Public Protection Bulletin

28th May 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

COVID – 19

[Education Research Team Publish Glasgow Stories of Recovery Series](#)

The Education Services research team and Glasgow Psychological Services have started to produce a series of papers which look at aspects of education in Glasgow and consider the impact of the pandemic on the lives of staff, children and their families.

The first three have now been published and will help shape the department's response to recovery, resilience and reconnection as part of the route out of lockdown and to help learn lessons from the impact of the pandemic on schools, children and young people, families and stakeholders.

[Social Work and Child Protection for a Post-Pandemic World: the Re-Making of Practice During COVID-19 and Its Renewal Beyond It](#)

The Covid-19 pandemic presented social workers and managers in child protection with complex practical and moral dilemmas about how to respond to children and families while social distancing. This paper draws on our research into practice during the pandemic to show some of the ways social workers changed their practice and to provide theories and concepts that can help to account for how such change occurs.

[Trying to Connect](#)

The coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on our mental health. It has also seen the NHS have to dramatically change how it delivers services. For many, mental health services providing help and support by phone or online has been a lifeline. But for many, the experience has been much more complicated. This report by Mind, based on a survey of almost 2000 people, looks at people's experiences of accessing mental health treatment remotely via phone or online during the pandemic.

Children, Young People & Education

[Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland Annual Report 2020-21](#)

CNS takes a place-based approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and their communities. They are delighted to share their second annual report, which provides an update and overview of the programme, and a forward look to their next steps.

[Child Mortality and Social Deprivation](#)

This report, which is based on data for children who died between April 2019 and March 2020 in England, finds a clear association between the risk of child death and the level of deprivation (for all categories of death except cancer). More specifically, Child Mortality and Social Deprivation states that over a fifth of all child deaths might be avoided if children living in the most deprived areas had the same mortality risk as those living in the least deprived – which translates to over 700 fewer children dying per year in England.

[Child poverty in your area 2014/15 – 2019/20](#)

Child poverty has risen in every Scottish local authority since 2015, according to new research published by the End Child Poverty coalition. The new data shows the scale of the

challenge faced by UK, Scottish and local government if commitments to end child poverty in Scotland are to be met.

The research by Loughborough University, on behalf of the End Child Poverty coalition, shows that, even before the pandemic, levels of child poverty in Scotland ranged from nearly one in six children in the Shetland Islands and East Renfrewshire to nearly one in three in Glasgow - once housing costs are taken into account. Across the UK the North East of England has seen the most dramatic rise in child poverty in the past five years with child poverty rising by over a third - from 26% of all children to 37% - over five years.

[That's Not Ok – Resource Launched](#)

The online resource for young people on consent, healthy relationships and the different forms of gender based violence has been formally launched. The resource contains consistent messaging in line with the https://rshp.scot resource for teachers and the [Healthy Relationships and Consent: Key Messages](#) for all professionals working with young people between ages 11-18.

[Testing Change Ideas to Improve Permanence Timescales for Looked After Children](#)

Qualitative research undertaken in a Scottish local authority involved in the Permanence and Care Excellence programme, which aimed to apply a Quality Improvement framework to their processes and practices in order to reduce timescales in providing a recommendation on where looked after children should live permanently.

[Each and Every Child](#)

Each and Every Child is a new initiative to change hearts and minds on care experience in Scotland. They aim to create a fresh, inspiring narrative to shift public attitudes and improve life chances of children, young people and their families. They provide an easily accessible toolkit, as well as tips and advice, on how to put the findings of the research carried out Frameworks Institute UK into action.

[Do you know a young person aged 12-26 who has been to a children's hearing?](#)

There are many challenges for children and young people when taking part in a children's hearing, and sometimes things could be better. The Voice and Inclusion Project (VIP) is for children and young people with care experience to come together to work with CELCIS, the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection - so that they can help to find and create ways to improve their experiences when they take part in a hearing.

[Scotland's inspiring success story with at-risk children](#)

The Spectator has published an opinion piece by Cristina Odone, head of the family policy unit at the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), who reflects on what she considers to be Scotland's 'emotionally intelligent' approach to reducing the number of children being taken into care by embedding a trauma aware approach and the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) model into the education, health, justice and social work sectors – the CSJ recently published a new report on Safely Reducing the Number of Children Going into Care.

[Child protection investigations rose by a third across Scotland, data reveals](#)

Investigative journalism co-operative The Ferret has published a feature on the reported sharp increase in child protection investigations across Scotland over the past two years without a corresponding increase in the number of children placed on the child protection register, raising concerns that this could suggest some of the investigations were conducted without due cause.

[Child sexual abuse – experiences shared](#)

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in England, in partnership with the Truth Project, has shared experiences of victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. The experiences, which will be used to inform the inquiry's final report, includes accounts of: barriers to speaking out about abuse; lifelong effects of the abuse; authority figures turning a blind eye; and being ignored, threatened and encouraged to stay silent.

[Secure Children's Homes: Placing Welfare and Justice Children Together](#)

A research report which considers whether the practice of placing children together in secure children's homes for justice and welfare reasons increases the risk of child sexual abuse.

Poverty & Inequality

[Public Health Scotland Health Inequalities Learning Hub launched](#)

The Hub is a free, flexible resource for anyone that would like to increase their knowledge of health inequalities in Scotland.

[State of Hunger](#)

The Trussell Trust have published their latest report, revealing the extreme poverty faced by people at food banks going into the pandemic, with just £248 a month on average to survive on after housing costs. That money needs to cover energy and water costs, council tax, food, and other essentials. This new report is part of State of Hunger, the largest ever study into hunger and food bank use in the UK. It was carried out by researchers at Heriot-Watt University.

Mental Health

[Glasgow Hosts Preventing Suicide Contagion Virtual Event](#)

Since the beginning of the pandemic, mental health has been a key area of focus for our HSCP and partners. Suicide prevention efforts and training have been crucial to raising awareness and prevent suicides in the city. In 2019 alone, 833 suicides were registered in Scotland (620 males and 213 females) compared to 784 (581 males and 203 females) in 2018. Suicide contagion is the phenomena whereby exposure to one suicide, or to suicide behaviours, can cause the rate of suicidal thoughts and behaviours to escalate.

Partners have now come together on 28/04/21 to bring issues to light about suicide contagion, and how to safely communicate on the sensitive topic of suicide.

[Are we facing a mental health pandemic?](#)

Over the past year, much has been written on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of children and adults. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has been working to monitor the effect of the last year's events on people's personal well-being and mental health. Depression is something that affects lots of adults in Great Britain, with ONS data finding an estimated one in five adults saying they experienced some form of depression during the coronavirus pandemic. This is concerning as this rate has doubled since the pre-pandemic rates. Just as worryingly, due to restrictions and changes in health service use, people are not necessarily seeking medical help. Interestingly, cases of adult depression is making up a larger percentage of overall diagnoses by GPs than pre-pandemic.

[Is it normal to be depressed in old age? Needs assessors' conceptions of older people's mental illness](#)

The article contributes to the research on older people's mental illness through its focus on how needs assessors conceive mental illness amongst older people and their strategies for dealing with mental illness within existing organisational frameworks. The contribution is based on an empirical study of the needs assessment in eldercare in Sweden. The article aims to explore needs assessors' conceptions of mental illness amongst older people in relation to intertwining processes of normalisation and organisational and legal constraints.

Disability

[Keep Safe Initiative](#)

Works in partnership nationally with charity I Am Me Scotland and Police Scotland to create a network of 'Keep Safe Places'. These are places that disabled or vulnerable people can use to seek assistance, if required, while out in the community. There are currently over 870 Keep Safe places across Scotland. There is no cost involved to become a Keep Safe place and all participating premises are approved by Police Scotland and provided with training.

Dementia

[Dementia - Health and Social Services Staff: Framework - Promoting Excellence 2021](#)

The framework sets out the knowledge and skills all health and social care staff should achieve in their roles in supporting people with dementia, their families and carers. The framework also has relevance and applicability to other sectors, such as housing.

Autism & ADHD

["Camouflaging" by Adolescent Autistic Girls who Attend Both Mainstream and Specialist Resource Classes: Perspectives of Girls, Their Mothers and Their Educators](#)

In this research, a multi-informant approach was used to examine the camouflaging strategies used by autistic girls within specialist resource classes attached to mainstream schools (whereby girls transition between resource classes and mainstream classes).

[Understanding ADHD : a guide to symptoms, management and treatment](#)

E-book available, providing accessible, concise, evidence-based guidelines on Atttention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), offering a deeper scientific understanding of the condition and its consequences.

[Supporting SLCN in Children with ASD in the Early Years](#)

With growing numbers of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) being diagnosed in the early years, it is becoming increasingly important for education and health professionals to understand ASD and to implement supportive strategies as part of the everyday curriculum and routine. This book serves as an essential tool kit for anyone working with young children with ASD and speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN)

Housing & Homelessness

[The 'Ideal' Homelessness Law: Balancing 'Rights Centred' and 'Professional-Centred' Social Policy](#)

A paper which draws on legal and social scientific learning from England, Scotland and Wales, as well as internationally, to formulate proposals for the optimal rights-based model on homelessness law.

Substance Use & Addictions

[New Overdose Awareness and Naloxone Poster Campaign Launched](#)

The posters feature the faces of real community naloxone carriers and their stories of why they carry naloxone, and have gone up in locations around Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dundee, including Argyle Street in Glasgow, and Calton Road in Edinburgh.

Crime, Justice, Prisons & Community Safety

[Scottish Prison Population Statistics: Legal Status, 2019-20](#)

Experimental prison population statistics covering the period 2009-10 to 2019-20, expanding on the previous publication with information about legal statuses, sentences and offences.

[The National Missing Persons Implementation Project](#)

Since August 2019, Missing People have been working to deliver a free programme of consultancy, training and best practice sharing in selected local areas in Scotland, in line with The National Missing Persons Framework. In 2020 – 2021, the three areas were North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, and Moray. From May 2021, they will be extending this offer of free support to five additional areas in Scotland.

[Associations Between Significant Head Injury and Persisting Disability and Violent Crime in Women in Prison in Scotland](#)

The prevalence of head injury is estimated to be as high as 55% in women in prison and might be a risk factor for violent offending, but evidence is equivocal. The extent of persisting disability is unknown, making decisions about service needs difficult. The UN recognises vulnerabilities in women in prison, but does not include head injury. This study

aimed to investigate relationships among head injury, comorbidities, disability, and offending in women in prison.

Social Care & Practice

New: Creating a positive safeguarding culture - A quick guide for registered managers of care homes

Safeguarding adults in care homes means protecting their right to live in safety and acting to prevent abuse and neglect. Working together to achieve this is everyone's responsibility.

This quick guide, aimed at registered managers of care homes, covers policy and procedure requirements with the aim of creating and maintaining a positive safeguarding culture.

Dramatic rise in deaths among home care recipients

The number of people who receive home care who died increased by 71% between 2019 and 2020, according to figures provided to the Care Inspectorate. Covid-19 only accounted for around 12% of the 2,977 deaths between April 2020 and March 2021, leading to concerns that interruptions to support could be behind the rise in deaths. The data was obtained by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism and reported by The Ferret. Analysis of similar figures from England also revealed an increase, with deaths of adults receiving home care up by around half in 2020.

Self-directed support: ten years on

This IRISS Insight seeks to explore the background to the development of SDS in Scotland, summarise the evidence from policy and scrutiny activity, and consider the future direction of SDS policy and practice.

Why do people abandon assistive technologies?

Research published by NIHR Evidence suggests people with long-term conditions must be more involved in the design of assistive technologies. A wide range of assistive technologies are designed to help those with chronic conditions. These can include walking sticks, mobility aids such as wheelchairs and hearing and communication aids, but often people stop using them.

Gender Based Violence

Gender Based Violence and Learning Disability

Public Health Scotland have published guidance which makes for interesting reading for practitioners to increase awareness in this area.

"I Can't Blame Mum"

An investigation of relational dynamics among adult women who experienced FGM in childhood and have since migrated to the United Kingdom.

Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control – Telling Untold Stories -Safeguarding Matters

Sarah Goff talks to safeguarding specialist and author Catherine Lawler about domestic abuse and coercive control.

Events & Resources

[Public Protection Learning Network Information Session 15/06/21, 14:00](#)

The Learning Network is a project which aims to recruit, train and support Practitioner Trainers to support the delivery of multi-agency training on behalf of the Child Protection Committee and Public Protection Committee.

What does the Practitioner Trainer role involve?

Practitioner Trainers are predominantly involved in the delivery of training on behalf of the Public Protection Committees, training spans a variety of areas including Multi-Agency Decision Making, Case Conference Attendance, Trauma Informed Practice and topic specific areas including Domestic Abuse, Neglect, Adult Self Neglect and CSE. Practitioner Trainers also have the opportunity to become involved in the design and preparation of training materials should they have an interest in this area of work.

What training is provided?

Practitioner trainers will be offered a place on a 2 day generic Training for Trainers course which is designed to support them in developing skills in group work and facilitation. Training materials for each course are pre-prepared and available for Practitioner Trainers to review and prepare ahead of time, it is anticipated that Practitioner Trainers will work in pairs to offer training in areas which reflect their knowledge and experience, and if they wish will be supported to expand their knowledge to offer training in areas of work less familiar to them.

What time commitment is involved?

We ask for attendance at a 2 day Training for Trainers course along with an additional half day session for those interested in delivering training online. We also ask that Practitioner Trainers are able to commit to delivering 4 sessions of training across the training calendar which runs from September – June. Training dates can be negotiated to suit diary commitments.

Who would make a good Practitioner Trainer?

This is a developmental role, aimed at supporting practitioners to develop strong training skills, while supporting the Committees training calendar. As such, people interested in this role do not need to have previous training experience. We are looking for experienced practitioners who are confident in their practice, who have a good understanding of the complexity of multi-agency working and who can facilitate discussion across multi-agency audiences. They need to have clear communication skills, have a non-defensive approach to their work while being able to constructively challenge participants to reflect on their practice.

How do I get involved?

In the first instance contact Susan Dobson, Senior Learning & Development Office at susan.dobson@glasgow.gov.uk.

[The Box training](#)

Is a free elearning tool designed for professionals working in the justice sector. Although the examples are based on English legislation, the core elements are relevant learning for working with people with communication support needs in the justice system.

[Social Services Knowledge Scotland](#)

Is a digital library of books, journals and articles to support practice and learning. It is accessible using OpenAthens. For those who do not have an Athens account, you can register [here](#).

[New, Free to Access E-learning Course on Cocaine and Other Psychostimulants in Scotland](#)

Will be launched by the Scottish Drugs Forum. The course – 'Cocaine and Other Psychostimulants – has been developed to increase participants' understanding of the psychostimulant drugs taken by people who use drugs in Scotland, and the current trends.

[Addressing anti-social behaviour: ensuring effective responses & supporting victims: Thursday, June 3rd 2021 between 9:30am and 1:00pm](#)

A webinar by the Public Policy Exchange. Levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the UK surged during 2020, particularly in the months following the first national lockdown. According to the Home Office, the recorded number of incidents increased by approximately 75% in the wake of the March lockdown.

[Safeguarding self-assessment tool](#)

The free self-assessment tool tool for schools and voluntary and community groups provides: a step-by-step guide to help schools or organisations meet best safeguarding and child protection practices, help to identify areas for development, and support you in making any changes.

[Traumatic Bereavement](#)

The UK Trauma Council (UKTC) and three child bereavement charities, Child Bereavement UK, Winston's Wish and the Childhood Bereavement Network, have launched a new portfolio of free, evidence-based resources for school staff, bereavement services and NHS mental health services, and are appealing for more awareness of childhood traumatic bereavement, particularly in the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

[UKCIS Digital Passport - A resource for care experienced children and young people, and their carers](#)

This Digital Passport is a communication tool created to support children and young people with care experience to talk with their carers about their online lives.