Public Protection Bulletin

23rd July 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

COVID – 19

COVID-19 Research Repository

The COVID-19 Research Repository has been developed by Public Health Scotland (PHS) with an aim to bring together and provide access to Scottish COVID-19 research on a single shared platform in order to promote Scottish research to an international audience.

Coronavirus Mitigation Measures Among Children and Young People

A summary of the evidence base on the COVID-19 mitigation measures aimed at children and young people in Scotland.

Unequal Pandemic, Fairer Recovery

A comprehensive review of the factors that fuelled the UK's COVID-19 death toll.

COVID-19 and the digital divide: Supporting digital inclusion and skills during the pandemic and beyond

This Centre for Ageing Better report offers examples of good practice and recommendations for organisations that deliver services to users and help digitally excluded people with skills training.

Children, Young People & Education

Your Best Friend

Safelives acknowledge that young people often seek help from each other and online, rather than from traditional services. Your Best Friend will reach young people from every walk of life, empowering them with the knowledge and confidence to spot abuse in relationships and support their friends.

Young people's voices and experiences are shaping the solution at every step. Eleven organisations are working with them to solve this problem, from different angles: young people, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, culture and religion and digital impact.

People Achieving Change Mental Health Research Survey

This project was initiated and commissioned by the PAC to investigate care experienced children and young people's experiences of Mental Health support. Having decided the specifics of the research and agreed the survey questions, the PAC are able to invite care experienced young people (aged 12-26) to share their perspectives. If you have any questions or require any assistance with the foregoing, please contact Vincent Henry, Senior Officer, Planning, Children's Services, North East Locality.

Children's services focus ever more on poorer households the more they intervene in family life, research finds

Children's social care services focus increasingly on poorer households the more they intervene in family life, according to a new report by Kingston University, which calls for fewer child protection cases and action to tackle poverty.

[New class resources will help empower young people to take control of their online privacy](#)

The UK's data protection regulator is helping children and young people understand the power of their personal data as they learn, play and socialise online. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has launched a suite of lesson plans and worksheets aimed at teaching primary and secondary school pupils how to protect their privacy online and how they can control what online companies and platforms know about them.

Mental Health

[Mental Welfare Commission publishes two reports for consideration by the Scottish Mental Health Law Review](#)

The MWC has published two reports, focusing on use of Advanced Statements and on one of the criteria – significantly impaired decision making ability (SIDMA) – used when doctors consider that a person requires compulsory treatment.

Disability

[Tackling child poverty - third year progress report: annex B - child poverty in families with a disabled adult or child](#)

Evidence about child poverty in families with a disabled adult or child. The report presents the latest data on the child poverty targets and includes further evidence on the drivers of child poverty among this priority group.

[Depression, Anxiety and Loneliness in People with IDD](#)

This brief information sheet provides information on the signs and symptoms of depression, anxiety and loneliness in people with IDD and things that can be done to alleviate these and provide effective support.

[Hospital Care for Young People with a Learning Disability: Moving from Children's Services to Adult Services](#)

This guide, and accompanying video, aim to provide learning disabled young people and their families with the knowledge and tools they need to help them get the right support and healthcare during the transition from children's to adults services.

Older People & Dementia

[Dementia in Hospitals Improvement Toolkit](#)

The purpose of this toolkit is to inform improvement work in inpatient and residential settings which support people with dementia. The toolkit is for staff who work in or manage the service.

[Social Care Responses to Self-Neglect Among Older People](#)

A review of the literature on adult social care responses to self-neglect among older people.

Autism & ADHD

[Helping My Autistic Child Stay Safe Online](#)

ACT and The Marie Collins Foundation have collaborated to produce a resource to help parents and children understand various online risks.

Housing & Homelessness

[Scottish SPCA launches Pets and Tenants together campaign](#)

The Scottish SPCA has launched its Pets and Tenants Together campaign, calling for those in council or social housing to be able to keep their pet, alongside Edinburgh Eastern MSP, Ash Denham.

Substance Use & Addictions

[Alcohol burden on ambulance service 3 times greater than previously thought](#)

86,780 ambulance callouts were identified as alcohol-related in 2019, using a new method based on the notes taken by paramedics at the scene. This figure, an average of more than 230 call-outs every day, is more than three times higher than previously reported.

Inequality & Poverty

[One in Seven People Struggling on Their Present Income](#)

Around 1 in 7 (14 per cent) adults in Scotland are finding it difficult to live on their present income, according to polling for Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) from YouGov. Research for the charity reveals 10 per cent of people are finding it difficult, with a further 4 per cent finding it very difficult.

CAS is warning that these figures could steadily get worse over the summer and into the autumn due to the risk of job losses or income drops as a result of the furlough scheme and payment support measures coming to an end. As of this month, employers are now required to contribute 10 per cent of furlough costs rising to 20 per cent in August and September before the scheme ends completely at the end of September.

[DWP sees 'sharp rise' in benefit death reviews](#)

The number of internal reviews held when a person claiming benefits dies or comes to serious harm has risen in the past two years, new figures show. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has begun 124 reviews since July 2019. Ninety-seven of those concerned people who died.

[A Minimum Income Standard for the United Kingdom in 2021](#)

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation report looks at whether people can reach current levels of Minimum Income Standard based on benefits, Universal Credit (UC) and the National Living Wage. It also looks at preliminary research on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gender Based Violence

Forced marriage and FGM annual statistics

The Home Office and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office have published annual statistics on cases reported to the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU). Of the cases the FMU provided advice or support to in 2020, 15% involved victims who were aged 15 or under and 11% involved victims who were aged 16-17. These figures include cases related to forced genital mutilation (FGM), which often involves children.

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigration

Causes and Risk Factor of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Adult Asylum Seekers and Refugees

A study that aimed to assess the causes and risk factors of PTSD in asylum seekers and refugees, and whether there are differences of causes and risk factors between male and female refugees and asylum seekers.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

Serious mental health care failings at women's prison

Serious healthcare failings and the overuse of seclusion at Scotland's national women's prison are causing "irreparable damage" to mentally ill inmates, according to an independent report. The Mental Welfare Commission says the situation at Cornton Vale prison is "distressing and disturbing", warning of missed opportunities for mental health support and prisoners deteriorating after lengthy spells of isolation.

Audit Scotland Report: Community Justice: Sustainable Alternatives to Custody

The Scottish Government has yet to achieve its objective of ensuring that people convicted of criminal offences increasingly receive community-based sentences instead of going to prison.

Locked up in Lockdown, Life on remand during the pandemic

A new report from Fair Trials paints a harrowing picture of life in custody in over the past 15 months. The report includes individual accounts from 23 people who are or have recently been remanded in a prison awaiting trial during the COVID-19 pandemic, in their own words.

28-day drug therapy roll out follows prison success

A long-acting opiate replacement therapy piloted during the pandemic amid concerns about prison staff shortages and to reduce daily pharmacy visits is to be rolled out across Scotland.

Carers

Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 Statutory Guidance

This is statutory guidance for local authorities, health boards and integration authorities. It will also be of interest to other organisations working alongside statutory bodies to deliver carer support, as well as the directing authorities of independent or grant aided schools responsible for young carer statements. It is designed to provide guidance on effective

implementation of the provisions of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. Also, it includes links to legislation and policy documents, which are clearly set out in each part of the guidance.

[Research highlights the challenges for Scotland's unpaid carers and carer support workers during the pandemic](#)

Carers Trust Scotland had released [research](#) about the experiences of the pandemic among unpaid carers and carer service support workers across Scotland. More than 500 participants shared the challenges of caring, and supporting unpaid carers, throughout the pandemic. The pandemic has been difficult for unpaid carers, with 90% of respondents stating they are spending more time caring and 82% saying they have had no respite since the beginning of the pandemic.

Cyber & Financial Harm

[New accessible versions of vital cyber security information released](#)

Lead Scotland has announced the release of 10 new accessible formats of its online security messages. The charity has been working with a range of partners to develop the new formats as well as with the people and supporters who need these formats.

The new alternative formats were chosen by practitioners and service users to promote cyber resilience advice to people who are deaf or hard of hearing, visually impaired, people with learning or cognitive difficulties, people whose first language isn't English, those using adaptive digital technology and others who experience other accessibility barriers.

Social Care & Practice

[The Lifelong Health and Wellbeing Trajectories of People Who Have Been in Care](#)

The overarching aim of this study, the Looked-after Children Grown Up Project (LACGro), was to use the unique data in the Office for National Statistics Longitudinal Study to build a comprehensive picture up to mid-life of the health and social functioning of care experienced members of the study.

[Iriss Strategic Priorities 2021-24](#)

Iriss have launched their Strategy 2021-24, which sets out their vision and purpose, the need for their work, the difference their work makes, and the areas they will focus on for the next three years.

[Scrutiny and support of adult social care during the pandemic](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published their latest report on the scrutiny and support activity carried out in relation to adult social care during the pandemic.

[Adult support and protection: guidance for GPs and primary care teams](#)

Revised adult support and protection guidance to help GPs and practitioners be confident that their actions will meet safeguarding expectations and improve outcomes.

Events

[Third Sector Summer Holiday Activities](#)

GCVS have collated a list of all the third sector organisations who are offering holiday activities/food over the summer holidays. There are over 100 voluntary sector organisations, funded by a range of partners including GCC, Scottish Government, BCC Children in Need, Cash for Kids and more. Most of these activities are free and the majority provide food.

[MWC Scotland: Authority to Discharge Report Webinar: Thu, 5 August 2021, 10:00 – 11:15](#)

In May 2021, the Commission published Authority to Discharge: a Report into decision making for people in hospital who lack capacity. This webinar will focus on the report's key findings, what was expected and what was found. The event will outline why this work was undertaken by the Commission, the approach taken and the report's recommendations to develop both a supported, competent, confident workforce and local auditable processes to ensure implementation of good practice. This event is targeted at professional staff working across the range of health and social care settings.

[Free Webinar: Alcohol consumption in Latin America during the COVID-19 pandemic, Friday 30 July, 2-4pm](#)

Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems ([SHAAP](#)) and the Scottish Alcohol Research Network ([SARN](#)) are delighted to support the established webinar series hosted by the International Confederation of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug (ATOD) Research Associations ([ICARA](#)) - learn more about ICARA below. The ICARA webinar series is sponsored by the Society for the Study of Addiction ([SSA](#)).

[Children's Health in Care in Scotland (CHiCS): Initial findings from linked administrative data research and Knowledge Café: September 2021](#)

This event from University of Glasgow MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit will introduce the findings from the CHiCS project and invites the participants to discuss these in small online cafés. It is planned over three days (three hours per day), each focusing on a specific aspect of health. As well as introducing results from the CHiCS project, the webinar also includes guest presentations by other researchers, including research from Wales and Northern Ireland. Our event is aimed at policy makers, health and social care workers, and everyone who works with or is interested in the lives of care experienced children. The webinar takes place from 21st-23rd September 2021 (3 hours per day).

[DRNS Knowledge Exchange Event: The impact of COVID-19 on people who use drugs; Tue, 24 August 2021, 10:00 – 12:00](#)

The free virtual session will share research from teams across the country who have been studying the impact of Covid in a range of settings. Following the presentations, time will be given for Q&A and group discussion.