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Public Protection Bulletin

14th May 2021

Dear colleague,

Lockdown is easing and our most vulnerable citizens are receiving their second vaccinations. However, there continues to be a real and significant threat from new, faster spreading variants of the virus so we all need to observe long standing advice on social distancing and where appropriate, wearing masks.

In previous bulletins, we have discussed the impact of lockdown and social isolation on mental health and wellbeing. However, we are now beginning to learn more about the impact of “long covid”, especially for otherwise vulnerable people, and there are growing concerns for the mental wellbeing of our children and young people.

Although there are real reasons for optimism, our member organisations and front-line workers continue to face significant ongoing and emerging challenges. As public protection leaders and managers we also need to focus on how we better 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, and I won't even hazard a guess at how long this new way of working might last.

People tell us these bulletins continue to be 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

[A Scoping Review of International Policy Responses to Mental Health Recovery During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

A paper which assesses how international governments, agencies and organisations are responding to the challenge of the mental health impact of COVID-19 with the aim of informing the ongoing policy and service responses needed in the immediate and longer term.

[COVID-19 and Violence Against Children](#)

A review of the literature that has been produced on children's exposure to violence during the pandemic.

[A Year Like No Other](#)

A report from Centrepoin, which reflects on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable young people; covering youth unemployment, homelessness, poverty and mental health.

[The COVID Generation: a Mental Health Pandemic in the Making](#)

A report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood on the impact on the mental health of children and young people of the COVID-19 pandemic, both during and in the future.

Children, Young People & Education

['How do young people learn about sex?' Research report](#)

To gain an understanding of how young people learnt about sex as teenagers, *Zero Tolerance* developed a 22-question survey aimed at 18–25-year-olds, asking them how they learnt about sex as teenagers, what methods they relied on for this education, and how this consequently informed their attitudes as adults.

[Fearless/Barnardos Child Criminal Exploitation Campaign](#)

Fearless Scotland has teamed up with Barnardos Scotland to launch a campaign on child criminal exploitation. The campaign features a series of videos telling the stories of young people who have been criminally exploited.

[Exploring History in the Social Ecology of Care Leaving: Northern Ireland as Illustration](#)

A paper which considers the development of care leaving within Northern Ireland over a 50-year period (1968–2018), with a particular focus on the historical trajectory of recent political conflict.

[Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway](#)

A Way Home Scotland (the national coalition to end youth homelessness in Scotland) has created a Pathway to make youth homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. This

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document follows a five-tier model of prevention, considering universal, targeted, crisis, emergency, and recovery.

[Internet Watch Foundation Annual report 2020](#)

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has published its new annual report, which found that 11-13 year old girls are increasingly at risk of grooming and coercion at the hands of online predators.

[PACT Anti-poverty Professional Learning Project](#)

Teachers union EIS (Educational Institute of Scotland) has published a new report on its Scottish Government funded PACT project. The programme was established to help teachers explore the nature, causes and consequences of poverty, and possible practical and pedagogical interventions to mitigate its impact on children and young people's school education – this encouraged one head teacher to help families claim £400,000 worth of benefits they were entitled to through the appointment of a financial inclusion support officer.

[Toolkit for developing a parent-infant relationship team](#)

Parent-Infant Foundation has created a toolkit as a guide for developing an effective and specialised parent-infant relationship team. The toolkit features insights and learning from practice experts, team managers, researchers, academics, commissioners, and programme developers.

Poverty & Inequality

[Huge rise in food bank support lays bare UK's poverty crisis](#)

Food banks in the Trussell Trust's UK network gave out more than 2.5 million emergency food parcels between April 2020 and March 2021, a 33% rise on the previous year.

[Tackling Scotland's social deprivation and inequalities by investing in maternity services and staff must be at the heart of the next government's policy](#)

This is the message from the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) in a Blueprint for maternity services published 20/04/21. In five areas for action, it also calls for an end to Scotland's midwife shortage, saying some areas of the country struggle to attract enough midwives.

Mental Health

[Persistence and Course of Mental Health Problems from Childhood into Adolescence](#)

An analysis of the prevalence, course, and persistence of mental health problems over 10 years from childhood into adolescence, based on a sample from the Future Family project in Germany.

[Digital Health Interventions for the Management of Mental Health in People with Chronic Diseases](#)

A rapid review which aimed to determine the effectiveness of digital mental health interventions for individuals with a concomitant chronic disease.

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[Delivering Cognitive Therapy for Adolescent Social Anxiety Disorder in NHS CAMHS](#)

This study asked: Can therapists be trained to achieve good outcomes for adolescents with social anxiety disorder in routine Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and what are the costs associated with training and treatment?

[Foxgrove - The National Secure Adolescent Inpatient Service](#)

The new National Secure Adolescent Inpatient Service for Scotland (NSAIS) aims to meet the needs of young people in Scotland who require secure inpatient care. The unit will be on the Ayrshire Central Hospital campus in Irvine, North Ayrshire and has officially been named 'Foxgrove'. Please visit the site for further details on the service, an overview of the business case, and to access a Virtual Walkthrough of the proposed design for the site.

[The Mediating Role of Attachment and Mentalising in the Relationship Between Childhood Trauma, Self-Harm and Suicidality](#)

A study which aimed investigate the role of attachment and mentalising as potential mechanisms in the relationship between childhood trauma, self-harm and suicidality.

Disability

[Sexual Violence Against Persons With Disabilities](#)

A meta-analysis that aimed to determine the magnitude of the difference in risk of being sexually victimised based on the presence of a disability.

[How social security can deliver for disabled people in Scotland – Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

This research looks at how disability assistance could reduce poverty in Scotland. In particular, it looks at how the Scottish Government and Social Security Scotland can look to maximise the power of social security to improve living standards, and loosen poverty's grip on disabled people.

[Gender Based Violence and Learning Disability](#)

There is limited evidence on the prevalence of people with learning disabilities who experience GBV. However, national data reports it is greater for women and men with a long-standing illness or disability than the general population⁶ and studies demonstrate that women and girls with a learning disability are particularly at risk. People with learning disabilities are also more likely to experience abuse from a range of perpetrators. Public Health Scotland have published guidance to increase awareness amongst practitioners in this area.

Dementia

[Supporting and Sustaining Care at Home](#)

A study highlighting the experiences and challenges for adult daughters who support a parent with dementia.

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[Innovative Methods for Involving People with Dementia and Carers in the Policymaking Process](#)

A study that used two innovative methods to increase involvement of people with dementia and family carers in the policymaking process in Ireland.

[Balancing Care Demands and Personal Needs](#)

A study which aimed to understand how primary and secondary family carers of people with dementia perceive the reconciliation of informal care and their personal life throughout the course of care.

Housing & Homelessness

[Adult safeguarding and homelessness: A briefing on positive practice](#)

The purpose of this briefing is to assist senior leaders, such as members of Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs), as well as commissioners, practitioners and operational managers who are working across relevant sectors and agencies in this field, to support people who are homeless and at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect.

[Physical Functioning Limitations and Physical Activity of People Experiencing Homelessness](#)

A scoping review which aimed to evaluate what is known about physical functional limitations and physical activity levels and how they are measured in adults experiencing homelessness.

[Associations of Resilience with Quality of Life Levels in Adults Experiencing Homelessness and Mental Illness](#)

A Canadian study that assessed the longitudinal associations between resilience and quality of life scores among adults experiencing homelessness and mental illness.

[Women's Homelessness: European Evidence Review](#)

The findings of a review that aimed to highlight progress in understanding women's experience of homelessness across Europe and the Global North, and to find gaps in the evidence base and in developing effective prevention, strategy and services that recognise, respect and respond to homeless women's needs.

Substance Use & Addictions

[The Role of Stress, Trauma, and Negative Affect in Alcohol Misuse and Alcohol Use Disorder in Women](#)

An article that focuses on the psychosocial and biological processes by which stress, trauma, negative affect, and mood and anxiety disorders increase the risk of binge and heavy drinking, Alcohol Use Disorder, and relapse in women.

[Differential Predictors for Alcohol Use in Adolescents as a Function of Familial Risk](#)

A study that tested whether adolescents with a family history of drug abuse exhibit a set of predictors for future alcohol misuse different from adolescents without a family history.

[Scottish Drugs Forum Launch Manifesto](#)

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The manifesto describes problem drug use as being ‘neither a lifestyle choice nor a personal failing’. It recommends that prevention of problem drug use involves addressing its origins and that there should therefore be more support to parents, families and vulnerable young people; improvement in health and other services’ engagement with people in need of support and in addressing Scotland’s social, income and health inequalities that result from poverty.

[Examination of the links between parental conflict and substance misuse and the impacts on children’s outcomes](#)

This Department for Work and Pension’s report is a literature review examining the links between parental conflict and substance misuse and the impacts on children’s outcomes.

[Drug deaths: Can Scotland learn from Germany?](#)

In Germany, drug deaths remain relatively low — yet usage of opiates, often mixed with cocaine is common to both countries. There is also a similar age profile among people. Do Germany’s 265 consumption rooms account for the difference?

Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Pre-trial Detention of Children in Young Offender’s Institutions and Prisons](#)

Guest blog by Claire Lightowler and Fiona Dyer (Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice - CYCJ) examining the incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots Law and concerns that children aged 16 and 17 year olds in Scotland continue to be detained of their liberty in Young Offenders Institutions (YOIs), and occasionally in prisons.

[Falling Through the Gaps: Young Women’s Justice Project Briefing](#)

In partnership with Agenda and the Alliance for Youth Justice, this Young Women’s Justice Project Briefing sets out the policy context and key findings of young women’s experiences as they turn 18 and move from the youth to adult justice system, as well as experiencing changes in other kinds of provision, including mental health support, accommodation, reduced safeguarding responses and leaving care.

Social Care

[Launch of 'Step Safely': strategies for the prevention & management of falls](#)

On 27 April the World Health Organisation (WHO) launches 'Step Safely', a range of strategies for falls prevention and management.

Gender Based Violence

[How Do Memories of Having Been Parented Relate to the Parenting-Experience of Fathers in Treatment for Intimate Partner Violence?](#)

A paper that describes how Norwegian men in treatment for IPV reflect upon the impact of their childhood experiences on their fathering.

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[Intervening in Domestic Violence: Interprofessional Collaboration Among Social and Health Care Professionals and the Police](#)

A study which examined interprofessional collaboration among Finnish social and health care professionals and police officers, focusing on the practices and conceptions concerning domestic violence interventions.

Social Work Practice

[Legal Education for Social Work Students: Toward an Interdisciplinary Framework of Teaching and Practice](#)

A paper which presents a comprehensive analysis of the importance of law to social work, and discusses aspects of the law that are particularly valuable to social work education and practice.

[Digital Social Work: Conceptualising a Hybrid Anticipatory Practice](#)

An article which draws from the authors' research into child protection to show how digital social work was used during the pandemic, critically analyse the policy responses, and make new concepts drawn from digital and design anthropology available to the profession to help it make sense of these developments.

Events & Resources

[Relationship-based practice in a digital world – 27 May, 10 am – 12 pm.](#)

This free event in partnership with IRISS, Social Work Scotland and the Scottish Association of Social Work (SASW) will explore what we have learned over the past year about creating and maintaining relationships through the use of technology. It'll provide the Scottish policy context; evidence about how our national capacity is developing; and examples of innovation and development in digital social work. Delegates' collective views and experiences will also be brought together to inform and support further work on what we now know is an important and evolving area of practice.

[The Ann Craft Trust: A Leading UK Authority on Safeguarding Adults & Young People at Risk](#)

ACT support organisations to safeguard adults and young people at risk and minimise the risk of harm through pioneering training, practice reviews and contributing to world-leading research. This includes the publication of a [quarterly Bulletin](#).

[Hope for Children and Families Intervention Resources](#)

This article explores the value of a modular, multi-focal, therapeutic approach to addressing child maltreatment as developed in the Hope for Children and Families (HFCF) Intervention Resources. Findings from the HFCF pilot and subsequent training programs suggest that this new approach could be an important milestone in the protection of children from violence, abuse and neglect. A link to the resource page:

<https://www.childandfamilytraining.org.uk/98/Introduction-to-the-Hope-for-Children-and-Family-Intervention-Resources>

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<https://www.childprotectionprofessionals.org.uk/Blog/modular-approaches-to-therapeutic-work-with-maltreatment>

[Talking to children about abuse](#)

NSPCC Learning has published findings from a pilot study of “Talk to Me” an interactive learning tool, produced by Attensi in collaboration with the NSPCC, that aims to: boost adults’ confidence in talking to children about abuse, build the child’s trust and help children talk about their experiences. A survey of 287 users found that: 95% of respondents either "agree" or "strongly agree" that the training made them more confident in talking to children about abuse; and 98% felt the content was relevant to their work.

[Understanding attachment in children](#)

NSPCC Learning has published new content on understanding attachment in children. The content looks at: why attachment is important; how children develop attachment; attachment and behaviours to look out for; how trauma can affect attachment; and ways to support parents and carers to develop a bond with their child.

[Association of Professors of Social Work KEE Events](#)

The Association of Professors of Social Work (APSW) is delighted to announce a series of Children’s Social Work and Social Care Knowledge and Evidence Events. These hour long, online briefing events are open to everyone and specifically designed to inform the Children’s Social Work and Social Care sector about the current knowledge of the field, as well as independently contribute to the evidence informing the Department for Education’s Children’s Social Care Review. After each event, knowledge briefings, developed in collaboration with Research in Practice, will be made available.

[LifeLink Wellbeing Sessions](#)

Each 2-hour class is delivered via video to the group by experienced Lifelink facilitators. They cover life skills aimed at helping you to lead a fulfilling and productive life. Participants can attend as many classes as they like, and they are open to everyone with a Glasgow postcode. Each class will be themed around a certain topic - you can read more on each individual course page.

[Exploring the Principles, Components and Applications of the Safe & Together Model – Webinar series](#)

This is a four part free webinar series where David Mandel, Executive Director and Founder of the Safe & Together Institute, outlines key aspects of the Safe & Together Model and shares tools to help you become more domestic violence-informed in your systems and practice. Whether you have undertaken training in the Model or are new to the Model, these webinars are opportunities to learn, ask questions and receive concrete guidance on becoming more domestic violence-informed in your systems and practice.

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