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Public Protection Bulletin

15th October 2021

Dear colleague,

We are now at “level 0” and our most vulnerable citizens and front-line staff should have received 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 and guidance on social distancing and, where appropriate, the wearing of masks.

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 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, 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

[Impact of COVID-19 Restrictions on Carers of Persons with Dementia in the UK](#)

Informal carers provide the majority of the support for persons with dementia living at home. Restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 have had a profound impact on the daily life of the entire population. This study provides insight into the impact of these restrictions on carers of people with dementia living at home.

[Understanding vulnerability to online misinformation](#)

Health-related misinformation risks exacerbating the COVID-19 public health. Relatively little is known about who is vulnerable to believing false information and why. This is crucial for developing more targeted and effective interventions which tackle the root causes of misinformation rather than just its symptoms. To address this gap, researchers from The Alan Turing Institute's public policy programme have conducted original research.

[Priorities for post-Covid-19 public health: research, education and practice](#)

The video of this webinar, along with the Podcast and Prof Galea's presentation slides are now available and can be accessed on the Glasgow Centre for Population Health website.

[The Schools Infection Survey provides insight into long COVID in schools](#)

The latest data from the COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey (SIS) looks at ongoing symptoms four weeks after COVID-19 infection among school pupils and staff. The main aim of this study was not to try and provide another estimate of long COVID prevalence, but to explore in more detail the impact that ongoing symptoms might be having on pupil and workforce attendance and educational outcomes.

[COVID-19 and UK Family Carers: Policy Implications](#)

This paper brings together a broad range of clinicians, researchers, and people with lived experience as informal carers to share their thoughts on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on UK carers, many of whom have felt abandoned as services closed.

Children, Young People & Education

[Scottish Children's Reporter Administration Official Statistics 2020/21](#)

Annual statistics from the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration.

[One in three: taking action on early childhood poverty](#)

A recording and speaker slides from this Nuffield Foundation event held in September are now available.

[Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum REAL Toolkit Launched](#)

The Real Toolkit is a collection of guides for young people in care and the workforce that support them.

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[Free e-module: Trauma in children and young people](#)

NHS Education for Scotland has introduced a free new e-learning module for developing your trauma skilled practice with children and young people. Available for use across the whole Scottish workforce, this short (75 minutes) online course is particularly helpful for practitioners working directly with and/or anyone caring for children and young people.

You will need to register and create an online account with Turas Learn, but anyone with an email address can register no matter their location or role. You can register [here](#).

It is recommended that the foundational module 'Developing your trauma skilled practice 1' is completed before taking this module. You can access the modules [here](#) - please note the link will not display the module until you are signed in.

[New review investigates babies harmed by fathers and stepfathers](#)

An independent review into safeguarding children under 1 from non-accidental injury caused by male carers.

NSPCC Learning has published [a CASPAR briefing](#) summarising learning from the review.

[Safeguarding Disabled Children](#)

Thoughts on the social world podcast has released an episode with Ann Craft Trust's Sarah Goff discussing the safeguarding of disabled children and young people.

[Cafcass launches the Together with children and families framework](#)

The framework sets out the importance of working with children and their families, based on developing trusting relationships, where listening, understanding, clear reasoning, respect and integrity are prioritised.

[The Cost of the School Day Toolkit: Updated 2021](#)

Newly updated and refreshed, this toolkit by CPAG sets out the Cost of the School Day process in five straightforward steps; and features editable action plans, updated information and resources to facilitate whole school conversations about the barriers costs create and how to tackle them, and lots of new practice suggestions.

[Milestone for equality in schools](#)

Scotland has become the first country in the world to embed lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) inclusive education across the school curriculum. Support to help schools deliver this includes a [website](#) where school staff, parents, carers, children and young people can access information to support LGBT children and young people.

[The Association Between Adolescent Substance Abuse and Suicidality](#)

A systematic review that explored the relationship between adolescent substance abuse and suicidality, with the aim of identifying various risk factors that contribute to adolescent suicidal ideation and substance abuse.

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Mental Health

[BBC: Mental health detentions rose sharply last year](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission said the figure was more than double the average 4.5% rise over the previous five years. Safeguarding measures for people being detained against their will were also at their lowest in 10 years. Mental health campaigners have expressed "serious concern" about the way detentions are dealt with. The consent of a specialist mental health officer was obtained for less than half of emergency detentions last year, with big variations across Scotland.

[Supporting Adults and Young People Experiencing Emotional Distress](#)

The beginning of September saw the Compassionate Distress Response Service (CDRS), a support service for adults experiencing emotional distress, celebrate the first anniversary of its daytime support service. The service operates from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday with referrals from General Practitioners (GPs) and their multi-disciplinary teams.

[SIDMA as a criterion for psychiatric compulsion: An analysis of compulsory treatment orders in Scotland](#)

Under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act, 2003, patients must exhibit 'significantly impaired decision-making ability' (SIDMA) in order to be eligible for psychiatric detention or involuntary psychiatric treatment outside the forensic context. This research demonstrates that there are systemic areas of poor practice in the reporting of SIDMA, with only 12% of CTOs satisfying the minimum standard of formal completeness endorsed by the Mental Welfare Commission.

Disability

[Care and Treatment for People with Alcohol Related Brain Damage in Scotland](#)

This Mental Welfare Commission report focuses on people with a diagnosis of alcohol related brain damage who are also subject to a welfare guardianship order. If someone is unable to make key decisions or safeguard their own welfare, a court can appoint a welfare guardian to do that for them. The welfare guardian can be a relative/friend/carer or it can be a local authority.

Autism & ADHD

[Evaluation of the Scottish Strategy for Autism](#)

Key findings show that the Scottish Autism Strategy supported and funded a wide range of activities and developments at a local and national level, designed to bring about improvements in services and support for autistic people and their families/carers.

Older People & Dementia

[Exploring How Residential Care Facilities Can Enhance the Autonomy of People with Dementia and Improve Informal Care](#)

This study explored how Residential care facilities staff can enhance autonomy and improve informal care by looking at the influence of interactions (contact and approachability

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between residents, staff members and informal caregivers) and the physical environment, including the use of technologies.

[Service Providers' Use of Harm Reduction Approaches in Working with Older Adults Experiencing Abuse](#)

Although abuse experienced by older adults is common and expected to increase, disclosure, reporting and interventions to prevent or mitigate abuse remain sub-optimal. Incorporating principles of harm reduction into service provision has been advocated as a strategy that may improve outcomes for this population. This paper explores whether and how these principles of harm reduction were employed by professionals who provide services to older adults experiencing abuse.

[Eat Well Age Well Care at Home: Malnutrition Screening Pack](#)

As part of Malnutrition Awareness Week from 11 October, Eat Well Age Well is launching their Care at Home: Malnutrition Screening Pack. The screening pack contains guidance along with tools and information to help you put this into practice. Eat Well Age Well also provides free training to support you to do this

Carers

[Kinship Newsletter Re-Launched](#)

Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Kinship Teams across the city are delighted to announce that they've relaunched their Kinship Newsletter and it's now online. They want to celebrate the brilliant and dedicated care that families give children and young people every day of the year, and share support, advice and ideas among the kinship community.

[What Are the Consequences of Caring for Older People and What Interventions Are Effective for Supporting Unpaid Carers?](#)

The aim of this work was to provide an overview of what is known, as well as identifying key gaps, to support evidence-informed practice for those caring for older people.

Housing & Homelessness

[What Treatment and Services Are Effective for People Who Are Homeless and Use Drugs?](#)

People who experience homelessness and those vulnerably housed experience disproportionately high rates of drug use and associated harms, yet barriers to services and support are common. This systematic 'review of reviews' aimed to investigate the effects of interventions for this population on substance use, housing, and related outcomes, as well as on treatment engagement, retention and successful completion

Substance Use & Addictions

[Reimagining Brief Interventions for Alcohol: Towards a Paradigm Fit for the Twenty First Century?](#)

There is no longer support for the idea that brief intervention programmes alone can contribute meaningfully to the improvement of population health relating to alcohol. This paper briefly examines the history of the development of the evidence-base from the

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landmark World Health Organisation projects on Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) in the 1980s onwards.

[New resource aims to help people recognise the signs of gambling addiction](#)

Money Advice Scotland has launched a new addition to its e-learning modules – Understanding Gambling and Gambling Harms. Designed in partnership with Gamble Aware and the Accountant in Bankruptcy, the module covers the activities that fall within the remit of gambling as well as looking at the gambling industry in the UK and discussing gambling disorder and gambling harms.

[Lord Advocate diversifies enforcement of 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act](#)

The Lord Advocate has announced to Parliament the extension of recorded police warnings to class A drugs; updated on diversion from prosecution, and, while agreeing with her predecessor's view on Glasgow proposal for a drug consumption room, made clear that another proposal with a focus on narrower legal concerns would be welcomed and considered.

Equality & Poverty

[Power of attorney take up is "equality issue"](#)

Around 70 patients who are ready to go home are currently unable to leave Glasgow hospitals because they do not have the right legal arrangements in place. The patients, who are mostly older and have reduced capacity because of conditions such as dementia, went into hospital without power of attorney in place. They could be waiting up to six months as the process to put one in place can be reliant on finding a lawyer and securing legal aid, according to Ann Cummings from Health and Social Care Scotland.

[Racial Inequality and Mental Health in Scotland: a Call to Action](#)

This [report](#) by the Mental Welfare Commission examines racial inequality across mental health services in Scotland. The report, found differences in the ways the Mental Health Act is applied when people from ethnic minorities are detained for mental health care and treatment compared to white Scottish people, particularly between black women and white Scottish women.

Gender Based Violence

[The Trauma Recovery Actions Checklist](#)

A study that aimed to develop an instrument to measure the holistic recovery actions used by gender-based violence survivors.

[Opinion: Violence against women won't be solved by increasing police powers](#)

The death of Sabina Nessa has reignited the debate on gendered violence, but little has changed since Sarah Everard.

[UK far right promoting sexual violence against women, report finds](#)

New analysis reveals misogyny increasingly prevalent online and being used to steer people into racism and antisemitism.

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Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigration

[New Clinics Introduced to Provide COVID Jabs for Newly Arrived Asylum Seekers](#)

The clinic, which recently welcomed the first vaccination patients to its base in Govan, is part of Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP) Asylum Health Bridging Team, which provides a range of health services to some of Scotland's most vulnerable communities.

[SSKS Digital Library September Spotlight Refugees and Asylum Seeker Experiences](#)

Social Services Knowledge Services highlighting e-journal articles exploring refugee and asylum seeker experiences. This [registration form](#) can only be used to create OpenAthens accounts for NHS Scotland staff and partners to access these resources.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2020-2021](#)

Annual statistics on crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the police in Scotland, split by crime or offence group and by local authority. The recording of crime remains at one of the lowest levels seen since 1974. The long term trend of decreasing crime is broadly the same across Scotland.

[Paws for Progress is celebrating a milestone anniversary](#)

A ground-breaking Scottish organisation offering young people in custody the opportunity to train rescue dogs for rehoming is celebrating 10 years of success. Over the past decade [Paws for Progress](#), providers of the UK's first prison-based rescue dog training programme, have developed a series of invaluable human-dog interaction programmes in prison and community settings.

[My Story](#)

Two new resources - My Story and My Visit - which are designed to help young people with a parent in prison.

Online & Financial Harm

[Covid-19 Pass Scam](#)

Police in Forth Valley have received a report of a Covid Vaccine Pass scam. In this instance a local resident was contacted via text message which contained a hyperlink.

[Fife pensioner, 87, fell victim to £30,000 telephone scam](#)

The pensioner was contacted by someone who claimed to be from his bank and Police Scotland have urged the public to be extremely cautious about providing personal and financial details.

Social Care & Practice

[Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection: West Dunbartonshire Partnership](#)

This report is from the Care Inspectorate, Health Improvement Scotland and HMICS' adult support and protection inspection programme. The programme aims to provide timely

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national assurance about individual local partnership areas' effective operations of adult support and protection key processes, and leadership for adult support and protection.

[People's Experiences of Self-directed Support and Social Care in Glasgow](#)

The ALLIANCE and Self Directed Support Scotland have released new reports on self-directed support implementation in Glasgow in their series of 'My Support, My Choice' Local Authority reports. The reports highlight evidence of good practice and where improvements can be made.

[Adult care homes - strengthening Health and Social Care Standards: consultation](#)

The Scottish government is seeking views on proposals to require more visiting rights in health and care standards, following a commitment to introduce Anne's Law.

[Social Work Legitimacy: Democratising Research, Policy and Practice in Child Protection](#)

This article analyses the concept of legitimacy as applied to the use of power in statutory social work with children and families in the UK.

Events

[Communicating health information webinar; 18/10/21, 2pm - 4.30pm](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) are hosting a free online training course on communicating health information.

[Health in early years: How can we improve opportunities to live a healthy life? Tues 19 October, 12.30 – 13.30, Microsoft Teams](#)

What happens during pregnancy and the first few years of life influences our health and wellbeing throughout our lives. Children growing up in poverty and low-income households experience many disadvantages that can have negative health consequences through childhood and into adulthood. New approaches to research are needed to understand the complex ways these influence child health and to improve the health and opportunities of children living in poverty.

Join this webinar to hear fresh insights – and their implications for policy – from two important new initiatives: ActEarly research consortium and the Maternal and Child Health Network (MatCHNet).

[Webinar: Early education and care: where next for an effective system? Wed, 20 October, 11:00 - 12:15](#)

A Nuffield Foundation webinar exploring the role of early childhood education and care provision in shaping life-chances.

[New Belongings Peer Learning Seminar, Wed, 20 October, 12:30 – 14:00](#)

Hear about young people experiences during lockdown and how their voices are shaping services they receive.