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**Public Protection Bulletin**

**26<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Dear colleague,

It is now clear that despite our most vulnerable citizens receiving their booster and winter flu vaccinations, the Covid 19 threat remains significant and will continue to be so over the winter months.

As society continues to open up, there is a real risk that our most vulnerable people will feel even more at risk and isolated. It is imperative therefore that we all continue, where appropriate, to wear masks and observe social distancing and other precautionary measures.

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. Despite some initial optimism that things might revert to face to face meetings, it is clear that this way of working will continue for some months.

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.

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

#### ['Myths and facts: Suicide during the pandemic'](#)

A recording of the 'Myths and facts: Suicide during the pandemic' session on September 24th where Public Health Scotland presented their COVID-19 repository is now available.

#### [COVID-19 pandemic is widening economic inequalities](#)

People who were struggling financially before the pandemic are more than twice as likely, compared to people who were already living comfortably, to say they are now even worse off, find UCL researchers as part of the COVID-19 Social Study, funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

#### [The experiences of UK LGBT+ communities during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

The National Centre for Social Research, with the support of Consortium, Intercom Trust, LGBT Foundation and Stonewall, is undertaking research to better understand what support can be provided to the UK LGBT+ voluntary and community sector to address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

#### [Child and Family Factors Associated with Child Mental Health and Wellbeing During COVID-19](#)

A study that aimed to identify the most salient child and family factors associated with children's mental health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic, after controlling for pre-pandemic mental health.

#### [Supporting Working Carers in COVID-19: Return and Recovery Report](#)

The report highlights the challenges that employers have faced and includes examples of how they have been recognising and addressing the specific needs of carers in their workforce.

### Children, Young People & Education

#### [Age of Criminal Responsibility \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#)

The remaining provisions of the Act will be commenced on 17 December 2021. The final set of commencement regulations will increase the age of criminal responsibility to 12. They will also switch on the powers in the Act which enable the police to investigate incidents, ensuring that victims and others affected by that behaviour continue to be protected and responded to with respect and compassion.

#### [Implementing the UNCRC](#)

The Scottish Government has published introductory guidance on Implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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### [Health and financial costs of adverse childhood experiences in 28 European countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)

The Lancet Public Health has published new research by Public Health Wales and Bangor University, which shows the estimated costs of adverse childhood experiences to the affected adults and to society across 28 European countries.

### [Child Disability Payment opens for applications](#)

New applications open across the country from 22 November. Those already receiving Disability Living Allowance for children do not need to apply.

### [Evaluation of the NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Programme](#)

An evaluation of NSPCC's safeguarding programme for primary schools, that aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and ensure they know how to access support from a trusted adult or Childline, if they need it.

### [Learning from case reviews briefing: - early years sector](#)

NSPCC Learning has published a new learning from case reviews briefing summarising risk factors and learning for improved practice around working in the early years sector.

### [Young people experiencing harms from alcohol and drugs: literature and evidence review](#)

The Scottish Government has published a literature and evidence review on the findings of a rapid evidence review of the prevalence and harms relating to alcohol and drug use among children and young people.

### [The Many Faces of Child Emotional Maltreatment](#)

A brief review that describes the signs of emotional maltreatment, its effects, and what can be done to address it.

### [How can we protect children at the same time as reducing inequalities in provision?](#)

Professor Rick Hood draws on a recent study of the national datasets for children in need in England, which examined the social gradient of intervention at a range of thresholds.

### [School spending per pupil highest in Scotland, lowest in Northern Ireland](#)

The latest school spending analysis from the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) reveals that in the current year (2021-22), school spending per pupil is expected to be highest in Scotland (£7,600), a similar level in England (£6,700) and Wales (£6,600) and lowest in Northern Ireland (£6,400).

### [The court orders depriving vulnerable children of their 'liberty'](#)

Growing numbers of very vulnerable children in England are being detained in temporary accommodation under special court orders described as "draconian" by one senior judge.

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### [Covid: Boy in care to get jab despite mum's concerns](#)

A 12-year-old boy in council care can be given Covid-19 and flu vaccinations despite his mother's objections, a judge has ruled.

### [Children in care in England could hit almost 100,000 by 2025](#)

The number of children in care in England could reach almost 100,000 by 2025, according to new analysis. Research commissioned by county councils said the figure would represent a 36% rise in a decade.

### [Know Your Rights When Entering Custody](#)

A guide to young people's rights in custody, produced by the Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland.

### [E-learning for Youth Workers: We all have mental health: An introduction for youth workers](#)

SAMH have developed a resource to provide youth workers across Scotland with an introduction to mental health; equip them with the skills and knowledge to recognise and respond to a child or young person who is experiencing a mental health problem; and lead a conversation about positive mental health.

## Mental Health

### [Scottish Government Response to the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services](#)

The formal Scottish Government response to the recommendations of the Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services.

### [New 'Anticipatory Grief' animation](#)

NHS Education for Scotland has produced a new 'Anticipatory Grief' animation for health and social care professionals. Anticipatory, or 'living' grief, is when someone experiences feelings of loss before a person dies. The video provides advice on how health and care staff can recognise and support people experiencing this form of grief.

### [The Relationship Between Social Support and Mental Health Problems During Pregnancy](#)

A systematic review that aimed to examine the hypothesis that low social support is significantly associated with depression, anxiety and/or self-harm during pregnancy.

## Carers

### [Carer Aware Briefings](#)

HSCP staff can book a Carer Aware Briefing to learn more about identifying, involving and supporting unpaid carers. Information is available at [Your Support Your Way Glasgow](#).

### [Pathways to Mental Wellbeing in Young Carers](#)

A study that examines pathways through which benefit finding may influence the mental wellbeing of young carers.

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### [Young carers in England: Thousands of children left unsupported](#)

Nearly 180,000 children in England who care for a relative may be missing out on support because they are not known to their council, BBC News analysis suggests.

## Disability

### [Transition Stories: Voices of School Leavers with Intellectual Disabilities](#)

A study that explored the experiences of school leavers with intellectual disabilities in Ireland who were engaging with a supported transition model - WALK PEER (Providing Equal Employment Routes).

### [Society is Missing Out: Research by Mencap highlights the misunderstanding of people with a learning disability and the negative impact this can have on society](#)

As part of Mencap's 75th anniversary, the learning disability charity releases stats which reveal that despite 1.5 million people in the UK having a learning disability, two thirds of Brits don't know what a learning disability is.

### [Disability transitions bill moves forward](#)

Plans which aim to secure better outcomes for young disabled people are progressing.

## Autism, ADHD & Learning Difficulties

### [School Report 2021](#)

A report on the education and support experiences of parents of autistic children.

## Older People & Dementia

### [The Homecare Deficit 2021](#)

A report on the funding of older people's homecare across the United Kingdom.

### [Quality Indicators for Dementia and Older People Nearing the End of Life](#)

A study that aimed to identify and assess quality indicators (QIs) for the care of older people and people with dementia who are nearing the end of life and recommend QIs for use with routinely collected electronic data across care settings.

## Housing & Homelessness

### [Legislation on short-term lets introduced](#)

Councils will be given powers to ensure short-term lets are safe and meet the needs of their local communities under legislation laid before the Scottish Parliament.

### [Squatters try to save former Glasgow homeless shelter](#)

A group of squatters who occupied a disused Glasgow homeless shelter during COP26 are facing eviction after they decided to remain in the building after the conference had ended.

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### Substance Use & Addictions

#### [Free phone line launched to help drugs users stay safe](#)

The Never Use Alone phone line will be run by the charity [We Are With You](#) backed by £100,000 funding from the Scottish Government. The service is the first of its kind in Europe and will initially be trialled in Glasgow and North and South Ayrshire.

#### [National naloxone programme Scotland - Quarterly monitoring bulletin](#)

At the end of 2021/22 Quarter 1, the reach of the National Naloxone Programme (NNP) was estimated to be 59.17% – an increase of around 1.5 percentage points compared to 2020/21 Quarter 4 (57.53%).

### Equality & Poverty

#### [Positive feedback as Scottish benefits system rolled out](#)

Over 90% have good experience of Social Security Scotland, a new report has said.

### Gender Based Violence

#### [Glasgow joins world-wide 16 Days campaign to end gender-based violence](#)

25 November marks the start of the annual 16 Days of Action campaign (25 November - 10 December) when organisations across the world push to bring an end to violence against women. This year is the 30th anniversary of the international campaign which focuses on challenging men's behaviour and attitude towards women.

#### [Domestic abuse- and trauma-informed practice: companion document](#)

The Improvement Service, in partnership with COSLA, the Scottish Government, NHS Education for Scotland and the Safe & Together Institute, has published a companion document to support all professionals working with women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse and those working with perpetrators to strengthen awareness and understanding about trauma-informed and domestic abuse-informed practice.

#### [Police Scotland launch 'That Guy' aiming to reduce rape, sexual assault and harassment](#)

A new campaign from Police Scotland that aims to reduce rape, serious sexual assault and harassment by having frank conversations with men about male sexual entitlement.

### Refugees, Asylum and Immigration

#### [Survivors of Hell](#)

A narrative review that explores resilience amongst unaccompanied minor refugees and implications for treatment.

#### [Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre](#)

A report on an unannounced inspection of Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons.

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### Crime, Justice & Prisons

#### [Hate Crime in Scotland – the current context](#)

Hate Crime Awareness Week took place between 9-16 October. Scottish Community Safety Network were pleased to publish a new Briefing Paper on the current context of hate crime in Scotland.

#### [Academic reports examine police use of pandemic powers](#)

Members of Edinburgh Law School's Understanding Inequalities project have published two new high profile reports. The first report, authored by Professor Susan McVie, details data on the number of charges reported by Police Scotland under the Coronavirus Regulations between March 2020 and June 2021 to the Crown Office.

#### [Surge in drug seizures at Scottish prisons](#)

Scotland's prisons have seen a surge in drug seizures during the pandemic, new figures show. There has been an 18-fold increase in stoppages of so-called street Valium in the space of a year, while seizures of psychoactive substances have nearly doubled.

### Online & Financial Harm

#### [UK theme for Safer Internet Day 2022 announced](#)

Safer Internet Day 2022 is on the 8th of February and will be celebrated with the theme 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'.

#### [UK phone networks to block scam calls from abroad](#)

Providers agree to automatically bar calls that are made to look as if they come from British numbers.

#### [Fraud rises by two-thirds in Scotland during pandemic](#)

Crimes of fraud in Scotland have increased by two-thirds over the past two years, sparking fresh calls for people to be vigilant.

### Social Care & Practice

#### [Covid-19 Bitesize session](#)

The Care Inspectorate ELC Improvement Team has created a new bitesize session sharing key information and online resources, which can support ELC services to operate safely as we learn to live with Covid-19.

#### [Applying the Human Rights Principles for Digital Health and Social Care](#)

A new paper showcases practice-based examples of digital services which embed human rights principles in their delivery.

#### [What is Co-production?](#)

This short animation by the Scottish Co-Production Network explains co-production in a fun and clear way.

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### [National Well-being Hub](#)

The website encourages everyone working in health and social work/ social care services in Scotland to stay well during the winter period in the face of anticipated pressures on services, and to raise awareness of the wide range of wellbeing and mental health resources and support options available to them.

### [Care Home Census for Adults in Scotland: Statistics for 2011 to 2021](#)

A statistical report on the numbers of care homes, registered places, residents, admissions and discharges, covering the period from 2010/11 to 2020/21, excluding the year 2019/20.

### [Care packages unmet in staffing crisis](#)

Nine in ten survey respondents said recruitment had become more difficult and six in ten had to reduce the amount of support they provided as a result. The survey was carried out by the Coalition of Care & Support Providers (CCPS), which represents third sector care groups.

## Events

### [World AIDS Day Event - An Update on the HIV Outbreak: 1st December, 13.00 – 15.00](#)

Join SDF and partners for an update and discussion event this World AIDS Day to hear up to date information on the outbreak of HIV affecting people who inject drugs in Glasgow – focussing on the impacts the Covid pandemic has had, hearing about new innovations in prevention of HIV and how services have adapted to meet the needs of this client group.

### [Changes to Criminal Justice and Victims of Sexual Offences: Thu, 2 December, 10:00 – 11:00](#)

This free, one-hour briefing session is one of a series organised by GTSIN on behalf of the Glasgow Third Sector Justice Network looking at the Scottish Government's new Programme for Government.

### [Scotland's Human Rights Report Card: The Big Picture: Tue, 7 December, 10:00 – 12:00](#)

In what ways has Scotland improved its human rights record in the last 4 years? What is better? What is worse? What human rights issues need more attention or action? This workshop is the last in a series of similar discussions about specific rights issues. No prior knowledge of UN things or international human rights is required!

### [Putting people first: co-design your Human Learning Systems explorations: Thu, 9 December 13:00 – 16:00](#)

Putting people first - Part II: co-designing your Human Learning Systems explorations is the second of two events that explore how commissioning care and support can be done differently, with a particular focus on the Human Learning Systems approach.

### [Planning and supporting permanence in long-term foster care: An investigation of the implementation in England of the first regulations and guidance for long-term foster care as a permanence option: 10 December, 10:00 - 11:15](#)

This webinar will launch the Nuffield-funded report. This research project has provided an essential opportunity to investigate the implementation of this new framework across England.

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