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### Public Protection Bulletin

25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear colleague,

Lockdown is easing and our most vulnerable citizens are receiving 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 on social distancing and where appropriate, wearing masks.

In previous bulletins, we have discussed the impact of lockdown and social isolation on mental health and wellbeing. However, we are now beginning to learn more about the impact of “long covid”, especially for otherwise vulnerable people, and there are growing concerns for the mental wellbeing of our children and young people.

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 better 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

#### [One year on: how the coronavirus pandemic has affected wellbeing and suicidality](#)

This report from The Samaritans brings together analysis of anonymous Samaritans' service data from calls and emails, and primary research with our listening volunteers, which took place at 7 different points during the year since restrictions began. The report also includes secondary analysis of findings from focus groups with Samaritans volunteers on the dedicated helpline for NHS and social care workers in England and Wales, and an analysis of data collected as part of the UK COVID-19 Mental Health & Wellbeing study.

#### [Understanding why the COVID-19 pandemic-related lockdown increases mental health difficulties in vulnerable young children](#)

An evaluation of the social and emotional impacts of COVID-19 for children identified as 'at-risk' for mental health problems by their teachers prior to the pandemic. Published by the Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

#### [COVID-19, Vulnerability and the Safeguarding of Criminally Exploited Children](#)

This briefing has been produced as part of a research project that is considering the impact of COVID-19 on County Lines. The focus of this briefing is on identifying trends that professionals have witnessed more recently, and as a result of longer-term lockdown measures.

#### ["You know, we can change the services to suit the circumstances of what is happening in the world"](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated unprecedented changes in the way that health, social, and housing services are delivered to individuals experiencing homelessness and problem substance use. Protecting those at high risk of infection/transmission, whilst addressing the multiple health and social needs of this group, is of utmost importance.

This study aimed to document the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals who were experiencing homelessness in one city centre in Scotland, and how services adapted in response.

### Children, Young People & Education

#### [The Care Inspectorate 'Triennial review of initial case reviews and significant case reviews \(2018-2021\)'](#)

This report was published on 14/06/21, and presents the findings from review reports submitted to the Care Inspectorate between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2021. It includes the key findings from their analysis of 50 ICRs that did not proceed to a full SCR, 23 SCRs and two thematic learning reviews. The reviews considered the circumstances of 96 children and young people. Sixty-four children and young people were the focus of ICRs and 32 were the focus of SCRs.

[Please sign up / share the invite to the learning event](#), facilitated by the Care Inspectorate and CELCIS which will be held on the Learning Review Community of Practice (Knowledge Hub) on **1 July between 10am – 12pm**. The event is open to members of CPCScotland and colleagues from Child Protection Committees and other partners, who have a role in

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leading, undertaking and contributing to significant case reviews and learning reviews. The session will provide an overview of the report and a short input on what works in supporting learning and practice change. This will be followed by three workshops which will explore key points for discussion.

### [Child protection & looked after children statistics 2020: local authority benchmarking tool](#)

The Scottish Government has published Child protection and looked after children trend data up to the reporting year 2019 to 2020 at local authority level. This provides a tool to compare and benchmark statistics across local authority areas and nationally.

### [Signs of abuse or neglect during school holidays](#)

A new school holiday campaign is being launched this week by Child Protection Committees Scotland which urges everyone to be alert for clues that a child may have experienced harm, neglect or abuse during the pandemic.

The new [For Kids' Sake](#) campaign encourages everyone to look out for signs that a child has been abused or neglected and how you can take action to get support for that child or children.

### [Child Interview Rights Practitioners](#)

The Scottish Government is preparing for the establishment and maintenance of a register of Child Interview Rights Practitioners (ChIRPS). Child Interview Rights Practitioners are those authorised to provide advice, support and assistance to children in relation to their involvement in investigative interviews under the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019. As part of this the Scottish Government has published a code of practice setting out the national standards that apply to all ChIRPS.

### [Online bullying](#)

NSPCC Scotland and respectme Scotland's anti-bullying service have launched Think B4 You Type, an anti-bullying toolkit to help support secondary school-aged children and young people to design and lead their own campaign around online bullying.

### [Where are the infants in children and young people's mental health?](#)

The Parent-Infant Foundation has published findings from an online survey of 283 practitioners working in NHS infant, children and/or young people's mental health services across the UK, looking at the provision of services for children of different ages, and whether their training and professional development had equipped them to work with infants. The survey found that professionals said that their training does not equip them to work effectively with the youngest children.

### [Ofsted Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published its report of a rapid review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges it was asked to carry out by the UK government sparked by thousands of anonymous allegations published on the Everyone's Invited website.

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### [Are Children and Adolescents in Foster Care at Greater Risk of Mental Health Problems Than Their Counterparts? A Meta-Analysis](#)

#### Highlights:

Foster youths show more problems than non-maltreated youths (community or at-risk).

Foster youths experience problems like unplaced maltreated or clinical youths.

Kinship care and stable placements are protective factors.

Youths are vulnerable to mental health problems even after placement in foster care.

### [Child Accident Prevention Trust \(CAPT\)](#)

Child Safety Week is an annual community education campaign run by the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), acting as a catalyst for thousands of safety conversations and activities UK-wide.

This year, Child Safety Week ran from Monday 7th to Sunday 13th June with the theme *Share because you care*. Visit the website to see the new downloadable resources available for you to share, including:

- Free downloadable factsheets full of bite-sized facts and safety tips
- Session cards to kick off discussions with parents
- A colourful poster to add to your display
- Information packs full of safety tips

### [Investigation: Secure accommodation](#)

The Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland investigation looked at local authorities' compliance with the laws on placing children in safe accommodation. Findings from the report, which examined the cases of 118 children between August 2018 and July 2019, include: there was sometimes no evidence that children had been consulted following the decision of a children's hearing to authorise secure accommodation, which meant these children's human rights had been breached; not all children were formally notified of their appeal rights; and there was rarely evidence of notifications of chief social work officer's decisions being sent to children.

## Mental Health

### [UK Armed Forces Mental Health: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time, 2007/08 to 2020/21](#)

Annual statistical report on mental health among the UK armed forces.

### [Supporting emotional health among people living with long term conditions](#)

A report on supporting emotional health among people living with long-term conditions.

### [Scoping review of intensive psychiatric inpatient care provision for young people in Scotland: report](#)

The findings of a scoping review that aimed to determine current practice and gaps in provision for young people requiring intensive psychiatric inpatient care.

## Disability

### [Learning Disability Week 2021](#)

To mark Learning Disability Week, from 14 to 20 June, NSPCC Learning has pulled together training and resources to help you protect children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and additional needs, and to better understand the challenges these children and young people face.

### [How people learn to cook without reading](#)

This [Learning Disability Week](#) (14–20 June 2021), some people with learning disabilities – and those supporting them – are calling for more accessible ways to learn to cook. Teachers, charities and chefs have come together to develop easy-to-read recipes using symbols.

## Older People & Dementia

### [World Elder Abuse Day 2021 – transforming the domestic abuse response for older people](#)

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was launched by the International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organisation in 2006. [SafeLives](#), [Dewis Choice](#), [Age UK](#), [Galop](#) and [Age Cymru](#) are working in collaboration to promote an awareness of domestic abuse in later life.

## Housing & Homelessness

### [Healthy housing for Scotland](#)

This paper draws on current evidence on how housing can influence health and wellbeing. It is intended to support ‘Housing to 2040’ which sets out the Scottish Government’s vision for the housing system over the next 20 years.

## Substance Use & Addictions

### [MESAS monitoring report 2021](#)

The Monitoring and Evaluating Scotland's Alcohol Strategy (MESAS) monitoring report 2021 presents all the latest available data on key alcohol indicators in Scotland.

### [Understanding drinking transitions during lockdown: social inequalities, alcohol and the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Event report from SHAAP/SARN ‘Alcohol Occasional’ Seminar Wednesday 28 April 2021, presented by Dr. Emily Nicholls.

### [Funding for new treatment standards for drug users](#)

A total of £4 million is being spent on introducing new treatment standards which will ensure drug users start receiving support on the day they ask for it. The funding was announced following the first meeting of the Implementation Group which is responsible for overseeing delivery of the national mission on drug deaths. The same day service is one of 10 new Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards being introduced to ensure consistency across the country.

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### Crime, Justice, Prisons & Community Safety

#### [Child sexual abuse \(England and Wales\)](#)

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre) has published a review of the latest evidence looking at the scale and nature of child sexual abuse (CSA) in England and Wales.

#### [Hundreds of children safeguarded as online abuse reports increase](#)

Police Scotland's 2020-21 Quarter 4 Performance Report and Management Information showed there were a total of 1,966 child sexual abuse crimes recorded during the year, an increase of 5.9% compared to last year (1,857) and 24.9% greater than the five year average of 1,574. However, reported frauds increased by 38.2% from 10,875 in 2019-20 to 15,031 during the last year, up 78.1% on the five-year average of 8,439 reported crimes.

#### [Bill to extend increased notice period for evictions to be scrutinised by MSPs](#)

The [Coronavirus \(Extension and Expiry\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) was formally introduced to the Scottish Parliament on Friday and will be scrutinised and debated by MSPs over three days from June 22. The Bill removes a number of measures no longer considered necessary to support the ongoing public health response, and extends others beyond the original expiry date of 30 September 2021, subject to the agreement of Parliament, to 31 March 2022.

Measures proposed for extension for a further six months include:

- the ability for hearings across criminal and civil courts and tribunals to be held remotely
- an increased notice period of six months to protect private and social sector tenants from eviction, up from the pre-pandemic 28-day notice period

Measures proposed for expiry include:

- emergency operational measures in respect of Children's Hearings and child protection to ensure that children's rights have been protected throughout this period
- 'stop the clock' measures on the duration of guardianship orders and certificates authorising medical treatment for adults with incapacity, as the normal systems for processing these resume.

#### [Assisted dying bill to be lodged at Scottish Parliament](#)

A new bill to legalise assisted dying will be lodged at the Scottish Parliament. The proposals - brought forward by Liberal Democrat MSP Liam McArthur - aim to introduce the right to an assisted death for terminally ill, mentally competent adults. The bill will be lodged at Holyrood on Monday and it is understood a consultation on its contents is expected to take place in the autumn.

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## Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigration

### [Ban on new asylum seekers to Scotland 'could last for years'](#)

The temporary ban on accepting new asylum seekers into Scotland could last for years, the BBC has learned. Glasgow City Council is the only local authority in the country to take in asylum seekers through the UK government's dispersal scheme. There are more than 200 asylum seekers living in hotel accommodation across the city due to insufficient housing. Council leader Susan Aitken told the BBC the ban would continue while the scheme was run "on the cheap".

### [Conceptualising the Role of Deservingness in Migrants' Access to Social Services](#)

Considering the increasing relevance of migration control post-entry, this article reviews the considerations that guide the local delivery of social services. Issues discussed include moral dilemmas about a claimant's worthiness to receive social benefits.

### [EU Settlement Scheme closes on 30 June – act now](#)

To stay in the UK, EU citizens who were living in the UK by 31 December 2020 must apply to the UK Government's EU Settlement Scheme. This includes those EU citizens who may have been living here for many years. The deadline for applications is fast approaching, with the scheme closing on 30 June 2021. Even if someone has an EU permanent residence card or an EU residence certificate, they will still need to apply. If they do not apply, they may lose their right to live in the UK. Irish citizens and those with indefinite leave to remain do not need to apply.

A package of support is available for anyone who needs additional help. The Stay in Scotland toolkit includes information on the EU Settlement Scheme, details of the application process, and links to other resources.

## Carers

### ['Breaks or breakdown', Carers Week 2021 report](#)

Research released for Carers Week has found that carers lost, on average, 25 hours of support from family and friends a month due to the pandemic

## Equality & Poverty

### [Fairer assessment for blood donors](#)

Eligibility for donation updated. Changes to the questions people are asked before they are accepted as blood donors come into effect today – meaning all potential donors are treated the same. The changes, implemented on World Blood Donor Day, will allow more men who have sex with men, and people whose partners have previously lived in areas such as sub-Saharan Africa, to give blood if they meet the other blood donation criteria.

### [Gypsy/Traveller intersectionality](#)

[Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month](#) provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the recognised minority ethnic communities and celebrate their contribution to society.

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IRISS have launched a resource that platforms the voices of Gypsy/Traveller communities on notions of identity, and provides practical steps to strengthen social work practice.

### Cyber & Financial Harm

#### [New tool for under-18s to report nude photos of themselves online](#)

Under-18s who want nude pictures or videos of themselves removed from the internet can now report the images through [an online tool](#). The service - from the Internet Watch Foundation and Childline - aims to help children who have been groomed, or whose partners have posted photos of them online. The IWF will examine the images and try and remove them if they break the law.

### Social Care & Practice

#### [Bridging the Gap: Transitional Safeguarding and the Role of Social Work with Adults](#)

A joint, independent briefing setting out the importance of transitional safeguarding within adult social work.

#### [Scottish Care launches new social care data report](#)

The report titled '[Seeing the diamond in social care data](#)' brings together findings from a series of data forums hosted by Scottish Care and involved colleagues from across the social care sector, industry, academia and government.

### Events

#### [Causation Factors of Unintentional Injury in the Home by Scottish Community Safety Network: Tue, 29 June 2021, 14:00 – 15:00](#)

Every week there are 6000 deaths in the UK as a result of accidents in or around the home as well as 2.7 million people a year requiring a hospital visit. Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) commissioned Dr Margaret Callaghan to carry out a rapid literature review to explore contributory factors and factors which helped to reduce them. This talk will discuss the methods used to undertake this review and summarise the most useful evidence; highlighting factors that lead to accidents and what can be done to prevent them.

#### [The social gradient in children's social care: Wed, 30 June 2021, 14:00 – 15:30](#)

The social gradient in children's social care refers to the fact that children from more disadvantaged backgrounds have a higher chance of receiving a statutory intervention such as a protection plan or admission to care.

A new report launched this month by a team of researchers based at Kingston University considers evidence on the factors underlying variation in the social gradient, drawing on a quantitative analysis of data from the national Children in Need census for England. In a webinar to accompany the launch of this report, Rick Hood and Allie Goldacre will show how the social gradient varies systematically for particular groups of children and in different kinds of local authority.

Implications are discussed for the current reform agenda in the context of a historical shift to late intervention and widening social inequalities highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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