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Public Protection Bulletin

1st 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

[COVID-19 impact inquiry evidence library](#)

A collaborative resource to showcase submissions from The Health Foundations' COVID-19 impact inquiry's call for evidence. A wide range of sources across the UK to consider how experiences of the pandemic have been influenced by people's existing health conditions and inequalities.

[The unequal burden of Covid-19 on women](#)

This is the second in a series of COVID-19 micro briefings developed by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health and Policy Scotland and written in collaboration with expert partner agencies, presenting a range of evidence of the disproportionate impact of the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on women.

[COVID-19 Staff Wellbeing Survey](#)

The findings from a survey of psychological wellbeing among health and social care staff in Northern Ireland during the pandemic.

[Supporting Communities Safely](#)

Advice from Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) and Public Health Scotland for community groups, organisations and volunteer networks adapting to life with 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.

Children, Young People & Education

[Keeping families together](#)

The Scottish Government has announced investment of £500m in a new Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to enable the building of universal, holistic support services in communities across Scotland, giving families access to the help they need in areas including: child and adolescent mental health, child poverty, alcohol and drugs misuse and educational attainment.

[Family Group Conferences and Contextual Safeguarding](#)

This briefing considers how Family Group Conferences (FGCs), informed by Contextual Safeguarding, can be utilised within children's safeguarding as a response to extra-familial harm.

[Children's Society Good Childhood Report](#)

The 2021 Report shows that modern life continues to erode the happiness of young people. Dissatisfied with school, friendships and how they look, children deserve drastic change.

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[Safety measures for kids in poor communities are often ignored: some reasons why](#)

South Africans in impoverished communities are exposed to a greater risk of falling victim to violence. Children are not spared. Research shows that preventing harmful environments and situations reduces the burden of violence and injury to children. Parents and caregivers are central to this.

[Child Winter Heating Assistance eligibility proposal](#)

Legislation that will lead to increased vital support to more than 19,400 children and young people to help their families heat their homes this winter has been laid in the Scottish Parliament.

[Care experienced children in Scotland have poorer health and higher average rates of mortality when compared to children in the general population, according to a new study](#)

The study – led by the [University of Glasgow and published in BMJ Open](#) – also showed substantial differences in health outcomes and health service use between care experienced children and children in the general population.

[Universal credit cut will lead to more UK children in care – study](#)

Reported in The Guardian, academic modelling estimates removal of £20-a-week uplift will result in explosion in child poverty.

Mental Health

[A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Group Peer Support Interventions for People Experiencing Mental Health Conditions](#)

A study that aimed to determine the effectiveness of peer support for improving outcomes for people with lived experience of mental health conditions, when delivered as group interventions.

Disability

[Young disabled Scots face 'cliff edge' leaving school](#)

BBC Scotland's Disclosure programme has been investigating what happens to the thousands of pupils with additional support needs (ASN) and disabilities who leave school each year as they make the move into adulthood. Leaving high school can be an uncertain time for everyone but for those with a disability or an ASN, it can be fraught with stress and worry.

[Child Disability Payment opens nationally from 22 November](#)

The roll-out follows a successful pilot launched in July across Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and the Western Isles council areas.

Autism & ADHD

[Understanding the Substance Use of Autistic Adolescents and Adults](#)

Autistic individuals might be more likely to misuse substances than non-autistic individuals. Better understanding of these patterns can help clinicians identify strategies to reduce substance use, protecting physical and mental health. The aim of this study was to compare the experiences of substance use between autistic and non-autistic adolescents and adults.

Older People & Dementia

[Quality of Life Assessment in Older Adults with Dementia](#)

A systematic review of the literature carried out to determine how quality of life was assessed in adults 65 years and older with dementia, and identify factors that influence the reported scores.

[Supporting better oral care in care homes: what quality looks like](#)

The Care Inspectorate have published a good practice guide to help people in care homes receive better oral care.

[Age Scotland's Big Survey shows COVID impact](#)

Age Scotland have published the results of their Big Survey which aimed to capture older people's experiences and research how COVID-19 has impacted their lives. In addition to direct pandemic impacts, it also investigated daily issues including housing, health, and finances.

Carers

[Development of the Carers' Alert Thermometer for Young Carers \(CAT-YC\) to Identify and Screen the Support Needs of Young Carers](#)

A study that aimed to identify priority items for inclusion in a short screening tool for use with young carers of a family member with a progressive or long-term illness or disability.

[Learning disabilities and the value of unpaid care](#)

The Fraser of Allander Institute has published a new report on the economic value of unpaid care for adults with learning disabilities.

They found that on average, equivalent support delivered by each unpaid carer in our sample would have cost the taxpayer £114,000 per year to deliver. They also analysed the impact that the provision of unpaid care has on family finances and wellbeing.

Housing & Homelessness

[North Lanarkshire Council sees 'substantial reduction' in homelessness presentations](#)

A targeted and coordinated approach to support people facing homelessness in North Lanarkshire has resulted in a substantial reduction in people presenting themselves looking for accommodation over the last year.

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[Councils awarded £10m grants to help tenants in rent arrears](#)

The grants will help tenants who are struggling financially as a direct result of the pandemic, allowing them to reduce or pay off their rent arrears. They will be available to tenants in both the private and social rented sectors. The fund will see the Scottish Government provide a one-off allocation of funds to each local authority in Scotland, based on a distribution agreement with CoSLA. The grant funding will be available until the end of March 2022. There is no application process for a tenant or landlord to use for the grant funding. Instead local authorities will use their discretion to determine whether a grant payment is appropriate in individual circumstances.

[Covid debt: A baby, job loss - and now eviction](#)

Tenants are being evicted due to rent arrears built up during the Covid pandemic, despite the government saying no-one should lose their home as a result of the crisis. One-third of hearings monitored in England and Wales over the summer explicitly cited the pandemic as the reason for the arrears, an investigation has found. The average hearing lasted just 10 minutes.

Substance Use & Addictions

[Deaths from 'diseases of despair' in Britain: comparing suicide, alcohol-related and drug-related mortality for birth cohorts in Scotland, England and Wales, and selected cities](#)

The contribution of increasing numbers of deaths from suicide, alcohol-related and drug-related causes to changes in overall mortality rates has been highlighted in various countries. In Scotland, particular vulnerable cohorts have been shown to be most at risk; however, it is unclear to what extent this applies elsewhere in Britain. The aim here was to compare mortality rates for different birth cohorts between Scotland and England and Wales (E&W), including key cities.

[COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Substance Misuse](#)

An overview of both the content/quality and quantity of posts/comments relating to the psychotropic substances debate detectable from the Reddit platform during the early phase of the pandemic.

[Parental Substance and Alcohol Abuse: Two Ethical Frameworks to Assess Whether and How Intervention is Appropriate](#)

A paper that identifies two ethical frameworks to analyse the best support for families that struggle with parental substance or alcohol abuse.

Equality & Poverty

[Digital exclusion and health inequalities](#)

Supported by the Health Foundation, this briefing paper provides an overview of digital exclusion and its relationship to health, social and economic aspects of people's lives.

[City Food Plan](#)

An event to formally launch the Glasgow City Food Plan was held in June in which over 300 delegates tuned in online to hear about the details of the plan, its relevance and

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connections to other work in Glasgow and some snapshots of actions already being implemented. Watch a [short animation](#) about the Plan.

[The Poverty Alliance: Tackling Child Poverty in Scotland - Webinar Series](#)

Recordings of each of the webinars are now available and can be viewed here:

[Webinar 1: Taking a Strategic Approach to Tackling Child Poverty](#)

[Webinar 2: Hitting the Target: What can we do to reach the Scottish Child Poverty Targets?](#)

[Webinar 3: Preventing Child Poverty: What more can be done in Scotland?](#)

[Changing patterns of poverty in early childhood - new Nuffield Foundation evidence review](#)

The review finds that while child poverty rates have fluctuated since 2000, there has been a sustained increase since 2013/14, with families with children under five experiencing the steepest rise. More than one in three (36%) children in families with at least one child under five are living in poverty, amounting to 2.2 million children. For children in families with three or more children, this figure rises to more than half (52%).

Gender Based Violence

[Police failing to impose orders on men accused of abuse, watchdog finds](#)

Investigation finds lack of understanding of how to use measures to protect women.

[Scotland's prostitution laws 'outdated and unjust'](#)

Campaigners want to shift the burden of criminality to those who pay for sex.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Community Justice Social Work – Throughcare Review](#)

The Care Inspectorate have published a report following a focused review of throughcare practice in community justice social work services. Inspectors looked at the service provided in the community to individuals released from prison on licence, or subject to a relevant order, who then breached their order or were subsequently recalled to prison.

Online & Financial Harm

[Alternative Formats for Cyber Security Information](#)

Do you work with people that need accessible formats for online safety information about topics like strong passwords, 2 factor authentication and backing up data? LEAD Scotland have a range of formats available now.

Social Care & Practice

[Risk, Vulnerability and Complexity: Transitional Safeguarding as a Reframing of Binary Perspectives](#)

A conceptual paper, based on work from the first phase of a four year research project on how innovations in social care systems and practices can improve service experiences and outcomes for young people facing extra-familial risks and harm.

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Events

Online Safety Live October

As in 2020, the UK Safer Internet Centre are delivering a free 90-minute virtual Online Safety Live briefings during October.

Aimed at all professionals in Scotland who work with children and young people, this event will highlight the latest information on online safety research, legislation, technology, tools and resources, along with exclusive access to the presentation and resource materials.

Tuesday 5th October 2:00pm-3:30pm

[Online Safety Live - Scotland Tickets, Tue 5 Oct 2021 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Thursday 7th October 9:00am-11:30am

[Online Safety Live - Scotland Tickets, Thu 7 Oct 2021 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Thursday 7th October 4:00pm-5:30pm –

[Online Safety Live - Scotland Tickets, Thu 7 Oct 2021 at 16:00 | Eventbrite](#)

[Webinar: Leading in partnership - Leadership and strengths-based practice: 06/10/21, 10:00](#)

Leadership is a critical aspect of strengths-based practice. Without effective and committed leaders, strengths-based practices are unlikely to flourish. This webinar explores:

- Key features of leadership and strengths-based practice?
- How you lead the introduction of strengths-based practice in a different climate?
- How you co-produce with people who draw on support?
- How do you lead across partnerships?
- How do you lead teams?

[PHINS 2021](#)

Glasgow Centre for Population Health are hosting three online webinars in place of the annual PHINS seminar. These will run from the end of September to mid-October.

Dates are as follows:

10am Thursday 7th October

10am Thursday 21st October

The webinars focus on:

- the commercial determinants of health
- approaches to addressing post-COVID societal inequalities: community wealth-building; and addressing climate change.

[Digital Accessibility Training for Employability: Webinar Series](#)

As part of Lead Scotland's Build Back Digital project, Lead Scotland are offering a series of free webinars via Zoom exploring accessibility within digital content. These webinars are

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suitable for people looking to improve their employability and gain transferable skills by enhancing their digital expertise.

[2021 Challenge Poverty Lecture: 05/10/21, 18:30](#)

This year's lecture will be delivered by [Baroness Ruth Lister](#). Emeritus Professor Lister bring almost 50 years of experience in working to address poverty – time spent not only researching and reflecting on how we understand poverty, but in working with campaigners and alongside people living in poverty to bring about change. In this lecture she will be reflecting on this experience, and particularly on some of the themes in her seminal work [Poverty](#), setting out how we can begin to meet the challenge of poverty in Scotland. Her talk will touch on the themes that have been central to her work including human rights, discourses of poverty, equalities, participation amongst others.

[The truth about mental health inequality by Centre for Mental Health, 08/10/21; 11:00](#)

Join the Centre as they mark World Mental Health Day by putting the spotlight on mental health inequalities. A year on from their ground-breaking report [Mental Health For All?](#), they look at the hard facts surrounding inequality in mental health: why some people are so much more likely to face mental health difficulties, or struggle to get the help they deserve.

[Poverty Alliance Annual Conference 2021: Rights in Recovery: Protecting Rights and Tackling Poverty After Covid; 08/10/21](#)

This conference will:

- highlight the the priorities for addressing poverty as we move through and recover from the pandemic
- emphasise the importance of protecting and strengthened human rights during the recovery from covid
- provide opportunities to discuss how the next Child Poverty Delivery Plan can take a rights-based approach

The conference will take place online. Please register for each of the sessions of the separately. Also, please note that the workshop sessions will run simultaneously, so please only register for one session.

[Stand Up For Siblings - free webinars; 4th – 8th October](#)

Stand Up For Siblings is holding a series of webinars on siblings' rights from 4 to 8 October. There are three webinars, each on a different topic, with the final webinar featuring Fiona Sheils from the Care Inspectorate as a speaker.

[Implementing MAT - Living experience perspectives; Friday 8th October 2021, 13.00 - 14.30](#)

This webinar will give the first insight into SDF research on the current living experience of people in medication assisted treatment (MAT) in a range of health board areas - Ayrshire and Arran, Grampian, Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Lanarkshire, Lothian and Tayside and in HMP Perth.