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Public Protection Bulletin

17th September 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

[COVID Learning Reports: Children's Wellbeing](#)

The University of Strathclyde has reported on the findings of the eight-week, real-time, daily COVID 4P Log (Protection, Provision, Participation, Prevention) for Children's Wellbeing smartphone app and the Life Under Coronavirus survey, which received over 3,330 responses from 22 countries across five continents, undertaken by Inspiring Children's Futures. Further reports are to follow.

[The School Experience of Young People, Pre & During Covid - 19](#)

New research into the school experience over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic has been released by Includem. It calls for schools to be underpinned by a children's rights perspective to ensure that children and young people can have their voices heard, increased provision of whole family support to 'bridge the gap' between home and school, and the expansion of restorative practices to both build positive relationships and help young people feel they can put mistakes behind them.

[Podcast: Mental Health in Lockdown and its Impact on Children, Adolescents and Families](#)

Dr. Polly Waite discusses her research on anxiety in adolescents, the [Co-Space study](#) on how families are coping during the COVID-19 pandemic, and her recent [JCPP Advances](#) paper.

[Podcast: How the pandemic exposed the crisis in children's social care](#)

This episode by The Guardian discusses how children's services have reached breaking point in some areas as family breakdown and a lack of funding have resulted in a perfect storm.

[Covid: Opioid pain relief 'soared during pandemic' for some patients](#)

The use of opioids for pain relief soared during the pandemic as some patients waited longer for surgery, according to new research.

[Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicides during the Covid-19 Pandemic 2020-2021 \(England and Wales\)](#)

A new police report has been released on domestic homicides since the Covid-19 pandemic in England and Wales. The report finds that whilst domestic homicides and suspected victim suicides with a known history of domestic abuse did not substantially increase since the pandemic began, it remains an 'entrenched and enduring problem' with 215 deaths recorded by the project between 23 March 2020 and 31 March 2021.

[Reaching the tipping point: Children and young people's mental health](#)

This report examines what impact has the pandemic had on children and young people's mental health and the services that support them.

Children, Young People & Education

[Mind Matters](#)

A Unicef report that looks at the impacts of disasters and past epidemics on child and adolescent mental health and psychosocial wellbeing and the lessons learned from them.

[Why do we see disproportionate numbers of children from ethnic minority groups in care?](#)

Research led by Professor Paul Bywaters and the Child Welfare Inequalities Project team, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, aims to map and understand inequalities in child welfare intervention rates. This animation highlights some key findings from the research, and the questions that still need to be answered to address these inequities.

[How Child-Focused are Child Protection Conferences?](#)

This article presents findings from a qualitative study of CPCs in two areas in central England which explored the extent to which conferences are 'child-focused' events. Children's participation in CPCs was found to be low, and child-focused decision-making and planning were rarely achieved. The findings emphasise the importance of pre-conference work with children and families, and the central role of the conference chair.

[Adverse Childhood Experiences and Child Mental Health](#)

This study explored associations between five different adverse childhood experiences and child mental health diagnoses or symptoms.

[Are you taking an intersectional approach when working with children and young people?](#)

NSPCC Learning has released a podcast discussing intersectionality in social work practice. Intersectionality refers to how different forms of discrimination and injustice including racism, sexism and ageism interact and intersect to influence lived experiences.

[Bairns' Hoose - Scottish Barnahaus: vision, values and approach](#)

Sets out the Scottish Government's vision of how Barnahaus should be implemented in Scotland, the values which should underpin the model and our approach to its practical implementation.

[Scottish SSPCA Animal Guardians](#)

This project works with children who have shown behaviours towards animals that causes concern. This may mean an animal has already been harmed, a child is displaying the potential to harm an animal or that a child could be injured based on the way they may try and interact with an animal.

Throughout the [Animal Guardians](#) programme children are encouraged to think about and recognise both human and animal emotions. SSPCA can now offer the pioneering programme to children living in over 70% of local authorities in Scotland. If you have concerns about a young person's behaviour towards animals please contact the charity to make a referral.

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[Economic Exploitation of Under 18s](#)

This Scottish Community Safety Network Briefing Paper is intended to inform members and stakeholders of issues relating to the Economic Exploitation of U18s.

[Mental health and wellbeing: whole school approach: framework](#)

A whole school approach framework for schools to support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

[COVID-19 Family Nurse Partnership insights: evaluation report](#)

Scottish Government report commissioned to explore the experiences of the family nurses and clients in Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes initial findings on service delivery, mode of delivery, dosage, materials and resources.

[Scottish Children's Reporter E- Bulletin](#)

Latest summer edition of SCRA e-bulletin available.

[Prioritise child poverty: a data and systems approach](#)

A set of resources is now available to Scotland's local authorities and wider partners that can help make an impact in preventing and reducing child poverty. The package from Public Health Scotland (PHS), from a pilot project with Inverclyde Council aims to make it clear through better use of data what local issues are and what actions need to be taken around child poverty.

Mental Health

[Mental Health Officers \(Scotland\) Report 2020](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council's annual report on the Mental Health Officer workforce.

[Scottish COVID-19 Mental Health Tracker Study: Wave 4 Report](#)

The findings for a range of mental health outcomes for Wave 4 of the Scottish COVID-19 (SCOVID) Mental Health Tracker Study.

Disability

[Tricky Friends Animation](#)

Developed by Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board to help people to understand what good friendships are, when they might be harmful, and what they can do.

Over the last few years, NSAB have had a number of discussions with groups and organisations in Norfolk who support people with learning disabilities and autism, about how to raise awareness of issues like exploitation, county lines, cuckooing.

[Human Rights Town](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has launched a new app, 'Human Rights Town' which is designed to empower people with learning disabilities to recognise and realise their human rights. The app invites users to travel around a virtual town where they encounter different scenarios at each location. The app is available to download for free from Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

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Older People & Dementia

[Relatives of People with Dementia Urged to Sign up to Herbert Protocol](#)

Families, friends and carers of people living with dementia in Glasgow are being urged to sign up to a scheme which could help them be found quicker if they go missing. People are being encouraged to provide information about their loved one's lives which could be used to locate them if they wander off or get lost.

[Complete the Herbert Protocol](#)

[Video explaining the Herbert Protocol](#)

['The Jigsaw Culture of Care'](#)

A qualitative analysis of Montessori-Based programming for dementia care in the United Kingdom.

[Human Rights and Care Homes for Older People](#)

The findings of an analysis of pre-pandemic scholarship that explored the ways authors approached the topic of human rights of older people in care homes.

[Daphne Franks: the woman who lost her much-loved mother to a predatory marriage](#)

Joan Blass was 87 and had dementia when a man befriended her, then married her quietly, inherited her estate when she died – and buried her in an unmarked grave. Now Franks works tirelessly to make such marriages a crime.

Housing & Homelessness

[A Comprehensive Review of Prioritised Interventions to Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Persons with Lived Experience of Homelessness](#)

A systematic review of the best available evidence on the benefits and cost-effectiveness of interventions to improve the health and social outcomes of people experiencing homelessness.

Substance Use & Addictions

[Scotland records 722 drug deaths in first half of 2021](#)

The latest figures for drug overdoses come just two months after those for 2020 showed a record 1,339 deaths.

The new report is an attempt to give more up-to-date data after criticism that figures lagged too far behind. The stats for 2019 were only released at the end of the following year.

[ADVANCE Integrated Group Intervention to Address Both Substance Use and Intimate Partner Abuse Perpetration by Men in Substance Use Treatment](#)

An assessment of the feasibility of conducting an evaluation trial of an integrated intervention that was developed to target the complex ways that substance use and intimate partner abuse perpetration intersect.

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[Peer-based recovery support services delivered at recovery community organizations: Predictors of improvements in individual recovery capital](#)

Study finds peer-led recovery support is associated with only modest gains in recovery capital and that recovery capital at start of treatment is the key predictor of long terms outcomes.

Equality & Poverty

[Health in a changing city: Glasgow 2021](#)

This GCPH report provides a comprehensive analysis of changes in population, socioeconomic, environmental and health factors over the last 20 years within Glasgow and in comparison with Scotland. Although most of the analyses precede the Covid-19 pandemic, emerging evidence of the impacts of the pandemic is reviewed.

The report highlights the changing deprivation profile of Glasgow, multiple inequalities experienced by children, reductions in life expectancy and widening health inequalities, worsening mental health trends and increasing concerns over ethnic and racial inequality, racial discrimination and gender-based inequality experienced by women.

[Poverty and Scotland's Drug Deaths Crisis](#)

Austin Smith Policy Officer at Scottish Drugs Forum discusses the link between poverty, problem drug use and Scotland's high and increasing rate of drug-related deaths.

[Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights - anti-racist policy making: review](#)

Findings of a research programme into Scottish race equality strategies since 2000. The Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER) was commissioned to support the implementation of this review, with a focus on exploring opportunities for better practice.

Gender Based Violence

[The Consequences of Female Genital Mutilation on Psycho-Social Well-Being](#)

A systematic review of qualitative evidence on the psycho-social impact of FGM in countries where it is originally practiced (Africa, the Middle East, and Asia) and in countries of the diaspora.

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigration

[Can Community-Based Social Protection Interventions Improve the Wellbeing of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the United Kingdom?](#)

A systematic literature review that aimed to synthesize existing qualitative literature that documents the impact of semi-formal and informal social protection interventions on the wellbeing of adult asylum seekers and refugees in the UK.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Supporting Documents](#)

Statutory Guidance on Investigative Interviews and on the use of a Place of Safety for the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019: Part 4.

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[Use and Impact of Bail and Remand with Children in Scotland](#)

A child-friendly version of a report by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice, that aims to give children and young people an understanding of the issues around how bail and remand is done in Scotland.

[No finding in nine out of 10 prison death FAls](#)

A study of almost 200 fatal accident inquiries into deaths in custody found the sheriff made no recommendation to improve practice in 90% of cases. Academics at Glasgow University looked at 196 deaths in prisons covering almost 15 years from 2005 to 2019.

[Scottish judges to consider rehabilitation first when sentencing young people](#)

Scottish courts could be required to make rehabilitation rather than punishment a primary consideration when sentencing young people in future. The Scottish Sentencing Council is recommending an "individualistic approach" for under 25s which takes into account their life experiences. It argues that the proposed changes will help reduce reoffending.

Online & Financial Harm

[Get Safe Online](#)

Get Safe Online's campaign this month is focusing on children and social media.

The campaign is asking "how does what your child sees and does on social media make them feel?" Get Safe Online has offered advice on how to help your child be true to themselves on social media.

[Stop It Now! Campaign](#)

Stop It Now! Scotland are a child protection charity who believe the key to preventing sexual abuse is awareness among parents and community members. In addition to working with the Scottish Government to develop cyber resilience and online safety training for kinship carers, the charity has produced a guide for parents and carers which includes information about speaking to a child about their online life, helping build children's understanding of safety online and what to do if you are worried about risks to your child online.

[Cyber Awareness Videos](#)

CyberScotland Partner Scottish Business Resilience Centre have released a selection of cyber security awareness videos. These short videos offer up simple and easily digestible information on some of the most common terms and issues arising in the cyber world. Check out the 10 explainer videos for some tips to help you stay secure online.

Social Care & Practice

[National Care Service for Scotland Consultation – deadline extended](#)

The deadline for responses to this consultation has been extended to November 2nd 2021. [Easy read versions](#) of the Consultation documents now available online.

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[Family Impact Statement \(Safeguarding Adult Review\)](#)

An adult safeguarding review in England took place into the circumstances surrounding the death of 'Anne'. Anne's sister and son reviewed the report at the conclusion of the review and were asked for any messages they wanted agencies to hear. An extract, adapted from her son's response with his permission has been published.

[Preparing Students for Trauma Exposure in Field Education Settings](#)

A paper that presents the findings of a two-year study of Master of Social Work field education students in the United States who were asked to complete measures on their trauma histories and trauma symptoms to assess their risk for secondary traumatic stress and vicarious trauma when in field placements.

[Association of Professors of Social Work Event Series Recordings](#)

These hour long, online briefing events were 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.

Events

[Exploring the relationship between children's rights & restorative justice: 23/09/21, 13:00](#)

CYJ are hosting this webinar with leading expert in restorative justice Tim Chapman (University of Strathclyde Visiting Professor) presenting on children's rights and the practice of restorative justice. Tim will demonstrate that, while restorative justice has the potential to support and activate the exercise of children's rights, it often fails to do so.

[Evaluating place-based initiatives, 21/09/21, 10:00](#)

This free webinar, organised by the NSPCC, takes place on 21 September 2021. The webinar discusses the methods used in evaluating the NSPCC Together for Childhood programme, an evidence-informed approach that focuses on preventing child abuse.

[Adult Support and Protection and Safeguarding Five Nations Conference Series: Event 7 - Citizen Voices, Engagement and Impact, 24/09/21, 10.30-12.30](#)

The seminar will explore the task of securing citizen engagement, how engagement happens now and what difference has it made.

[The National Care Service - What does it mean for Children's Services? 30/09/21, 14:00](#)

How will proposals for the National Care Service affect children's services? Join GCVS to consider the current Scot Govt consultation.

[Practical Cyber Resilience Skills: Tools for Staying Secure Online, 30/09/21](#)

Learn how to stay safe online at these short online free workshops. This session is delivered remotely and is available to all workers in Scotland. This is a great way to up your cyber security knowledge and confidence. You don't need any technical knowledge or experience to take part.