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Public Protection Bulletin 18th December 2024

Dear colleague,

Glasgow's Adult Support and Protection Committee (ASPC) and Child Protection Committee (CPC) are hosting a one-day multi-agency public protection conference on 15th May 2025. The conference will explore themes and topics that cut across the child protection and adult support and protection domains.

To ensure that the conference programme meets the needs of partner agencies and is beneficial to professionals working in an operational and strategic capacity, we would like to hear from you about themes and topics you would like to hear on the day. We would be grateful if you could complete a short survey to tell us your thoughts: [Public Protection Conference 2025 survey](#).

As you will know, the Public Protection Committees Team launched the new CPC/ASPC websites in April of this year. We hope that the websites have been a useful way to keep updated on child protection and adult support and protection developments, the work of the committees and to support practice.

As part of the committees' commitment to self-evaluation and to ensure that the websites meet the needs of its users, the Committees Team has created a survey so that you can tell us what you think of the websites and how they can be improved. Your feedback is valuable, and we would very much appreciate if you could take time to complete the surveys. The CPC survey can be accessed at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CPC-website-survey/> and the ASPC survey at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/44FX2C/>

This will be the last edition of the bulletin for 2024. I wish you all a very happy Christmas full of the joy, peace and love that this time of year brings and hopefully this will continue into 2025. However, we must remember that although the majority of us will be able to celebrate and enjoy this time of year with our families, our member organisations, staff and volunteers will be focusing on those who may not be so fortunate. For this, I respectfully offer my heartfelt thanks.

As usual, this edition carries a full range of research, articles, activities, and events covering the full spectrum of public protection.

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

Best wishes

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

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Adults, Older People and Dementia

[You Are Not Alone in Feeling Lonely: Loneliness in later life](#)

This report from Age UK presents new evidence about the scale of the loneliness challenge among people aged 65 and over. It explores why loneliness is harmful to older people's health, wellbeing and quality of life and the practical steps that can be taken to mitigate against it.

Carers

[Additional Funding for Short Breaks Fund](#)

An additional 15,000 unpaid carers will be supported to take short breaks away from their caring responsibilities as a result of a £5 million boost to the Voluntary Sector Short Breaks Fund.

[Carers Census, Scotland, 2023-24](#)

Publication from the Scottish Government presenting data relating to unpaid carers who had a support plan or were supported by local services during 2023-24.

Children, Young People & Families

[Eroding the Right to Family Life: Human rights violations in Britain's child protection systems](#)

This report from the Children and Families Truth Commission maps human rights violations against families in the British child protection systems. The commission is the first ever parent-led human rights-focused investigation of child protection in the UK and has produced the first surveys of families with experience of the child protection system to learn about their experiences.

[An Evidence-Based Plan for Addressing Childhood Vulnerability, Crime and Justice](#)

This research report from Vulnerabilities & Policing Futures Research Centre argues for addressing children's underlying vulnerabilities and disadvantages, rather than their behaviours. It notes that this is key to preventing children becoming victims of crime and reducing offending.

[Study Finds That Instagram is Actively Helping the Spread of Self-harm Among Teenagers](#)

Meta is actively helping self-harm content to flourish on Instagram by failing to remove explicit images and encouraging those engaging with such content to befriend one another, according to a damning new study that found its moderation "extremely inadequate".

[State of the World's Children: The future of childhood in a changing world](#)

An annual UNICEF report that examines the forces and trends shaping the world of children today and how they might shape the future. There is also an [executive summary](#).

[Participation Work with Victims and Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse](#)

The voices of people with lived experience of child sexual abuse (CSA) play an important role in understanding how to respond to and prevent this form of abuse. Conducting participatory work with victims and survivors can move the conversation around CSA forward and create positive change. This NSPCC podcast episode, hosted by the [IICSA Changemakers](#), contains advice on how to carry out

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participation work with adult victim-survivors of abuse in a way that is both safe and meaningful.

[Child Safety Online Project \(2024-26\): Working group information sheet](#)

[The Scottish Youth Parliament \(SYP\)](#) is currently recruiting working group members for a new youth-led project that will run from December 2024 until March 2026 with the goal of amplifying young people's views and experiences to improve child safety online in Scotland. This project is being run in partnership with the NSPCC, who is also working with their online safety participation group - [Voice of Online Youth](#) – and partner organisations in Wales and Northern Ireland to help foster nation-specific impact across the UK.

[Non-compulsory Care for Children and Young People: What next for Scotland? Learning from research on Section 25](#)

This free webinar recording from CELCIS is suitable for everyone with a role and interest in what's happening to better protect children and young people in Scotland, including families and carers, social workers and the wider social care sector, policy makers, advocates, teachers, health professionals, academics, and all those working to protect and support children and young people.

[Adoptive Parent Advice: Challenges, Strategies, and Insights for Future Adoptive Parents](#)

A qualitative study that examined the advice from 2,131 adoptive parents, who answered the question: *“What do you believe is important for future adoptive parents to know?”*

[The Cost of a Child in Scotland in 2024](#)

The Child Poverty Action Group's annual analysis of the cost of a child in Scotland, as compared to the UK as a whole.

[Child Protection Committees Scotland Neglect Subgroup Paper and Blog](#)

Child Protection Committees Scotland's Neglect Sub-Group and CPCScotland with support from CELCIS developed and published 'A Review of Scotland's National Indicators Relating to Child Neglect.' in July 2022. Two years on, it was agreed that an update on this paper would be both timely and useful. This updated paper continues the aim to provide a means of measuring (and subsequently monitoring) neglect at the population level in Scotland and to consider what has changed in this time. In addition, a small number of indicators have been introduced.

[Children, Violence and Vulnerability](#)

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) has published two new reports based on its annual Children, violence and vulnerability research. [The first report](#) looks at who is affected by violence. [The second report](#) looks at the impact of social media on violence affecting young people.

[More Young People Helped to Spot the Signs of Abuse](#)

More than 27,000 young people have benefited from education and awareness-raising sessions on tackling gender-based violence over six months, according to a new report.

[Surge in Concerns about Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse](#)

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The NSPCC is urging children to speak to its Childline service with any concerns this Christmas following a surge in contacts to the charity about children experiencing domestic abuse.

[National Review into Child Sexual Abuse within the Family Environment](#)

A report from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel analysing 136 serious child safeguarding incidents, and 41 related serious case reviews (SCRs) and local child safeguarding practice reviews (LCSPRs) in England. It explores the specific challenges which feature in the identification, assessment, and response to child sexual abuse within the family environment.

[Why Language Matters: Putting the child first – why we say children who have disabilities rather than disabled children](#)

As part of its Why Language Matters series, NSPCC Learning has published a blog about using child-first language when talking about children who have disabilities.

[Understanding and Responding to Sibling Sexual Harm and Abuse: A research review and analysis](#)

A report from the NSPCC that examines the prevalence of sibling sexual harm and abuse, the nature and dynamics of this type of harm and the different risk factors for children and families.

[Youth Work and Teaching: Lost in Translation?](#)

This resource from the National Youth Agency aims to strengthen collaboration between youth workers and teachers by building a shared understanding and language about their respective roles and by exploring the potential for partnership working to support positive outcomes for all young people. It is written for practitioners and those commissioning interventions for young people within schools, academy trusts and colleges.

[Reforming Children's Services: The role of data in transformational change](#)

This webinar recording from CELCIS offered attendees the opportunity to gain insights into the themes and findings of the Children's Services Reform Research study to understand the significance of these for efforts to reform services, and to explore where we are now and what it takes to make change happen to provide the essential learning needed for progressing improvements to make transformational and meaningful change in children's services.

[Children's Participation and Rights Strategy: Respect, inclusion, empowerment and accountability](#)

This strategy from Children's Hearing Scotland has been co-designed with young people who have first hand experience of the hearings system and reinforces Children's Hearings Scotland's purpose to ensure hearings make child-centred decisions which respect and protect children's rights and support them to thrive.

[Young People and Violent Extremism: A call for collective action](#)

A paper from the 'Five Eyes', an alliance between law enforcement and security agencies from the UK, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, which warns of a growing prevalence of children being drawn into violent extremism globally. It calls for collective action from the public, governments and the tech industry to tackle the problem, saying that 'once law enforcement and security agencies become involved it is often too late'.

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Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements in Scotland: National Overview Report 2023-24](#)

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), are a set of statutory partnership working arrangements introduced in 2007. This report provides an overview of the main national developments in relation to MAPPA during the reporting period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

[Tackling Drug Misuse in Prisons: A qualitative study into the lived experience of drug testing and Incentivised Substance Free Living wings \(ISFL\) in three prisons](#)

RAND Europe was commissioned by the Ministry of Justice to conduct a study exploring the experiences and perceptions of staff and prisoners of drug testing regimens and incentivised substance free living (ISFL) wings. The study took place in three prisons: one male prison in the North of England, one male prison in Wales and one female prison in the South of England.

Disability, Learning Difficulties & Neurodiversity

[Social Inclusion for People with Intellectual Disability and on the Autism Spectrum through Assistive Technologies: Current needs and future priorities](#)

A study that investigated the present requirements and future priorities acknowledged by specialists in the field regarding the progress of social inclusion for neurodivergent people, making use of assistive technologies.

[Research Finds Link Between ADHD and Childhood Tantrums](#)

Researchers have found that children with ADHD are more likely to experience extreme emotions and take longer to manage their mental health and develop emotional regulation skills.

[Navigating Puberty: A guide for parents and carers of children and young people who have a learning disability](#)

A guide from the NSPCC for parents and carers of children and young people who have a learning disability.

[Why Words Matter: Terminology guide](#)

A terminology guide from Autism Education Trust that aims to reshape the language around autism.

Education

[Inclusion of Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities in schools - how can local areas support schools?](#)

This qualitative research from What Works in SEND focuses on exploring the key ingredients that facilitate the inclusion of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in schools. The research had a particular focus on understanding what local areas can do, to better support schools to become more inclusive, improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families.

[Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland 2024](#)

A publication from the Scottish Government with headline statistics on teachers, pupils, attendance, and early learning and childcare provision in Scotland.

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[Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence \(CfE\) Levels 2023-24](#)

Publication from the Scottish Government with Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels: 2023-24 provides information on national performance in literacy and numeracy, based on all pupils in publicly funded Primary 1, Primary 4, Primary 7 and Secondary 3 classes, and for all pupils based in special schools/units.

Equality & Poverty

[Discrimination and Harassment in Scotland: results from the 2023 Scottish Household Survey](#)

This topic report from the Scottish Government highlights key findings on discrimination and harassment in Scotland from the 2023 Scottish Household Survey results.

[Life in the UK 2024: Scotland](#)

A publication, based on a representative survey of over 1,100 people from Scotland, that presents key findings in relation to collective, social, economic, environmental and democratic wellbeing.

[Social Security Bill Passed](#)

Payments to people in receipt of benefits will be protected from inflation after the Scottish Parliament passed the Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill.

[Life Expectancy for Local Areas of Great Britain: Between 2001 to 2003 and 2021 to 2023](#)

A report from the Office of National Statistics detailing subnational trends in the average number of years people will live beyond their current age measured by "period life expectancy".

[Opening Doors: Access to early childhood services for families impacted by poverty in the UK](#)

A report from UNICEF and the NSPCC that explores access to early childhood services for families impacted by poverty in the UK.

[Bangladeshi, Black African and Pakistani Households at Higher Risk of Very Deep, Long-Term Poverty](#)

An analysis from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation that shows people in Bangladeshi, Black African and Pakistani households are much more likely to face deep, long-term hardship compared to white households.

Events & Courses

[Child Protection Lead Online Training - 05/03/25 - 10am-3pm](#)

Children In Scotland are offering training on the role of child protection leads within organisations. This interactive training course will provide learners with the skills and knowledge required to carry out the role and responsibilities of the Child Protection Lead. The themes of the day include a focus on legislation and guidance, referral procedures and supporting and responding to staff & volunteers thereby developing confidence in the role and promoting best practice in safeguarding children and young people. Please note that there is a cost to attend this training.

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Adult Support and Protection Multi Agency Training Awareness Webinar

A multi-agency webinar delivered by Learning and Development, Glasgow HSCP (Health and Social Care Partnership) to support practitioners to gain a basic understanding of Adult Support and Protection (ASP) legislation. It may be used as a basic awareness or if you already have some knowledge of ASP and wish to refresh your skills. This is a multi- agency awareness session and will be webinar-based with a maximum of 60 participants. There will not be a waiting list so if you are unsuccessful you will require to reserve an alternative date. Participants will:

- develop their understanding of what we mean by an adult at risk within the context of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007
- define who may be an adult at risk of harm
- recognise forms of harm adults may experience
- know how to report their concerns
- explain their responsibility in relation to Adult Support and Protection.

Due to the high demand for the training, we recommend that you book 1 place but having up to 8 additional staff members join in your room and attend this training session.

Dates are as follows:

[29th January 2025 - 10am - 12.20pm \(MS Teams\)](#)

[20th February 2025 - 10am - 12.30pm \(MS Teams\)](#)

[18th March 2025 - 10am - 12.30pm \(MS Teams\)](#)

Child Protection Awareness Multi-Agency Online Training

This multi-agency training will support practitioners to gain a basic understanding of Child Protection, even where your job is such that you have no direct responsibility for providing a service to them. It may be used as a basic awareness or if you already have some knowledge of Child Protection and wish to refresh your skills. Participants will:

- Understand types of harm and the potential impact on a child
- Understand your role and responsibility in recognising and responding to the risk of harm
- Understand the process and importance of information sharing
- Understand the processes professionals take to assess and support any child at risk of harm.

Dates are as follows:

[12th February 2024](#)

[12th March 2024](#)

[9th April 2024](#)

[7th May 2024](#)

[4th June 2024](#)

Gender Based Violence

[Muslim Women's Experiences of Domestic Violence and Abuse: A meta-ethnography of global evidence](#)

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A synthesis of published qualitative evidence on Muslim women's experiences and perspectives about domestic violence and abuse.

[Many Good Men: Young Scots' experiences of online misogynistic extremism and radicalisation](#)

Zero Tolerance has published new research in partnership with Civic Digits on young people's experiences of extreme misogyny online.

[A Matter of Trust: Improving police responses to violence against women and girls in racially minoritised communities](#)

This project from the University of Bristol aimed to improve outcomes for racially minoritised victims/survivors of violence against women and girls (VAWG), by collaborating with policing partners to understand current policing responses. It also aimed to identify areas of good practice, challenges and knowledge gaps to support more effective policing.

[Supporting People with Learning Disabilities Who Have Experienced Domestic Violence and Abuse Through Fairness Informed Practice](#)

Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has been collaborating with Dr Gavin Hutchison from the University of Bristol, to embed his groundbreaking new framework into our upcoming accessibility audit toolkit. The toolkit is a practical set of resources designed to support organisations to make their services accessible to women with learning disabilities who have experienced gender-based violence and is due to be launched in June 2025.

Health and Social Care

[Health and Care Experience Survey 2023/24: Mental health analysis](#)

Analysis of the experiences and demographics of people who received care from their General Practice or out of hours services for a mental health reason.

[NHSGGC Nurse's Idea to Help Motor Neurone Disease Patients Sparks National Interest](#)

An idea from a young staff nurse at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has proved so successful that she has won a national award, inspiring interest from her own colleagues and across the UK.

[Draft Healthcare and Forensic Medical Services Standards](#)

Health Improvement Scotland are developing standards for healthcare and forensic medical services for people who have experienced rape, sexual assault or child sexual abuse. These standards will update and replace the [2017 standards of the same name](#). You can give feedback on the draft standards by completing an [online survey](#). The consultation on the draft standards closes at 5pm on Monday 6 January 2025.

Housing and Homelessness

[More Than 8,000 Scottish Workers Could be Homeless at Christmas](#)

New research by The Salvation Army has estimated that as many as 8,000 working people in Scotland will be homeless this Christmas.

[Older People's Housing Preferences: Report produced by Ipsos and Housing LIN](#)

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This report offers critical and comprehensive evidence about the housing circumstances, aspirations and preferences of older adults in the UK.

Mental Health & Trauma

[Mental Health Scrutiny and Assurance Collaborative](#)

A paper setting out the aims and benefits of a Mental Health Scrutiny and Assurance Collaborative, a way of improving collaboration between scrutiny bodies to enhance the quality, safety, and outcomes of mental health services in Scotland.

[Staggering 100 Referrals a Day for Child Mental Health Support](#)

Children's charity Children First has published information released under FOI which it says shows that there are, on average, 100 referrals of children and young people to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) every day in Scotland.

[Debt Recovery \(Mental Health Moratorium\) \(Scotland\) Regulations - Draft: Consultation](#)

This consultation from the Scottish Government provides an opportunity to provide feedback on the latest draft of the Mental Health Moratorium Regulations and the detailed implementation of the Moratorium process.

[Mental Capacity Report - December 2024](#)

39 Essex Chambers' monthly reports on aspects of mental capacity law in the UK.

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.](#)

Practice, Organisation & Workforce Matters

[Embedding a Rights-based Approach to Digital Social Care](#)

The Care Inspectorate is consulting with the social care sector on a self-evaluation toolkit for embedding a rights-based approach to digital social care and they would love to hear your views. The toolkit is designed to support social care services uphold and promote people's rights through the use of technology.

[Neurodiversity Employers Index: Market Report](#)

This report by Autistica presents the first findings from the Neurodiversity Employers Index NDEI, showing evidence-based insights into neurodiversity at work.

[General Practitioner Workforce Survey](#)

This release by NHS Education for Scotland provides information on numbers and vacancies of General Practitioners (GPs), Nurses and other primary care staff in Scotland on 31 March 2024. Absences and use of GP locum staff during the year ending 31 March 2024 are also reported.

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[The Caldey Abbey Review: Review into the allegations of non-recent childhood sexual abuse within the monastic community of Caldey Abbey on Caldey Island, Pembrokeshire](#)

This review is an account of the investigations undertaken in response to numerous allegations of physical and sexual abuse of children by adults on Caldey Island. These allegations date back from the late 1960's to 1992. They have been made by a group of victims who had all experienced abuse on Caldey Island as children.

[Study Finds Ethnicity, Mental Health and Age Predict NHS Workers' Plans to Quit](#)

The national study, published today in The Lancet Regional Health Europe, also discovered a striking link between suffering from symptoms of depression, anxiety or PTSD, and wanting to leave healthcare.

[What is Professional Curiosity?](#)

Professional curiosity supports practitioners to question and challenge the information they receive, identify concerns and make connections to enable a greater understanding of a person's situation. Emily Smith, Research and Development Officer at Research in Practice, delves deeper into the topic and reflects on how practitioners might develop their practice.

Refugees, Asylum, Trafficking and Immigration

[Home Office to Give Refugees More Time to Find Housing](#)

The Home Office has said it will double the number of days someone granted asylum can stay in government accommodation.

[Double Edged Swords: The role of technology in human trafficking and migrant smuggling](#)

A briefing report from a NatCen International and University of Westminster roundtable event that summarises key points from a discussion on technology, human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

[EU Settlement Scheme Looked After Children and Care Leavers: Local authority and health and social care trust guidance](#)

Updated guidance for local authorities and health and social care trusts to make sure looked after children and care leavers apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Substance Use & Addiction

[Residential Rehabilitation Bed Capacity in Scotland: September 2024](#)

A report from the Scottish Government detailing the findings from a survey of residential rehabilitation facilities in Scotland to provide updated data on residential rehabilitation bed capacity.

[Key Findings Published on Evaluation of National Mission on Drug Deaths](#)

As part of the Public Health Scotland (PHS) evaluation of the National Mission on Drug Deaths, the findings of a research project interviewing key individuals in the field have been published.