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Public Protection Bulletin

1st April 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

[COVID-19, Social Restrictions, and Mental Distress Among Young People](#)

An examination of the impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions and school closures on adolescent mental health, particularly among disadvantaged, marginalised, and vulnerable groups.

[Navigating the Road of Adolescence Young People’s Mental Health in the UK: How the pandemic has affected young people’s ability to self-regulate socially and emotionally](#)

STEER Education has published a report on young people’s mental health in the UK based on online responses from students in 92 state secondary schools before the start of the coronavirus pandemic and December 2021. Findings include girls may have been particularly affected socially and emotionally by lockdown restrictions.

[Mental Health and COVID-19: Early Evidence of the Pandemic’s Impact](#)

A World Health Organization briefing that aims to present current evidence regarding the mental health aspects of the pandemic.

[Stress and Coping Experiences of Nurses and Care Workers in a Care Home Setting During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

A study conducted by the University of the Highlands and Islands and Northumbria University suggests that there is a moral obligation to provide psychological support to care home staff as they continue to live with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The study took place over four months between January and May 2021, where academics surveyed 52 healthcare workers from Balhousie Care Group’s 26 care homes, conducting follow-up interviews with thirteen.

Children, Young People & Education

[Ukraine: unaccompanied and separated children, children’s rights](#)

UNICEF and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have issued a joint statement calling for the protection of unaccompanied and separated children fleeing the Ukraine. Separately, Every Child Protected Against Trafficking (ECPAT in Europe) have released [a statement](#) urging governments across Europe to take immediate action to ensure that the rights of children caught up in the conflict are upheld and fully respected.

[Increased investment in mental health called for as child referrals increase by more than 27%](#)

The Scottish Children’s Services Coalition (SCSC), an alliance of leading providers of children’s services, has called for greatly increased investment in mental health services as the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the young become clearer.

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[“Isolation, unemployment and escalating pornography habits contribute to a record rise in people seeking help to stop viewing sexual images of children”](#)

Stop It Now, the helpline supporting people who are worried about their own or someone else’s sexual thoughts, feelings and behaviour towards children, has released figures which show that during 2021: the number of people seeking help via the helpline or online self-help modules to stop viewing sexual images of children increase by 107% to over 165,000; and more than 3,500 people spoke with helpline advisors with concerns about online sexual behaviours towards children.

[Parenting Teenagers Resources](#)

The ‘Parenting Teens’ campaign launched marks the first Parent Club campaign focused on providing hints and tips specifically to the parents of teenagers S2-S4. The campaign will run for four weeks across VOD, radio and digital platforms.

[Clinical Challenges in cases of emotional abuse and neglect](#)

This article addresses some of the common uncertainties and dilemmas encountered by both adult and child mental health workers in the course of their clinical practice when dealing with cases of suspected emotional abuse or neglect of children.

[Understanding denial in children’s harmful sexual behaviour](#)

NSPCC Learning has released a podcast focussing on shame and denial when working with children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour (HSB).

[Supporting Parents and Carers Guide](#)

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre) has published a guide to help professionals provide a confident, supportive response to parents and carers when concerns about the sexual abuse of their child have been raised or abuse has been identified.

[Online safety: children in care](#)

The UK Council for Internet Safety has published a best practice guide to help social workers and the wider children’s social care workforce support the online lives of children in care. The guide contains nine guiding principles covering professional practice, supporting foster carers and supporting care experienced children and young people. Each principle is accompanied by explanatory rationale, as well as examples of best practice and risks to look out for.

[The Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice \(CYCJ\) Collaborative Network](#)

CYCJ is developing a Collaborative Network of organisations who are working with 12-16 year olds who have experience of the justice system. This network will include organisations that provide services like advocacy, throughcare and aftercare support, and youth work.

[Appropriate Language in Relation to Child Exploitation](#)

Practical guidance for professionals on the appropriate use of language when discussing children and their experience of exploitation in a range of contexts.

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Mental Health

[The Impact of the Transition to Personal Independence Payment on Claimants With Mental Health Problems](#)

A paper that examines the impact of major social security reform on mental health claimants by analysing the transition to Personal Independence Payment in the UK.

Disability

[National Involvement Network Launches](#)

A Scotland-wide peer network has launched a new membership scheme to empower people with disabilities to be more vocal and involved in decisions about their own lives.

Autism, ADHD & Learning Difficulties

[Loneliness in Autistic Adults](#)

A paper that presents the findings of a systematic review of how autistic adults experience loneliness.

Older People & Dementia

[Health and Social Care Strategy for Older People](#)

A consultation on Scottish Government's aim to develop a new health and social care strategy for older people. Closes 19th June 2022.

Carers

[Experiences of Unpaid Carers of Engaging with Mental Health Services in Edinburgh](#)

This report summarises findings from consultations carried out with unpaid carers of people using mental health services in Edinburgh.

[Unpaid carers being “pushed to the brink”](#)

A charity representing Scotland’s unpaid carers says the cost of living crisis is putting unsustainable financial pressure on people who are already struggling to meet the costs of looking after their loved ones.

Housing & Homelessness

[COVID-19 Tenant Grant Fund: Private tenancy applications open](#)

The fund helps tenants who are at risk of losing their tenancy due to financial hardship as a direct result of the pandemic. The grant payment will allow tenants to reduce or pay off any rent arrears that have built up between 23 March 2020 and 9 August 2021.

The grants do not have to be repaid and are available to tenants in private rented housing on the basis that any ongoing eviction action will cease. Grant payment will be issued directly to landlords.

Substance Use & Addictions

[Exploring the management of alcohol problems in Deep End practices in Scotland](#)

A new study of GP practices in deprived areas of Glasgow has shown a primary care alcohol nurse outreach service can be effective in alcohol harm reduction, especially among people who have low engagement with other alcohol services.

[Suspected drug deaths in Scotland: October to December 2021](#)

This report focusses on Police Scotland management information as a key indicator of recent drug death trends in Scotland. Deaths from drug related causes between October and December 2021 were 8% lower than the same period the year before.

[Audit Scotland, Drug and alcohol services: An update](#)

Drug and alcohol services in Scotland are complex and a clear plan is needed to improve people's lives and increase transparency around spending.

Equality & Poverty

[Long-Term Monitoring of Health Inequalities: March 2022](#)

Annual update of Scottish Government's long-term monitoring of health inequalities headline indicators.

Gender Based Violence

[The Domestic Abuse Report 2022: The Annual Audit](#)

Women's Aid has published an annual audit of domestic abuse services in England and the experiences of women who use them. The report includes a section on children. Findings from a sample of 34,860 women show that 59.7% of women in refuge services had children and 7.3% were pregnant; and of the 269 refuge services running in May 2021, 230 (85.5%) were running at least one dedicated children and young people service.

[Domestic Abuse and Worker Safety](#)

In their miniseries, David & Ruth Mandell introduce the theme of worker safety and well-being in the context of working on issues related to domestic violence. The goal of the series is to address the critical issues of worker safety and well-being.

[Women asking to drop domestic abuse cases over delays](#)

Victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault are asking to drop their cases because court delays are so long, according to a report seen by the BBC.

Refugees, Asylum, Trafficking and Immigration

[Addressing the trauma of human trafficking victims in the UK](#)

Latest IRISS Insight discusses the trauma caused by human trafficking victimisation and the principles for effective support for survivors.

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[Nationality and Borders Bill](#)

The Home Office has published a series of factsheets setting out the impact of the Nationality and Borders Bill. Issues covered include: age assessment, modern slavery and an overview of the impact on children.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

[New project to evaluate New Routes Programme with The Wise Group](#)

New Routes is programme that provides one-to-one mentoring for individuals of all ages who are currently serving short term custodial sentences in all-male prisons across Scotland.

[Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Criminal Justice System](#)

An investigation of prevalence of autistic adults contact with the criminal justice system, risk factors and sex differences in a specialist assessment service.

Online & Financial Harm

[UK introduces exhaustive Online Safety Bill](#)

The government introduced its long-awaited Online Safety Bill in Parliament. The bill is intended to tackle a wide range of harmful online content, such as cyber-bullying, pornography and material promoting self-harm.

[Holiday Fraud](#)

Many of us may be looking to book a holiday, but before parting with your money, it's important to be aware of potential holiday scams online or via social media.

[New Frontiers: Moving Beyond Cyberbullying to Define Online Harassment](#)

This study looks to understand how online harassment affects adults, what can be learnt from workplace and sexual harassment literature, as well as proposing new definitions for online harassment.

Social Care & Practice

[BASW launches first annual survey of membership, revealing what social workers want to overcome current challenges](#)

Survey highlights the motivations and ambitions of social workers, while suggesting the pandemic has left a legacy of higher caseloads.

[Social Work for Peace – profession responds to the war in Ukraine](#)

A social worker from a Scottish university has launched an international network to support social and community workers impacted by the war in Ukraine and is appealing for both registered social, and non-social, workers to sign up as volunteers.

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Events

[Devoted & Disgruntled: Social Care Workforce Open Space Event, 27/04/22, 10 – 15.00, Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow](#)

Scottish Care have organised a free online event to discuss how social care staff can play a central role in the sector's recovery post COVID-19.

[Technology Assisted Sexual Harm Webinar, 29/04/22, 13:00 – 15:00](#)

NOTA Scotland and the Forensic Network will host this free webinar, joined by Stuart Allardyce, Director – Stop It Now! Scotland, Scott Hunter, Education Officer - Education Scotland and DC Stewart Fleming, Specialist Crime Division - Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Unit – Police Scotland.

Stuart and Scott will deliver a presentation on Tackling Technology Assisted Harmful Sexual Behaviour in Schools. DC Fleming's presentation will focus on the 'You, Me, Together' Educational Resource which has been developed in collaboration with Education Scotland.

[Adult Support and Protection and Safeguarding Five Nations Conference Series: A series of learning and sharing events](#)

To comply with UKGDPR we cannot pass on your details, and so if you would like to stay registered to hear about upcoming events and book your place to attend, you need to register with HSE (Health Services Executive (Ireland)). First event scheduled 13 May, 10am.

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