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Public Protection Bulletin

24th June 2022

Dear colleague,

Nearly all public health protection measures have been removed but COVID-19 remains a risk, especially for vulnerable people. 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. We review this on a regular basis to determine when we will be able to meet in person again.

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.

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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

[Mental Disorders and COVID-19: Towards a Precision Public Mental Health Approach](#)

A brief paper that explores to what extent models of mental disorder, such as posttraumatic stress disorder, are useful when applied to the COVID-19 pandemic and its long-term effects.

[Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry publishes Academic Scoping Research](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published the introductory research commissioned as part of the planning process in the early stages of the Inquiry establishment. The research will assist the Inquiry with decisions about the shape and direction of its investigation. The reports can be found [here](#), and include research from academic institutions including the Universities of Dundee, Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier, Glasgow, Highlands and Islands, and Birmingham.

[DAHLIA-19 Workshop May 2022 Reports](#)

DAHLIA-19 is an international research study exploring domestic abuse policy and practice for survivors, children and perpetrators during the Covid-19 pandemic. In May 2022 they held an international workshop in the Lake District, England, to report findings from the DAHLIA-19 Study.

[COVID-19 and the Crisis in Social Care: Exploring the Experiences of Disabled People in the Pandemic](#)

A report on a year-long study examining the experiences of disabled people during the pandemic in England and Scotland.

Children, Young People & Education

[Children's Hearing Advocacy](#)

The Scottish Government has published a progress report on 'Children's advocacy in children's hearings - national scheme: good practice and issues arising', which looks at the implementation of the children's hearings advocacy provision in the first year March 2020 to March 2021.

[£28,000 a child: Profit of private companies questioned as the cost of care revealed](#)

Private firms running children's homes in Scotland are making £28,000 profit for every child as experts warn of a "dysfunctional market" in care.

[New Online Water Safety Workshop educational resource for young people launched](#)

This workshop is designed for anyone to pick up and use. It is a free-to-download resource featuring engaging activities that prompt young people to think critically about the risks they take and provides clear guidance on what to do in the event of an emergency.

[LGBTQ+ people's experiences of child sexual abuse](#)

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) in England and Wales has published a report looking at the experiences of LGBTQ+ people who were sexually abused as children.

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The report finds that LGBTQ+ children face specific challenges that make them vulnerable to child sexual abuse and face additional barriers to disclosing child sexual abuse, access support and form adult relationships.

['It is really important that we sometimes remember the children and their views rather than just our own'](#)

An exploration of the presentation and representation of children's views in the child protection conference.

[Ethnicity and social care](#)

The Department for Education (DfE) has issued a report, commissioned as part of the independent children's social care review, looking at the differences by ethnicity in the representation, experiences and outcomes of children in social care in England. Findings include: children from White and mixed ethnic groups have higher rates of acute social care activity following referral to social care; and children from Black ethnic groups were most likely to have multiple periods as a looked after child.

[Evidence Paper from the national Children's Bureau - Impact of investing in prevention on demand for statutory children's social care](#)

This new and robust evidence demonstrates that investing in prevention, including family support and early help, can reduce demand for more expensive crisis support later on. It also leads to better services overall.

Disability, Learning Disability & Learning Difficulties

[Brain Injury Identity Card](#)

You may already be aware of Headway's brain injury identity card. It is designed to help police officers and staff more easily identify brain injury survivors and ensure that they receive an appropriate response and support.

[My Home, My Community](#)

A report on housing and communities for people with learning disabilities in Scotland.

[My Time, My Choice?](#)

A report that explores what people with learning disabilities do with their time.

Mental Health

['Ground-breaking' mental health support to go national](#)

A new distress support and management mental health programme is set to be implemented across Scotland, following an evaluation of the four local pilot programmes that researchers from the University of Stirling found to be successful.

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[Opportunities to Expand Access to Mental Health Services: A Case for the Role of Online Peer Support Communities](#)

A study that investigated whether people who self-identified as living with a mental health condition increased their usage of an online peer support community due to the disruptions in care caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adults, Older People & Dementia

[Care at Home Visit: You Are Our Eyes and Ears](#)

A pocket guide and educational video to support care at home support workers.

[Dementia patients not allowed to use toilet](#)

New research, shown exclusively to BBC Radio 4's File on 4 programme, has found other dementia patients have had to endure similar indignity.

Carers

[Supporting Informal Carers of Older People: Policies to Leave No Carer Behind](#)

A briefing paper from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

[Column: Value and respect carers](#)

Journalist and campaigner Michael McEwan reports for healthandcare.scot on bleak findings that reveal the extent of unpaid carers' continuing struggle to stay afloat, and highlights the importance of #CarersWeek2022 in increasing the profile of this group among policymakers and the public.

Housing & Homelessness

[CIH Scotland calls for more resources to deliver home adaptations](#)

More investment is required to ensure that people across all housing tenures are able to access equipment and adaptations when needed, CIH Scotland has outlined in its response to a consultation on revised draft guidance from the Scottish Government.

[Screening and Social Prescribing in Healthcare and Social Services to Address Housing Issues Among Children and Families](#)

A systematic review that catalogued housing screening questions asked of families in healthcare and social service settings. It aimed to determine if any validated screening tools exist, and to extract information about any recommendations for action after screening, including social prescribing such as referral through health, housing and social care pathways.

[Renting: No-fault evictions to be banned in England](#)

Landlords are to be prevented from evicting tenants in England without giving a reason, under proposals published in a government White Paper.

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Substance Use & Addictions

[Pedagogies of Hope and Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland](#)

An article which attempts to resolve the extent to which critical pedagogies are able to translate from their esoteric detachment to one rooted in history, place and practices, and one capable of engaging with the most disadvantaged people in Scottish society.

[Residential Rehabilitation: A Review of the Existing Literature and Identification of Research Gaps within the Scottish Context](#)

A review of the existing evidence from the Scottish, wider UK and international literatures pertaining to various aspects of residential rehabilitation. The study has also identified several research gaps.

Equality & Poverty

[Poorest Scots five times more likely to die of alcohol abuse](#)

Alcohol-related deaths in Scotland are five times more likely amongst the most deprived groups, a report has found. Public Health Scotland (PHS) statistics evaluated alcohol consumption, price, harms and inequalities.

[Poverty at the End of Life in the UK](#)

Insights into the risk and prevalence of poverty in the last year of life for people across the UK.

[Changing life expectancy in the UK: new animation and report](#)

Mortality rates, and related indicators such as life expectancy, are important markers of the overall health of a population. We, and others, have previously reported the profound and deeply concerning changes to these indicators that have been seen in Scotland, and across the UK, since around 2012: a stalling in mortality improvements overall, increasing death rates among the most deprived communities, and a widening in inequalities.

Gender Based Violence

[RDAC: Rethinking Domestic Abuse in Child Protection](#)

RDAC is an exciting research project which brings together a team of researchers, domestic abuse specialists and experts in supporting policy and practice change. The team includes the Universities of Sheffield, Huddersfield, Kingston and the charities Research in Practice, SafeLives and FutureMen. The team will undertake work which could have a profound impact on the lives of children and families experiencing domestic abuse and violence.

Refugees, Asylum, Trafficking and Immigration

[Hosting Refugees](#)

The NSPCC, Barnardo's, Royal College of Paediatrics (RCPCH) and Save the Children have produced a guide to help host families in the UK provide a safe environment for new arrivals from Ukraine. The guide provides practical information on preparing homes for arrival and supporting arrivals on navigating life in the UK.

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Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Transgender hate crimes up 87% in Scotland](#)

A report from the Crown Office said there were 84 charges aggravated by transphobia in 2021-22, compared with 45 the previous year. Racially-aggravated incidents remained the most common form of hate crime, with 3,107 charges filed over the period - a decline of 7%. Meanwhile, hate crimes towards people with disabilities rose by 44% to 666.

[Rape trials: Courts to pilot new technology and training](#)

Crown Courts in England are to be upgraded with better technology while staff will receive specialist training to help with rape trials, the government says.

[Information Videos](#)

Clarity in Communication in partnership with Police Scotland, Scottish Government and COSLA, have produced videos to highlight the role and work of Appropriate Adults. The videos will be shared across organisations and sectors to raise awareness of services as well as promote a consistent understanding of the role of Appropriate Adults

Social Care & Practice

[Coping Skills Amongst Social Workers](#)

A research study that aimed to identify the most used coping behaviours of social workers.

[Social Work Scotland Setting the Bar Report](#)

The report was commissioned to look at the profession's capacity across Scotland. It aimed to understand if Scotland has enough social workers to work with people in the way they're trained to, and, much like classroom size, build evidence to work out what 'enough' cases is for a social work professional. It draws on existing evidence and two surveys, one of which was responded to by just over 1,500 social work professionals, nearly 25% of the 6,000 which work in the public sector.

The experiences professionals shared shows that social work is facing real challenges in rising demand and a lack of understanding of the profession, made worse by the pandemic, cuts to local authority budgets and increased administrative burdens.

Despite the frustrations, the report also documents that social workers across the profession are really committed to the values of social work, and the people they work with. Indeed, many say they couldn't imagine doing anything else.

Online & Financial Harm

[Revenge Porn Helpline report launch - cases and trends 2021](#)

The report found that cases increased by over 40% between 2020 and 2021, rising from 3,146 cases to 4,406. During 2021 the Helpline continued to see an increase in most of their reported issue types, with report findings highlighting that intimate content being shared continues to be a gendered issue, with 75% of cases being reported by female victims. Out of four main issues outlined by the report data, three of them (images shared, threat to share and voyeurism) reported females to be victims.

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Events

[Mental Health & Wellbeing services for young people in Glasgow, 01/07/22, 10:00 – 12:30](#)

We all know that many young people need support with their mental health and wellbeing at this time, and that statutory services have long waiting lists. However there is a range of mental health & wellbeing services available to young people in Glasgow. Come to this session to hear from representatives from some of these services and find out:

- What statutory services like CAMHS do and don't do;
- What other services are available, who they are for and what they do;
- How young people can access, or be referred to, these services.

Following a short presentation from each service there will be time for questions. We will issue written information on all the services to everyone who signs up.

Making the Justice System Better for Victims

A Public Consultation Event for people with learning disabilities

Where: Carlton Hotel, North Bridge, Edinburgh

When: Tuesday 5th July from 9.30am – 1.00pm

We will have lunch afterwards

The Scottish Government is running a public consultation about making the justice system work better for victims.

We are holding an event with the help of People First and SOLD where you can:

- **Tell us about your experiences of being a victim of crime**
- **Tell us what would make the justice system better for victims**

If you want more information about the event, or you want to book a place, get in touch with:

Franck David: franck.david@peoplefirstscotland.org or 0131 478 7707

Tony Bowman: Tony.bowman@arcuk.org.uk or 0131 663 4444



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[Start the conversation about Power of Attorney \(PoA\), Listening and Learning Drop in Sessions – July 2022, For the attention of all Glasgow City HSCP Staff – both Health and Social Work](#)

A new campaign aims to make it easier for our health and social care staff and 3rd sector partners to have the confidence to talk about Powers of Attorney (PoA) with the people they support. We want to increase the number of PoA conversations by building our skills, knowledge, and confidence for staff to have the conversation about PoA at work and at home.

A range of online materials and information sessions has been produced to raise awareness of the benefits of having a PoA in place, as well as the risks associated with not having one. To complement this I would like to invite you to our informal listening and learning drop in and sharing sessions running in July 2022, times and MS Teams links below.

Times and links

Come along to one of the short information sessions to find out more and ask questions on :

- Tuesday, 12 July – 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm: [Join the meeting](#)
- Tuesday, 19 July – 10.00 am -11. 00 am: [Join the meeting](#)
- Wednesday, 27 July – 10.00 am -11.00 am: [Join the meeting](#)

In the meantime, you can find helpful information that can be used to have those early conversations with patients, service users, their families and carers to help them at mypowerofattorney.org.uk.

[Driving Change: Improving Policy and Practice to Prevent Drug Deaths: SDF Conference, 31/08/22, Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow](#)

Scottish Drugs Forum marks International Overdose Awareness Day 2022 with its first face-to-face live conference since lockdown in Glasgow.

This conference will explore policy and practice innovation and feature discussion around different aspects of drug death prevention including international perspectives, emergency service response and the important role of living experience perspectives.

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