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Public Protection Bulletin



18th March 2022

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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COVID – 19

[Children and Young People Public Health – Covid-19 Impact Report \(March 2022\)](#)

The CYPPHG, a special interest group of the Scottish Directors of Public Health, has produced a discussion paper on the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people. Further to comprehensive stakeholder engagement, it highlights some positive, but mainly adverse impacts, and suggests key areas the system (local and national) should address to mitigate these.

[Using the COVID-19 School Infection Survey to measure the impact of the pandemic on children](#)

The COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey (SIS) was launched at the start of the 2020-21 academic year, aiming to gain an insight into how the pandemic has affected children's lives and their education. The first findings from this important study, jointly led by The Office for National Statistics (ONS), London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and UK Health Security Agency, have now been published.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): disabled people are more likely to feel life will never return to normal](#)

With most restrictions lifted, over half of people in Great Britain were avoiding crowded places and spending more time at home in February 2022.

[Examining the impact of the first wave of COVID-19 and associated control measures on interventions to prevent blood-borne viruses among people who inject drugs in Scotland: an interrupted time series study](#)

COVID-19 has likely affected the delivery of interventions to prevent blood-borne viruses among people who inject drugs. Study examines the impact of the first wave of COVID-19 in Scotland on: 1) needle and syringe provision, 2) opioid agonist therapy and 3) BBV testing.

Children, Young People & Education

['We All Feel It' Campaign](#)

Childline has launched its campaign, to support young men who are struggling to speak about their mental health and to help them before they reach crisis point.

[Together launches its 2022 State of Children's Rights Report](#)

The report seeks to inspire and enable everyone in Scotland to put children's human rights at the heart of everything they do. It has been developed as a practical guide to support public authorities, the third sector, organisations and individuals as we approach implementation of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill.

[Safeguarding LGBTQ+ Children and Young People](#)

An NSPCC Learning resource to help professionals safeguard LGBTQ+ children and young people.

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

Sets out the updated vision of how Barnahus should be implemented in Scotland, the values which should underpin the model and our approach to its practical implementation.

[Putting learners at the centre: response to the independent advisor on education reform's report](#)

The Scottish Government has published Professor Ken Muir's report to the Scottish Government on education reform, recommending the establishment of: a new qualifications and assessment body to replace the SQA; a national education agency for Scottish education; and a new inspectorate body with its independence enshrined in legislation. The report suggests that "as a matter of urgency the new independent Inspectorate should re-engage with the Care Inspectorate to agree a shared inspection framework designed to reduce the burden on early learning and childcare practitioners and centres".

[Under-18s should not go to jail, says prison chief](#)

Wendy Sinclair Gieben has written to ministers calling for urgent legislation to end imprisonment of 16 and 17-year-olds by the end of March.

[Waiting times grow for Scotland's child mental health services](#)

The number of children who saw a mental health specialist within the Scottish government's target waiting time is at its lowest in over a year, the BBC reports.

[Met Police apologises for strip-search of Hackney schoolgirl](#)

A black schoolgirl was strip-searched by police after being wrongly suspected of carrying cannabis.

[Pregnant women should be asked how much they drink](#)

Pregnant women should be asked how much alcohol they are drinking and the answer recorded in their medical notes, new "priority advice" for the NHS says.

Mental Health

[Mother and Baby Unit Capacity Increase Options](#)

A Scottish Government consultation on how to increase Mother and Baby Unit provision, or equivalent services, to support women with severe mental illness and their infants during the perinatal period. Consultation closes at the end of May 2022.

[Mental health problems cost the Scottish economy at least GBP 8.8 billion a year: New research](#)

A new report published by the Mental Health Foundation and London School of Economics and Political Science with support from the University of Strathclyde, finds that almost three-quarters of the cost (72%) is due to the lost productivity of people living with mental health

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conditions and costs incurred by unpaid informal carers who take on a great deal of responsibility in providing mental health support in our communities.

[A psychiatric hospital "ahead of its time"](#)

This is the story of Dingleton Hospital, as told through the memories of staff members, patients, and members of the local community from the end of the 1960s to its eventual closure at the turn of the century.

[The Scottish Mental Illness Stigma Survey](#)

The Mental Health Foundation, See Me and Glasgow Caledonian University are undertaking a ground-breaking research project to better understand how people living with severe, complex and/or enduring mental illnesses experience stigma and discrimination.

Disability

[Lifelong disabilities will not face benefit tests](#)

Disabled people in Scotland with serious lifelong conditions will no longer have to attend reassessments to continue receiving their benefits, BBC Scotland has learned.

Autism, ADHD & Learning Difficulties

[National autism post-diagnostic support service - pilot programme: evaluation](#)

An independent evaluation of a national autism post-diagnostic support pilot programme led by voluntary agencies has been published, which showed many participants felt their self-confidence had improved since participation.

Older People & Dementia

[Do Personality Traits Influence the Association Between Depression and Dementia in Old Age?](#)

A study that explored the influence of personality traits on the association between change in depression and dementia in old age.

[The Good Morning Service](#)

Provide telephone befriending and alert calls to older people. Every morning, 365 days a year, Telephone Befrienders call out to members at a pre-arranged time to check that all is well and for a good blether.

Carers

[Scottish Carer's Assistance](#)

A Scottish Government consultation on proposals for how Scottish Carer's Assistance could be different from Carer's Allowance which it will be replacing. Closes 23 May 2022.

Housing & Homelessness

[Delivering Collaborative Mental Health Care Within Supportive Housing](#)

An evaluation of the implementation of a collaborative care initiative in which a psychiatrist was added to existing housing, community mental health, and primary care supports in a women-centred supportive housing complex.

[Thousands of children remain trapped in temporary housing in Scotland charity warns](#)

Council leaders are failing children across the country when it comes to social housing, according to Shelter Scotland.

Substance Use & Addictions

[Mapping Drug Use, Interventions, and Treatment Needs in Scottish Prisons: A literature review](#)

This report summarises a literature review addressing 3 key factors: the prevalence and patterns of drug use in Scottish prisons, current treatment and harm reduction services offered in Scottish prison setting, and the treatment and harm reduction needs of people in Scottish prisons.

[Spotlight on...Drug Consumption Rooms](#)

A briefing that looks at the history of drug consumption rooms, their effectiveness and their future.

[Tackling the drug problem in the UK and Portugal: Episode 17 of the Health Foundation podcast](#)

The UK government tackles drugs as a criminal justice matter focused on punishment, rather than a public health matter focused on support. But many countries are taking a different approach, most famously Portugal which in 2000 decriminalised all drugs and concentrated instead on public health and harm reduction. The result? From one of the highest drug death rates in Europe to one of the lowest.

Equality & Poverty

[Health inequalities in Scotland: An independent review](#)

The Health Foundation will be carrying out an independent review of health and health inequalities in Scotland to provide a detailed and thorough analysis of the health trends and wider factors that have influenced people's health in Scotland over the last two decades.

[Is child poverty heading in the right direction? – taking stock ahead of the second Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan](#)

This month is a big month for tackling poverty in Scotland. It sees the publication of the Scottish Government's second Tackling Child Poverty Delivery plan.

Gender Based Violence

[Forensic medical services for victims of sexual offences](#)

The Scottish Parliament has approved the regulations to set the retention period for evidence collected during the course of a self-referral forensic medical examination at 26 months. Regulations were also approved which make technical amendments to the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, ensuring that Healthcare Improvement Scotland functions extend to forensic medical services as set out in the FMS Act.

Both sets of regulations will come into force on 1 April at the same time as the FMS Act is commenced. Section 9 of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014, which gives people the right to request the sex of examiner of their choice, will also come into force on this date.

[Misogyny – A Human Rights Issue](#)

The Working Group on Misogyny and Criminal Justice's independent report on their findings and recommendations. Women's rights campaigners and politicians have welcomed a the report which calls for "innovative, change-making and radical" legal reforms, including a new statute to combat misogyny.

Refugees, Asylum, Trafficking and Immigration

[An Evaluation of the Scottish Guardianship Service](#)

An evaluation of the work of the Scottish Guardianship Service within asylum determination and National Referral Mechanism processes.

[The Ukraine crisis and the Nationality and Borders Bill](#)

Positive Action in Housing chief executive officer Robina Qureshi outlines the charity's emergency support for refugees and its response to the recent House of Lords debate on the Nationality and Borders Bill.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Let's Get Communities Connected App Launch](#)

A directory of interventions to help people in the justice system connect into their own communities.

[Interventions to Reduce Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviours Among People in Contact with the Criminal Justice System](#)

The findings of a global systematic review that aimed to synthesise evidence regarding the effectiveness of interventions to reduce suicide and suicide-related behaviours among people in contact with the criminal justice system.

[New drive launched to fill 'evidence gaps' on scale of extremism in Scotland](#)

Ministers have launched a new drive to better understand extremism in Scotland after identifying "a range of evidence gaps".

Online & Financial Harm

[Romance Fraud](#)

Practical advice for how to keep safe whilst meeting people online.

[Scotland's Census](#)

Now that the Scottish Census is live, there will be an increase in scams pretending to be from the Census.

[Risk Factors for Child Sexual Abuse Material Users Contacting Children Online](#)

A study that analysed whether certain risk factors are linked to a higher likelihood of contacting children after viewing child sexual abuse material online.

Social Care & Practice

[Adult Support and Protection Code of Practice and Guidance for Adult Protection Committees](#)

An analysis of the response to a Scottish Government consultation on proposed updates to the code of practice and guidance for adult protection committees.

[Anne's Law and Health and Social Care Standards consultations: analysis of the responses](#)

An analysis of the Scottish Government's public consultation on its proposals for introducing Anne's Law and for changes to the Health and Social Care Standards.

[Health Improvement Annual Report 2020 to 2021: Now Available](#)

The latest annual report highlighting the work of Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP) Health Improvement Team is now available. The [report](#) provides an insight into the progress made by Health Improvement around improving health and reducing health inequalities during 2020/21.

Events

[Operation Koper Webinar, 21/03/22, 14:00 – 15:00](#)

Scottish Care will be hosting a webinar for members on Operation Koper. Staff from the Crown Office including the Senior Lead for this work, Stephen McGowan will deliver an update.

[What are LGBTQ+ people's experiences of alcohol services in Scotland?, 23/03/22, 14.00 – 15.00](#)

This webinar launches the findings of a new report, which investigates the experiences of LGBTQ+ people who have used alcohol services in Scotland, and the views of service providers. We will explore how services can be made more inclusive to more effectively support the LGBTQ+ community.

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[Help shape the future of Scotland's mental health – Multiple Dates, March 2022](#)

Scottish Recovery Network are inviting people who are passionate about recovery and peer support to help the Scottish Government shape the vision and key actions needed to move towards a new future for mental health.

[All Burnt Out? Supporting frontline staff to respond to Scotland's public health emergencies, 25/03/22, 13.00 – 14:45](#)

In this webinar SDF and a panel will explore these themes on staff burnout within the sector prior to, during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

[North East Children's Services Virtual Networking Event, 30/03/22, 10 – 12.00](#)

This joint event between GCVS, Glasgow Citywide Forum and Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership is an opportunity for organisations that work with children, young people and families to talk and network.

[Alcohol Occasionals - MUP: homeless / street drinkers & service providers, 31/03/22, 12:30 – 14:00](#)

Dr Elena Dimova (Glasgow Caledonian University) will present her research "Minimum Unit Pricing: Qualitative Study of the Experiences of Homeless Drinkers, Street Drinkers and Service Providers" and then open the floor to Q+A and wider discussion.

[Learning Review K Hub Community of Practice Learning Event, 31/03/22, 09:30 – 11.00](#)

Shetland PPC recently undertook the initial enquiry element of a Learning Review. The case under review was a young person who had been abused by a teacher who was subsequently convicted of breach of trust offences. The review concentrated on key questions and although not proceeding to a full Learning Review, the process helped to identify learning and recommendations to carry forward. In addition to giving an overview of the circumstances and findings the session will offer a perspective on the Learning Review process and the decision not to proceed to a full Learning Review.

Tam Baillie (Chair of PPC) and Kate Gabb, Lead Officer for adult and child protection, will lead this session and there will be opportunity for discussion.

If you are not a member of the K Hub or have any difficulty accessing the link and would like to attend please contact cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk

[What Works to Improve Reunification webinar, 31/03/22, 12:00 – 13:00](#)

What services and interventions improve reunification outcomes for children and young people who have been in care? What does the evidence say about support to help children who return home to thrive in their families? In a free webinar What Work for Children's Social Care will be joined by Professor Rick Hood from Kingston University, who will share the findings of his recent research on reunification – considering how children are supported to return home after a period of care and how families are supported to make sure the return is successful.

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