

### [Making healthy decisions on urban development and planning: 13 December, 12.30-13.30](#)

The fourth and final webinar in this series sharing emerging findings from UKPRP-funded projects and exploring their implications for policy. Speakers from the TRUUD (Tackling the Root causes Upstream of Unhealthy Urban Development) consortium will outline their work.

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[Early years Sector in Scotland and UNCRC: What Does A Rights-Based Approach Look and Feel Like? Tue, 14 December 2021, 14:00 – 15:00](#)

The focus of this discussion will be establishing what a children's rights-based approach looks like and feels like in practice.

[Early Years Sector and UNCRC: What Support Do Parents Need? 18 Jan 2022, 14:00 – 15:00](#)

The focus of this discussion will be discussing the support parents need in order to engage with and have knowledge of Incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.