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Public Protection Bulletin

12th November 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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Glasgow Adult Support & Protection Committee

[Glasgow Adult Support and Protection Committee Service User Representative Group Accessible Leaflet](#)

Accessible leaflet detailing the purpose and work of the Service User Representative Group.

COVID – 19

[Communities played a crucial role in the response to Covid-19](#)

A joint update from the Accounts Commission and the Auditor General for Scotland outlines how public bodies can learn from good practice and new ways of working which emerged in response to Covid-19 and use this to shape the way they work in the future to promote the best outcomes for local communities and help address inequalities.

[Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on clinically extremely vulnerable people](#)

Over 2 million people were identified in March and April 2020 as being clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) to COVID-19 and were asked to shield. This briefing shows the scale of the challenge of ensuring that the most clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 are kept safe, and in providing high-quality health and social care during the pandemic. It also indicates that there are substantial unmet needs that should be prioritised to ensure that the mental and physical health of this group does not deteriorate further.

[Unpaid carers pushed to breaking point and may be forced to quit work, warns Carers Scotland as new figures reveal devastating impact of COVID-19](#)

New research from Carers Scotland's and Carers UK's State of Caring report, which will be released in full next month, reveals many of the services that unpaid carers depend on to help their loved ones have reduced or closed. Seven in 10 (70%) who use crucial day services have reduced or no access and only 16% of carers are confident that they would get the support they need in the next 12 months.

[Associations Between Dimensions of Behaviour, Personality Traits, and Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United Kingdom](#)

An analysis of data taken from 379,875 people during 2020 that aimed to identify population variables associated with mood and mental health during the pandemic, and to investigate self-perceived pandemic impact in relation to those variables.

Children, Young People & Education

[Assessment of wellbeing - draft statutory guidance: consultation](#)

Scottish Government have commenced a public consultation on draft statutory guidance on assessment of wellbeing, as required in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The deadline for consultation responses is 4th February 2022.

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[Mental Wellbeing in Schools, and the Global Mental Health Crisis](#)

In this podcast, Lauren Cross talks about her work as a Research Assistant with **CHARM** (Child and Adolescent Resilience and Mental Health) at the University of Cambridge, in particular her research on mental health and wellbeing in schools and inequalities during childhood and adolescence.

[A Mobile Phone–Based Life-Skills Training Program for Substance Use Prevention Among Adolescents](#)

The goal of this study was to test the appropriateness (ie, acceptance, use, and evaluation) and short-term efficacy of a mobile phone–based life-skills training program to prevent substance use among adolescents within a controlled trial.

[The role of early childhood education and care in shaping life chances](#)

In this review, the Nuffield Foundation examine the evidence on the quality, effectiveness and sustainability of early childhood education and care. They conclude that the system is dysfunctional and set out the need for a wholesale review to provide clarity on the purpose of early childhood education and care and how it can better meet the needs of children and families.

[State of Child Poverty 2021](#)

The Buttle report tells the story of the ongoing impact of COVID as witnessed by frontline services that support an estimated 36,000 vulnerable children and young people.

[The role of early childhood education and care in shaping life chances](#)

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[Gap in spending per student between private and state schools has more than doubled over the last decade](#)

In the most recent year (2020-21), average private school fees were about £13,600. That is £6,500, or over 90%, higher than total state school spending per pupil in England in the same year (£7,100).

[Urgent action needed as organised crime gangs take advantage of pandemic to target vulnerable children](#)

Vulnerable children are at increasing risk of being criminally exploited but police forces and other agencies often lack the training and skills to effectively protect them, research by Barnardo's reveals.

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[The National Joint Investigative Interviewing Project Newsletter](#)

The National Joint Investigative Interviewing Project have published their 4th newsletter. This includes an article on insights from interviewers. Interviewers from the first two pilot sites recently presented an overview of their experiences to the National JII Governance Group. Part of this presentation was recorded and is available to view, under "Presentations"

[#AskTheAwkward](#)

Thinkuknow has launched, a resource for parents and carers of secondary-aged children to help them have regular conversations with their children about online relationships. The resource includes three short films and a series of help sheets covering themes raised in the films including: exploring sex, sexuality and identity online; starting new relationships online; sharing nudes and semi-nudes; and unwanted sexual contact online.

[The Wireless Report 2021](#)

One of the UK's most comprehensive reports into the ways in which young people aged 13-25 are currently engaging with and using social media and technology.

[One Kind Word: Anti-Bullying Week 2021](#)

Join thousands of schools, organisations and individuals this Anti-Bullying Week, 15-19 November 2021, by getting involved in our 'One Kind Word' campaign. Together, with #OneKindWord, let's start a chain reaction of kindness this #AntiBullyingWeek. The year's campaign theme has been co-designed with young people before being adapted by the UK's leading anti-bullying organisations including respectme.

[Fall in admissions of young people to non-specialist mental health wards during pandemic](#)

A new report from the Mental Welfare Commission says that in 2020-21 the number of young people under the age of 18 admitted to non-specialist hospital wards – mostly adult wards - for treatment of their mental health difficulties in Scotland was 86 admissions involving 62 young people.

Mental Health

[See Me: See Us](#)

A new set of resources designed to help supporters and those working in the health and social care sector tackle mental health stigma and discrimination have been launched.

[Rapid Evidence Review of the Socioeconomic Determinants of Mental Wellbeing](#)

The findings of a Public Health Scotland rapid evidence review which explored the association between socioeconomic position and mental wellbeing, and what socioeconomic interventions work to improve mental wellbeing and reduce inequalities in mental wellbeing.

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Disability

[Hearing Dogs for People with Severe and Profound Hearing Loss](#)

The findings from an evaluation of the impacts of a hearing dog on mental well-being, anxiety, depression, problems associated with hearing loss (responding to sounds, fearfulness/social isolation), and perceived dependency on others.

[Learning disability support cuts “under the radar”](#)

Unpaid carers supporting people with learning disabilities can save taxpayers up to £114,000 a year but continue to be ‘overlooked’ and ‘undervalued’, an independent think tank has said. Researchers from the Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) found carers typically spent between 8 and 16 hours a day on care.

Carers

[Review of Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership Carer Strategies 2019-2022](#)

If you’re a carer or are involved in identifying, involving or supporting unpaid carers, you are invited to take part in the review of Glasgow’s City Health and Social Care Partnership Carer Strategies. The survey should take around 10 – 15 minutes to complete, and it’ll be open until 28 November 2021.

[One in three carers on the breadline as financial plight worsens](#)

Carers Scotland said this comes on top of deep concern about practical support with just 16% of carers confident they will get the support they need in the next 12 months.

[Unpaid carers’ mental and physical health declining](#)

VOCAL, Voice of Carers Across Lothian, has released the results of its 2021 Carer Survey, conducted jointly with partner agencies and Scotinform. Over 1,200 carers looking after someone in Edinburgh and Midlothian shared their views and experiences. The results illustrate the stark challenges faced by unpaid carers in the wake of the pandemic and a health and social care system struggling to fulfil its statutory functions.

Housing & Homelessness

[Making housing and dementia a national priority: fourth update from the National Housing and Dementia Forum](#)

National Housing and Dementia Forum co-chairs Ashley Campbell and Lesley Palmer summarise the discussion from the fourth and final evidence session of the Scottish Government-organised body.

[Glasgow City HSCP’s Homeless Health and Asylum Service is People’s Choice Winner at Scottish Health Awards](#)

Huge congratulations to the Homeless Health and Asylum Service who were announced as the winner of the People's Choice Award at the Scottish Health Awards 2021 on Thursday, 4 November. The service was one of six finalists with the winner decided by a public vote.

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Substance Use & Addictions

[Intended and unintended consequences of the implementation of minimum unit pricing of alcohol in Scotland: a natural experiment](#)

This study found that implementation of minimum unit pricing at 50p per unit was unproblematic with no evidence of beneficial or harmful impacts on the outcomes evaluated.

[Safer Drug Consumption Facilities – Evidence Paper](#)

The Scottish government has published an evidence paper, based on international experience, in support of safer drug consumption facilities, though legal barriers exist to their opening within Scotland.

[Alcohol Everywhere Survey September 2021](#)

Scottish Families Alcohol Action Group have designed this survey to get a better idea of how widely spread alcohol messages are in our homes, communities, online spaces and other parts of everyday life. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Equality & Poverty

[Vulnerable consumers ‘missing out on support from energy providers’](#)

Vulnerable consumers in Scotland are missing out on priority services offered by energy suppliers and network operators, according to [research](#) carried out for the independent Energy Consumers Commission (the ECC)

[Public Health Information Network for Scotland Webinar Outputs Available: Approaches to address post-COVID societal inequalities](#)

Recording and PDFs available of the above event, held 21 October.

[Ending the Need for Food Banks](#)

A Scottish Government consultation on a draft national plan to end the need for food banks. Responses to be submitted by 25 Jan 2022.

Gender Based Violence

[Innovative programme launched to help workers spot domestic abuse](#)

Scottish Women’s Aid is launching a programme that will encourage workforces across Scotland to be better equipped to identify behaviours through their work roles that could signal that someone is at risk. A pilot scheme for the Equally Safe in Practice (ESiP) is being launched in eight local authorities. After the pilot is completed, the programme will be rolled out across Scotland.

Refugees, Asylum and Immigration

[‘How will we survive?’ steps to preventing destitution in the asylum system](#)

British Red Cross and the Refugee Survival Trust have published this report, centred on the experiences of people seeking asylum, in the context of the Destitute Asylum Seeker Service (DASS).

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Crime, Prisons & Emergency Services

[Counting the cost of Maternal Imprisonment](#)

Crest Advisory has published a report looking at the impact of female imprisonment on mothers and their children. Findings from analysis of available data and interviews with statutory and voluntary services, and mothers who have been in prison include maternal imprisonment is a significant trauma for children with potentially devastating consequences; data collection on maternal status is inconsistent; and the trauma of separation from children is not sufficiently recognised or understood by the prison system.

Recommendations include: a renewed focus on reducing maternal imprisonment through community alternatives to custody for women; and ensuring women involved in the criminal justice system who have experienced the removal of a child are offered trauma-informed intensive support.

[The Next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland](#)

The Framework is the statutory vehicle through which Scottish Ministers set out priorities and objectives that SFRS must have regard to in carrying out its functions. The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 states that Scottish Ministers will keep the Framework under review, and 'may from time to time revise it'. The consultation seeks views on the next Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland, and closes on 22 December.

Online & Financial Harm

[159 Call Service that helps connect you to your bank](#)

Stop Scams UK and Global Cyber Alliance have launched the UK-wide 159 call service, which is designed to guarantee consumers a safe route to contacting their banks. This pilot scheme, set up by bank and telephone companies, is to help those who believe they have been contacted by a fraudster claiming to be their bank and is requesting money transfers.

Social Care & Practice

[Care Inspectorate: Report on the medicines improvement project](#)

Medicines are the most common form of health care intervention, yet the medicine process is often prone to error. The aim of this project was a 50% reduction in defined medication incidents in participating care homes for older people. The project also tested the use of quality improvement tools to improve the recording and administration of medicines in the care homes.

[Adult social care - winter preparedness plan: 2021-22](#)

This Plan sets out the measures that will be applied across the adult social care sector to meet the challenges over the winter 2021 - 2022. It details information to all those involved in and affected by adult social care provision. The Plan accompanies the Health and Social Care Winter Overview.

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Events

[Learning the lessons from Punishing Abuse: Poverty, deprivation and empowering rich social work practice, 16 November, 13.00 – 15.00](#)

This [webinar](#) is the second one in the Learning the lessons from Punishing Abuse series will help you recognise and build resilience in vulnerable children and families living in poverty. If you are working directly with children and young people or managing a team of people that do direct work, this session is for you.

[Healthcare Improvement Scotland: Putting people first: How health & social care in Scotland can be different, 17 November, 13:00 – 16:30](#)

Learn:

What commissioning for outcomes really entails

Practical tips on how to start applying Human Learning Systems to your work

Examples of commissioning done differently at person, place and national levels

[SDF Webinar: Options and developments in residential rehabilitation and support, 19 November, 13:00 – 14:30](#)

There has been a lot of discussion in recent years over the role of residential rehabilitation and care services for people with a substance use problem. With the recent investment provided by Scottish Government, this webinar will explore the nature of the need for residential rehabilitation and care and how services may meet these needs.

[Commercial determinants of health and health inequalities, 24 November, 12.30 – 13.30](#)

Speakers will share new evidence to inform the prevention of Non Communicable Diseases caused by unhealthy commodities focusing initially on tobacco and alcohol but extending work to unhealthy food and drinks. The research aims to transform policy and practice to encourage and enable healthy environments and behaviours.

[Investing in lived experience - key messages for co-production, 24 November 13:00 – 15:30](#)

This learning event will provide a focus to share experiences from a funder's perspective and hear how funded projects are bringing lived experience to successful co-production approaches.

Key discussion points will include:

- Can co-production help people escape the poverty trap?
- How might funders embrace co-production more fully?
- How is co-production helping tackle issues such as homelessness and managing successful life changes?

[Innovation for independent, inclusive living: what's the evidence? 25 November, 13.30 – 15.00](#)

The first in a series of events to support a new way of thinking to deliver on the ambitions of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care.

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[Staff Information Sessions on BAME Cancer Screening Promotional Videos](#)

Glasgow City HSCP Health Improvement Team would like to inform you about the recently created animated videos on cancer screening for use with Black and Asian Minority Ethnic(BAME) communities. These animated videos raise awareness of the three national Cancer Screening Programmes (Bowel, Breast, Cervical) and highlight the extra precautions in place for preventing COVID transmission during screening. An additional video has also been created to raise awareness of HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) with the recent implementation of HPV Primary Screening as part of the Cervical Screening Programme.

These animated videos have been produced in 5languages (Arabic, Mandarin, Punjabi, Romanes and Urdu) and will help address cancer screening health inequalities experienced by BAME communities.

Click to book:

[Wednesday 24/11/21 1:30pm](#)

[Thursday 9/12/21 12:30pm](#)

[Tuesday 14/12/21 12pm](#)

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