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Public Protection Bulletin 20th February 2024

Dear colleague,

Today is National Adult Support and Protection Day, and Glasgow Adult Support and Protection Committee is urging everyone to look out for signs of harm and report any concerns, ensuring those at risk can receive the help and support they need to live safely. You can find out more about National Adult Support and Protection Day at <https://www.glasgowadultprotection.org.uk/> or watch [two videos from IRISS about ASP Awareness and Sextortion](#), which are this year's themes. You can also find out more about Adult Support and Protection at <https://www.actagainstharm.org/>.

This edition includes a link to the recording of the first ASPIre - Adult Support and Protection innovation and reflection event – held online in November 2023. It includes inputs about the interface between ASP and Violence Against Women agenda and embedding trauma informed practice and ASP.

Thanks to our new team, we are now back on our regular two weekly cycle. As usual, this edition carries a full range of research, articles, activities, and events covering the full spectrum of public protection. We hope that you find something of interest to you in the articles below.

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

Please stay safe and healthy.

Best wishes

Colin Anderson,

Independent Chair

Adult Support & Protection Committee/Child Protection Committee

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Children, Young People & Education

[Children's Mental Health Week](#)

Children's Mental Health Week 2024 took place from 5-11th February. Place2Be launched the mental health awareness week in 2015 to empower, equip and give a voice to every child in the UK. This year's theme was 'My Voice Matters', which is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

[Care Leavers and their Children: Evidence on How Care Experience Affects the Next Generation](#)

A briefing from University College London. It is the first UK study to look at care leavers as mothers, following their development and that of their children from early childhood to adolescence and into adulthood, using two British cohort studies. It shows how the long-term effects of care experience can be eased.

[Online Risks to Children: Evidence Review](#)

This review looks at evidence that has been published since 2017 on the online risks and harms experienced by children in the UK. It spans the period (2017-2023) immediately before the implementation of the Online Safety Act 2023, providing an up-to-date picture of the evidence base and setting a baseline from which to assess any changes linked to the introduction of regulation in the online world.

[Prevention and Identification of Children and Young Adults Experiencing, or at Risk of, Modern Slavery in the UK](#)

This research provides a comprehensive analysis of initiatives to improve the prevention and early identification of children who are victims, or at risk of, modern slavery in the United Kingdom from 2015 to 2023.

["It's Not Safe and Consistent": An Exploration of Social Media and Self-Harm Among Young People](#)

This report presents the findings of an exploratory project investigating the lived experience of young people using social media who have experience of self-harm. The project was undertaken by the Mental Health Improvement Team and Specialist Children's Services at NHSGGC in partnership with Youth Interventions. It provides novel insights into the complex and nuanced relationship between social media use and self-harm among young people.

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Disability, Autism, ADHD & Learning Difficulties

[Robot Guide Dog Tested with Help of Local Sensory Charities](#)

A robot guide dog that could transform the way that blind and partially sighted people are guided around buildings has been tested.

[Disability Commissioner Bill Formally Introduced to the Scottish Parliament](#)

MSP Jeremy Balfour intends for the bill to create a commissioner who will promote and safeguard the rights of disabled people.

[What Are the Autism Research Priorities of Autistic Adults in Scotland?](#)

Studies investigating autistic community research priorities indicate a mismatch between what autism research focuses on and what autistic people want to see researched. Furthermore, there has not been a research priority-setting exercise specifically with autistic people in Scotland, where there are unique cultural, political and social contexts. Using a community-based participatory design, this study aimed to identify the research priorities of autistic adults living in Scotland.

['Why are we stuck in hospital?'](#)

Transforming care so that people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people can receive support at home rather than in hospital settings is a key priority, but progress has been slow. Despite significant national debate, little previous research has engaged directly with people in hospital, their families or front-line staff to understand the issues from their perspectives. This research seeks to better understand the experiences of people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people in long-stay hospital settings, their families and front-line staff – using this knowledge to create practice guides and training materials to support new understandings and ways of working.

Mental Health & Trauma

[Eating Disorders Transitions Learning](#)

Building on existing guidance from the Royal College of Psychiatrists and designed in partnership with service users, carers, academics and clinicians, this suite of online learning resources aims to support professionals working with individuals experiencing eating disorders to understand the issues, risks and opportunities involved in age-related service transitions. These resources are intended to support

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professionals to work in their service settings to deliver safe, effective and empowering transitions for young people and their families.

[Identifying Prior Signals of Bipolar Disorder Using Primary Care Electronic Health Records](#)

Bipolar disorders are serious mental illnesses, yet evidence suggests that the diagnosis and treatment of bipolar disorder can be delayed by around 6 years. This study aimed to identify signals of undiagnosed bipolar disorder using routinely collected electronic health records.

[Young People's Experiences of In-Patient Mental Health Care](#)

This briefing uses insight from Childline counselling sessions and NSPCC Helpline contacts to highlight the experiences of young people accessing and undergoing in-patient mental health care.

[Predictors of Depression in Young Carers](#)

Caregiving in adolescence, specifically when directed towards a parent, is associated with increased depression. This study examines whether young carers caring for their parents are more likely to be depressed than those caring for other family members and non-caring youth.

[Mental Capacity Report - February 2023](#)

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

[Discharge from Mental Health Care: Making it Safe and Patient-Centred](#)

This report presents the findings of an analysis more than 100 complaints that the Ombudsman investigated between April 2020 to September 2023, and where it found failings in care that involved mental health care. Complaints related to discharge and transitions in care emerged as common themes across these cases. The six cases in this report show where the Ombudsman found failings specifically around discharge from inpatient mental health services or emergency departments caring for someone with a mental health condition.

Adults, Older People & Dementia

[ASPIre – Adult Support & Protection Innovation & Reflection Event Recording](#)

The National Adult Support and Protection Learning and Development Network (NASPL&DN) hosted their very first ASPIre (Adult Support and Protection innovation and reflection event) session on 9th November 2023, via Teams. The session featured inputs from both Ann Hayne - in relation to the interface between the ASP

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Agenda and the VAW (Violence Against Women) Agenda - including MARAC (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference) processes/Agenda and Frances Toland in relation to exploring how we might ensure that Trauma Informed Practices are embedded within our ASP processes.

Carers

[“The Pandemic is Just Happening on Top of a Pandemic for Us”](#)

With reduced access to medical and social support during the COVID-19 pandemic, the level of support provided by unpaid carers over the lockdown period in the UK was higher than ever. However, the experience of unpaid carers during this period is often overlooked. The aim of the study was to explore the question ‘what has been the experience of unpaid carers during lockdown?’.

Housing & Homelessness

[Treatment of Trauma-Related Conditions for People in Homelessness](#)

People in homelessness face significant health inequities, with tri-morbidity, exposure to violence, substance use- and post-traumatic stress disorder. The aim of this scoping review was to describe treatments for trauma-related conditions for persons in homelessness.

[Understanding How to Support People Experiencing Homelessness through Case Management](#)

A report from the Centre for Homeless Impact, which breaks down key findings from over 100 studies on case management and what makes it effective when supporting people out of homelessness.

[More Than a Roof: Exploring the holistic outcomes of Housing First](#)

Research from Homeless Links, which set out to to understand the longer-term impacts of Housing First across a wide range of different areas of someone’s life. The main aim of the research is to fill in this evidence gap and investigate how long-term, multi-year engagement with Housing First impacts on wider outcomes such as physical and mental health, offending behaviour, substance use, social networks, employment and training, engagement with meaningful activities and more. [There is also an executive summary.](#)

Substance Use & Addictions

[Barriers Remain in Accessing Residential Rehab](#)

Public Health Scotland says that despite some progress, access to residential placements for people who are struggling with substance use remains difficult.

[Navigating No and Low-Alcohol Drinks as Potential Harm Reduction Tools and Relapse Triggers by Women in the UK](#)

Concerns have been raised that consumption of no- and low alcohol drinks by those who are in recovery could lead to a relapse to past drinking behaviours. However, little is known regarding how individuals use these products to substitute alcohol and support their sobriety. This article draws on an ethnographic study of women's experiences of recovery within online sobriety communities in which semi-structured interviews were conducted with 25 UK-based women.

[Scottish Drug Checking Project](#)

This study, which ran from January 2021-May 2023, created a programme of work to research, and plan/prepare for delivery of, drug checking services in Scotland. The study developed the evidence base on drug checking, to inform and build infrastructure for the delivery of drug checking services in three cities: Aberdeen, Dundee, and Glasgow. These cities were chosen as they were keen to support the development of drug checking services and have some of the highest drug-related death rates in Scotland.

Equality & Poverty

[Guide to Responding to and Preventing Infant Food Insecurity in Scotland](#)

The aim of this toolkit is to provide a supportive resource to aid local agencies, front line workers and volunteers in supporting families with infants with money worries, including those who are struggling to afford infant formula, before and at crisis point. This resource will help guide agencies and staff to provide support which is appropriate to the needs of these families, taking a cash first approach through providing cash payments or cash equivalents (such as shopping cards). This should be provided alongside advice and support to maximise income and, if immediate support is required, access to infant formula milk (powdered or ready-to-drink) or breastfeeding support, for as long as it is needed.

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[Pilot Scheme for Councils and Advice Services to Jointly Tackle Council Tax Debt](#)

The Scottish Government is providing Citizens Advice Scotland with £200,000 funding to better understand the reasons why some people end up in council tax arrears and to work collaboratively with local councils to help reduce and prevent council tax debt in future.

[Digital Poverty and Exclusion in Scotland: Digital Lives of Care Experienced Children](#)

A report from Scottish Children's Reporters Administration examining digital exclusion in the Children's Hearings System. It also explores how digital poverty and exclusion was heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic. The research looked at the impact of moving children's hearings to a digital platform and the impact that this had on children and young people and the wider issue of digital poverty and exclusion for care experienced people. The report ends with 10 recommendations which suggest ways in which the Children's Hearings System could make changes to bridge the digital divide for those with lived experience of the care sector.

[Unequal Kingdom 2024](#)

A report from the Fairness Foundation looking into the different forms of inequality people in Britain are most worried about and the impact they believe inequalities have on different social and governmental areas.

[Glasgow Sets Three Year Budget Focused on Poverty and Communities](#)

Glasgow City Council has set a budget that targets poverty, invests in support for communities and freezes Council Tax for the next year.

Gender Based Violence

[Interventions to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence](#)

Intimate partner violence (IPV) remains a global health and human rights problem. This systematic review assesses the effects of preventive interventions on the occurrence of IPV experience or perpetration.

Refugees, Asylum, Trafficking and Immigration

[Supporting Unaccompanied Children Who Arrive in the UK and Are At Risk of Going Missing: Good Practice Guidance](#)

Unaccompanied children are some of those most at risk of going missing, and of staying missing long-term. It is vital all professionals who have contact with unaccompanied children play a part in preventing them from going missing, and in safeguarding those who do go. Missing People, in partnership with The Children's

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Society, have developed a good practice guidance to help professionals better support these young people.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Criminal Exploitation: Modern Slavery by Another Name](#)

A report from the Centre of Social Justice calling for a tougher response to criminals who are taking advantage of young people and vulnerable adults. Criminals are using new ways to coerce people into committing crimes to line their own pockets. The most prevalent form of modern slavery in the UK reported by the Home Office primarily involves the exploitation of British nationals, mostly teenagers and vulnerable adults, forced, coerced or groomed into committing crime for someone else's benefit known as 'criminal exploitation'. This report examines the impact of this type of modern slavery on individual victims and beyond reaching their families, neighbours and wider communities who all suffer the result of this criminal and anti-social behaviour.

Social Care, Practice & Workforce Matters

[Social Robots Show Potential in Patient Support](#)

Robots have been put to the test in hospitals, with Scottish researchers reporting that the socially assistive machines can understand patient needs, answer questions and ultimately ease pressure on staff.

[SSSC: Fitness to Practise Data Report](#)

A new data report from the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) providing an insight into their role in protecting the public by ensuring the registered workforce is trusted, skilled and fit to practise. It's the first time they've published such a report on fitness to practise data.

[Looked After Children \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009 Regulation 6 – The Death of a Looked After Child](#)

Under regulation 6, in the event of the death of a child who is looked after by them, a local authority is required to immediately notify i) the Scottish Ministers ii) the Care Inspectorate and iii) as far as is reasonably practicable, every parent of the child and every person who has any parental responsibilities or parental rights in relation to the child, except where the child is living with such a person. This guidance, from the Scottish Government, sets out further details about the process to be undertaken when a looked after child dies.

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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.](#)

WhatsApp Scams: Friend in Need Scam

There has been a huge increase in so-called “Hello Mum/Dad” scams, where fraudsters pose as a family member in need and send WhatsApp messages asking for financial help.

Remote Access Scams

Some of the most frequently reported scam calls in Scotland involve cold callers posing as staff from telecoms companies or other well-known organisations such as Microsoft and Amazon and trying to convince people to allow them to access their computer or other devices remotely.

Events & Courses

CyberScotland Week 26/02/24 - 03/03/24

CyberScotland Week brings people and organisations across Scotland together to raise cyber security awareness and build cyber resilience. The week of events is for everyone, regardless of age. Cyber threats can impact our personal and professional lives as we increasingly live more of our lives online. The website contains details of various events which are being held across the country.

Digital Inclusion: Digital Champion Training for Mental Health -Online - 29/02/24 10am - 12 Noon & 12/03/24 1pm - 3pm

Digital Champion Training for anyone working in and supporting mental health. The session covers relevant digital skills, safeguarding and building confidence in online safety (staff and learners), and specific tools and opportunities to share practice.

Unaccompanied Missing Children Good Practice Guidance Webinar - 27/02/24 11am - 12 Noon

Missing People and The Children’s Society will be holding a webinar about their new guidance on supporting unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK and are at risk of going missing. The guidance they are launching provides good practice in

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preventing children from going missing, preparing for the possibility that they will go, and supporting the investigation to find them if they do. At this webinar, you will hear more about the guidance and some examples of good practice from across different agencies.

[Adult Support and Protection Multi Agency Training Awareness Webinar](#)

A multi-agency webinar delivered by Learning and Development, Glasgow HSCP 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:

[21/03/2024](#)

[16/04/2024](#)

[23/05/2024](#)

[18/06/2024](#)