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Public Protection Bulletin 12th December 2023



Dear colleague,

Thanks to our new team, we are now back on our regular two weekly cycle. As usual, this edition carries a full range of research, articles, activities, and events covering the full spectrum of public protection. We hope that you find something of interest to you in the articles below.

This will be our last edition of the bulletin in 2023. We hope that you have an opportunity to rest and relax over the festive period.

If you have something new to share or publicise that might be of interest to our subscribers, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with Michelle Brown at Michelle.Brown2@glasgow.gov.uk

Please stay safe and healthy.

Best wishes

Colin

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

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Children, Young People & Education

[Holyrood Passes Revised Bill on Children's Rights After UK Challenge](#)

Scotland to become first devolved nation to incorporate UNCRC into domestic law.

[Can Artificial Intelligence Find the Children at Risk of Mental Health Conditions?](#)

An Artificial Intelligence system designed to speed up the diagnosis of mental health conditions in children is to be developed in Cambridge.

[Staying Connected Project](#)

A report from Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and Families Outside aiming to address the gaps in knowledge around 'looked after' children and young people's experiences of sibling separation where their brother or sister is in prison or secure care. It provides an estimate as to the levels of sibling imprisonment for care-experienced children and young people and what data were held in terms of this within SCRA's case management system. It then goes on to explore the issues around the identification, restoration and maintenance of sibling relationships where one sibling is care-experienced and one is within prison or secure care.

[A Beginner's Guide to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Inclusion](#)

Under the Equality Act, schools are included under the Public Sector Equality Duty, (PSED), and are required to ensure that no discrimination takes place against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils, that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils have equal opportunities and that tolerance, understanding and positive relations are fostered between them and other children. This guide aims to help childminders, nurseries and schools engage in important conversations about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller inclusion.

[It's My Life - Making It Our Reality](#)

This report lays out guidelines for best practice for relationships and sexuality education (RSE) for children and young people with intellectual disabilities. The guidelines can be used to enable health and other professionals to develop, implement and evaluate RSE programmes specific to the needs of children and young people with intellectual disabilities in special schools.

[Children & Young People's Social Prescribing Toolkit](#)

This new toolkit aims to help organisations to address the different challenges young people face and offer a road map to delivering effective support. It is designed for stakeholders involved in the design and delivery of children and young people social prescribing including, the NHS, local authorities, the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector and representatives of people with lived experience.

[Children in Crisis Need Real Relationships: The Case for a Child Connection System](#)

This blogpost explores the idea that the child protection system is preoccupied with risk aversion and demonstrates how it impedes the emotional growth of children. It puts forward a case for a new model based on relational care and reciprocity to break the cycle: a child connection system. The article considers the paradigm shift that's needed to move away from a focus on 'protection' to one of 'connection' both in

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measuring services and outcomes and in how practitioners engage with children and young people.

Disability, Autism, ADHD & Learning Difficulties

[Four in 10 Deaths of People with a Learning Disability Were Avoidable](#)

Article from Learning Disability Today highlighting the findings from the LeDer Report 2020 about deaths of people with a learning disability in England.

[New Toolkit Helps Parents and Carers Manage Challenging Behaviour](#)

Ambitious about Autism has created a new toolkit which provides families and carers with helpful tools and resources to manage challenging behaviour at home. The toolkit includes a series of five animated films which are designed to help family members and carers identify emotional or behavioural challenges, while also providing them with the tools and techniques to manage them. [Further information can be found on Ambitious About Autism's website.](#)

["My kids need what they need"](#)

Research providing a detailed analysis of the additional costs of 'everyday non-specialist goods and services' parents and carers experience when raising children with autism. The term 'everyday non-specialist goods and services' is used in the report to refer to those items which all children are assumed to use (for example, non-specialist bedding, technology, clothing and furniture items).

[Using Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for People with Learning Disabilities](#)

Webinar from Learning Disability Today, recorded on 11 October 2023 and presented by Professor Angela Hassiotis. Learn how Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) can be adapted to help people with a learning disability to manage problems by changing the way they think and behave.

[Our Right to be Techy!](#)

Report from the Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities looking to understand how people with learning disabilities are engaging with technologies already, and what types of technologies would be effective and needed both within health and social care, and in the wider digital landscape, to give people more independence, choice, and control, and to transform their lives for the better. [It is also available in an easy read version.](#)

Mental Health & Trauma

[Self Harm Strategy and Action Plan 2023 to 2027](#)

Scottish Government strategy and action plan for people who have self-harmed or are thinking of self-harm, to receive compassionate, recovery-focused support, without fear of stigma or discrimination.

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[Service User Participation in Decision-Making](#)

A report presenting the findings of a study examining participation in decision-making among service users with severe mental illness.

[Creating Hope Together – Year 1 Delivery Plan \(2023-24\)](#)

Paper from the Scottish Government detailing the suicide prevention delivery plan covering the intended activity for the first year of the Creating Hope Together strategy and action plan. It sets out the plans to ensure progress towards achieving the short-term outcomes identified in the Outcomes Framework and the priorities set out for year one.

Adults, Older People & Dementia

[Adults With Incapacity Act Monitoring Report 2022-23](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland ('the Commission') has safeguarding duties in relation to people who are subject to the protection of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 (the AWI Act) [1]. This duty includes monitoring the use of welfare guardianship orders for adults with a mental illness, learning disability, dementia and related conditions, to determine how and for whom the AWI Act is being used. This helps to inform policy and practice. They report our function in monitoring the use of the AWI Act in two parts: 1) statistical monitoring of extant (existing) and granted guardianships; and 2) visits to individuals on guardianship orders to ensure their rights are upheld.

[Learning from Safeguarding Audits and Reviews to Increase System Capacity](#)

Webinar recording from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) detailing a research project across ten of these audits to identify the key themes and trends of areas for organisational development within a variety of areas such as Governmental Departments, Charities, Public, Private, Faith and Education sectors. This webinar aims to bring together these themes and trends as a guide to those seeking to identify potential areas of focus for those who are looking to consider their own organisational safeguarding developments. [There is also access to the webinar slides.](#)

[Social Work with Older People: The SWOP Project](#)

Findings from research carried out as part of the SWOP Project which makes recommendations about how social workers can best support older people and carers, including how they work with other agencies. It also identifies how the government and employers can best invest in, support and recognise social work knowledge and skills. [The website contains further information about the project.](#)

Carers

[Carers' Rights in 2023](#)

A report from Coalition of Carers in Scotland detailing the findings of a survey of carers in Scotland to find out if they were aware of the rights that they had under the The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. The survey also asked carers whether the

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legislation had made any difference to the support and services they have received over the past five years.

[Invisible: 2023 Dementia Carers Count Survey Findings](#)

On Carers Rights Day (23rd November), Dementia Carers Count published their report titled 'Invisible', which shares findings from their 2023 survey of dementia carers.

[State of Caring 2023: The Financial Impact of Caring in Scotland](#)

This report, produced by Carers Scotland, explores the key findings from the State of Caring Scotland survey 2023 on the financial impact of unpaid caring.

Housing & Homelessness

[Dogs Trust Delivers Christmas Hope to People Experiencing Homelessness](#)

The Christmas elves at Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity, are busy getting ready to spread Christmas cheer across Scotland by delivering gifts to the canine companions of people experiencing homelessness.

[New Research Project to Understand Children's Experiences of Temporary Accommodation](#)

Housing and homelessness charity Shelter Scotland has commissioned research into children's experiences of living in temporary accommodation.

[Steps to Provide Displaced Ukrainians with Accommodation Stability](#)

Ukrainian people seeking refuge from the war will be supported to access longer-term housing, under plans to further reduce the number of displaced people in Scotland living in temporary welcome accommodation.

[Evidencing the Social Work Role Within Responses to Multiple Exclusion Homelessness](#)

This report presents findings from a project that sought to better understand the distinctive impact and tensions, as well as some of the practicalities, of the specialist homelessness social worker role. The role is understood here to be one that is based in a homelessness outreach setting, and plays a coordinating, preventative and advisory role, as well as fulfilling statutory assessment functions.

Substance Use & Addictions

[Drugs and Alcohol Workforce Action Plan 2023-2026](#)

Delivery of Scotland's National Mission to reduce drugs deaths and improve lives is dependent on having in place a skilled, resilient workforce. It is therefore vital that drug and alcohol services are able to attract, retain, and support staff. However, the drugs and alcohol workforce currently face significant challenges, particularly in relation to recruitment, retention, and service design. This Action Plan sets out the key actions that the Scottish Government will deliver to address these challenges, laying out how, and when, it aims to initiate delivery of these.

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Equality & Poverty

[The Scottish Health Survey 2022](#)

Commissioned by the Scottish Government Health Directorates, this report presents the findings of the 2022 Scottish Health Survey. These survey results present the picture of health and wellbeing in Scotland as we emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Addressing Child Poverty Through Parental Employment](#)

A report presenting the findings of an inquiry by the Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security Commission considering how the Scottish Government is working with local authorities, employers, and other partners at a local level to tackle child poverty through improving employability. It considered the broad range of interconnected policies required, such as childcare, education and transport, and the plans for delivery of the 'parental employment offer' announced in the [Scottish Government's tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026 'Best Start, Bright Futures'](#).

[Cost of Inequality 2023](#)

A report from The Equality Trust examining the impact of inequality in the UK, including a comparison to other developed Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries.

Gender Based Violence

[Ensuring the Voice of the Child is Heard, and Child's Best Interests are Considered in Domestic Abuse Cases](#)

A paper from the Safe and Together Institute, developed in response to requests for more information on the Model's relationship to the rights of children and with contributions from Safe & Together Model practitioners from around the globe, this paper represents the most up to date articulation of the Model's relevance to the rights of children in domestic violence situations.

[Equally Safe 2023](#)

This is a refresh of the Scottish Government and COSLA's plan to eradicate and prevent violence against women and girls. The strategy sets how key partners in the public, private and third sectors can work together to help achieve this aim.

Refugees, Asylum, Trafficking and Immigration

[Migrants' Rights and Entitlements to Local Authority Services and Support National Guidance](#)

Guidance from the Scottish Government and COSLA about what local authorities can do to support people with no recourse to public funds.

[Drawing Together in Scotland](#)

In this paper, researchers considered how young refugees in the Drawing Together project experienced integration in Scotland. The paper analyses Scotland's role as a

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country committed to the protection and care of young refugees by mapping some key Scottish legal, political, social and cultural policies and strategies that provide the contexts for refugee integration as a mutual endeavour based on hospitality and reciprocity.

[Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement](#)

The Scottish Government has issued its first statement in relation to slavery and human trafficking.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2021/22](#)

Scottish Government publication presenting a summary of findings from the latest Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, based on interviews conducted between November 2021 and December 2022.

Social Care, Practice & Workforce Matters

[Let's Be Heard: Scottish Covid Inquiry](#)

Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry publishes first Let's Be Heard report sharing respondents' pandemic experiences, impacts, and lessons to be learned in Scotland.

[Joint Inspection of Adult Services Integration and Outcomes: Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership](#)

Report from the Care Inspectorate detailing the findings of the joint inspection of adult services in Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

[Health & Social Care Staff Experience Report 2023](#)

This independent report provides detailed information and analysis of staff experience in health and social care across Scotland during 2023.

Online & Financial Harm

[Scam Share](#)

Trading Standards Scotland produce a weekly Scam Share bulletin. It looks at the latest phone, email and online scams affecting Scottish consumers. If you receive any emails to your work account which you suspect are phishing emails, please report these to the integrity mailbox at integrity@glasgow.gov.uk as soon as possible. [Sign up to the Trading Standards Scotland Scam Share e-bulletin.](#)

[Postal Scams](#)

Information and advice from Age UK about postal scams.

[UK Householders Could Be At Risk of Net Zero Scammers, Says Citizens Advice](#)

UK charity says government must tighten consumer protections to stop 'rogue traders' taking advantage.

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Events

[Getting to Know GIRFEC Online Training Session - 25/01/24 10.00am - 12 Noon](#)

The ALLIANCE's Children and Young People Programme are offering a free training open to those working in the third and statutory sector to support disabled children and young people, and those living with long term conditions. This is a free event. To register, email the team at GIRFEC@alliance-scotland.org.uk.

[Pivoting to the Perpetrator: How to Prevent Victim Blaming in Real Time Webinar - 14/12/23 12 Noon](#)

This Quick Take session from Safe and Together Institute will outline a simple, powerful and field-tested 3 step practice for turning the focus onto the source of the harm: the perpetrator's actions and choices.