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Public Protection Bulletin

29th October 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

[Involuntary Isolation: Interpreting Mental Health Legislation During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

The authors of this report present pragmatic and ethical considerations in the psychiatric safety assessment at the intersection of COVID-19 and severe mental illness.

[Lessons Learnt From Lockdown: The highs and lows of the pandemic's impact on disabled children and young people](#)

The Council for Disabled Children, working with the Department for Education and KIDS, has published a report on the lessons learnt from lockdown for disabled children and their families.

[Living in Poverty: a Form of Permanent Lockdown](#)

Includem Report using a peer research model with 17 parents and carers and three young people taking part in in-depth interviews and sharing some of their experiences about living in poverty.

Children, Young People & Education

[CPCScotland Neglect Framework 'Child Neglect in Scotland: Understanding Causes and Supporting Families'](#)

This framework document from Child Protection Committees Scotland's Neglect Sub Group sets out a series of guiding principles for local partners across Scotland to help prevent, reduce and manage the impact of neglect on children and families.

To mark the launch the Herald ran [an opinion piece](#) by Colin Anderson, Chair of Glasgow CPC and the CPCScotland Neglect sub group who led on the development of the framework.

[Children's Hearings Participation Rights](#)

The Children's Hearings Improvement Project (CHIP) has put together information for people working in partner agencies such as advocacy workers about new participation rights in hearings, set out in the Children (Scotland) Act 2020.

[Facebook pauses work on Instagram Kids after teen mental health concerns](#)

Move follows WSJ revelations that Facebook-commissioned research showed Instagram could affect girls' mental health.

[Children in families with limited resources Scotland 2017-2019](#)

Experimental statistics on 'Children in families with limited resources Scotland 2017-2019' were released by Scotland's Chief Statistician today. This statistical release provides local estimates for the proportion of children in families with limited resources by local authority area and household characteristics. The purpose of the limited resources local measure is to provide local area breakdowns to inform local planning.

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[Rate of mental disorders among children remained stable in 2021 after previous rise, report shows](#)

A survey published by NHS Digital found one in six children in England had a probable mental disorder in 2021 – a similar rate to 2020 but an increase from one in nine in 2017.

[Scottish Institute for Residential Childcare Conference 2021 - Resources](#)

SIRCC 2021 Online have a range of resources including video inputs and blog post updates by the Scottish Physical Restraint Action Group (SPRAG) and 'Meet the author' videos for the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care (SJRCC). Webinar recordings will also be added to the SIRCC web page once the transcripts are ready.

[Supreme Court strikes down provisions in UNCRC](#)

The UK Supreme Court ruled that 4 aspects of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill are out with the competence of the Scottish Parliament. This means the Bill must go back to the Scottish Parliament to be amended. Happily, the Court were clear that giving effect to international human rights treaties is very much within the Scottish Parliament's remit, the issues identified were related to devolution.

[Supreme Court Judgment: here's what you need to know by Together](#)

A short blog article summarising the background to the case, what the judges said and what could happen next along with a social media pack to help inform communications you may wish to put out.

[Child Criminal Exploitation \(CCE\) in Edinburgh](#)

The Contextual Safeguarding Network have published a blog which reflects on CCE and thinking contextually around this issue based on experience working in Edinburgh. David Orr, Team Leader at the Young People's Service (YPS), City of Edinburgh Council, reflects on child criminal exploitation in Edinburgh and what a Contextual Safeguarding approach can offer and the critical issues it raises.

[Disability Toolkit](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the Disabled Children Child Protection Network formed a research partnership to develop and pilot a Disability Toolkit which aims to:

- i. Identify additional needs that could have substantial and long-term impacts upon a child's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
- ii. Provide an indicator of wider vulnerability and contextual factors that are pertinent to understanding child protection risk.

[The lifelong health and well-being of care leavers: policy briefing](#)

This briefing by the Nuffield Foundation is for anyone interested in health, education and social welfare policy. It demonstrates a clear need for joined-up cross-departmental thinking at both national and local level to improve the lives of care leavers.

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[UNICEF The State of the World's Children 2021 - On My Mind: Promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health](#)

This new report examines child, adolescent and caregiver mental health. It focuses on risks and protective factors at critical moments in the life course and delves into the social determinants that shape mental health and well-being.

[Scottish Government Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Programme Board Delivery Plan](#)

Sets out the next steps to achieve the government's goal to develop and sustain perinatal and infant mental health services in the most challenging times, and to ensure a systems approach to service development and delivery of these services.

Mental Health

[Investigation of the Effects of Childhood Sexual Abuse on Disease Severity and Cognitive Functions in Borderline Personality Disorder](#)

This study investigates the effects of childhood sexual abuse on decision-making, facial emotion recognition, and clinical presentation of borderline personality disorder.

[Time, Space, Compassion: Three Simple Words, One Big Difference](#)

A Scottish Government report that sets out recommendations for improvements in suicidal crisis response

Disability

[Evaluating the Devolution of Disability Benefits](#)

Scottish Government's strategy for evaluating the devolution of disability benefits to Scotland.

Autism & ADHD

[Why women may wait decades for an ADHD diagnosis](#)

Gender bias is leaving many women with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder undiagnosed, leading psychologists are warning. The prevailing stereotype ADHD affects only "naughty boys" means at least tens of thousands in the UK, it is estimated, are unaware they have the condition and not receiving the help they need.

Older People & Dementia

[Age Scotland dementia training calendar](#)

All the information you need to know about Age Scotland's forthcoming dementia training courses and how to book them. All courses are free of charge to community groups and organisations. Currently run three training programmes:

Dementia carers' rights training

Dementia awareness training

Dementia Inclusion training

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Carers

[Kinship Care: State of the Nation Survey 2021](#)

The findings from Kinship's annual survey of kinship carers.

[Research report on 'Institutionalising parent carer blame'](#)

This report describes the experiences of families with disabled children in their interactions with local authority children's services departments in England.

Housing & Homelessness

[Glasgow City Council consults on Digital Housing Strategy](#)

The local authority has led the development of a [draft DHS](#) for the city in partnership with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and other partners that have an interest in housing.

The strategy has been developed around four digital themes that relate to housing including data, digital inclusion, systems & services and technology.

[CIH Scotland issues Autumn homelessness 'cliff edge' warning to UK Government](#)

CIH Scotland has called for the UK Government to provide long-term support for people at risk of homelessness post-pandemic after its new report highlighted that households across the UK are likely to be on "cliff edge" following the removal of the £20 Universal Credit top up.

[Ending Homelessness Together annual report published](#)

Scotland's progress in ending homelessness over the past year has been summarised in a report to Parliament from the Scottish Government and COSLA.

Substance Use & Addictions

[Mothering from the Inside Out: Addressing the Intersection of Addiction, Adversity, and Attachment with Evidence-Based Parenting Intervention](#)

This report reviews the implications of addiction, adversity, and attachment for parenting interventions.

Equality & Poverty

[Ministers have no clear plan to tackle child poverty, say cross-party MPs](#)

The Guardian has reported on the UK Parliament's House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee's criticism that government ministers have no clear cross-departmental anti-poverty strategy and no clear objectives, making it hard to hold them to account on progress in reducing child poverty.

[Scottish Government slammed for failing to meet child poverty targets](#)

Scotland will again miss child poverty targets by some margin, plunging 210,000 children into despair. A report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), says the "political failure" of the Scottish Government to fail to meet child poverty targets will have "a profound human cost."

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[Fairer Scotland Duty](#)

Statutory guidance for public sector bodies subject to the Fairer Scotland Duty.

[Tackling Child Poverty Priority Families Overview](#)

This evidence pack provides overview of the latest evidence on the six priority family types identified as being at higher risk of child poverty in Scotland.

Gender Based Violence

[What Does Good Look Like? Responding to Domestic Abuse](#)

SafeLives practice blog discussing what good might look like in terms of the response to domestic abuse, so prevalent in people's minds during Covid, and so prevalent behind closed doors all across the UK.

[Roadmap Report Publication](#)

The research analyses how domestic abuse support services in the UK can become more accessible to those that need them. Women's Aid and SafeLives collaborated with survivors of domestic abuse to deliver their innovative Roadmap Programme across England over a period of 5 years.

Refugees, Asylum and (Im)migration

[Asylum seekers in hotels should have been given money for phone calls, High Court rules](#)

A decision by the Home Office not to give money to thousands of asylum seekers to make calls to friends and family during the pandemic has been declared unlawful by the High Court. The ruling means the UK Government could be forced to roll back weekly payments for some 10,000 asylum seekers.

[Family Migration](#)

The Scottish Government has published a new report by the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on Migration and Population. This report analyses the rules around family migration in Scotland and the UK and recommends future action, setting out 10 proposals to encourage and support families moving to Scotland.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Reconviction Rates in Scotland: 2018-19 Offender Cohort](#)

Annual statistical report from Scottish Government.

[Victim Centred Approach Fund](#)

A new streamlined fund worth at least £30 million over the next three years is being launched to better help victims of crime.

Online & Financial Harm

[Safer Internet Day 2022](#)

The UK Safer Internet Centre has announced that the theme for Safer Internet Day on 8 February 2022 is 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. The day

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aims to celebrate young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers.

[Video-sharing platform guidance](#)

Ofcom has published guidance for video-sharing platforms (VSPs) to help protect people who use them, including children and young people, from harmful content

Social Care & Practice

[Journey to the centre of the evidence](#)

CHEX's new briefing puts the onus on statutory organisations and funders to unravel their old ways of working with and thinking about evidence so that they can make better use of evidence from communities and third sector and community organisations.

[Screening Decisions for Non-Abuse Concerns Reported to Child Protection Agencies - A Structural Equation Model for Referral Content and Decision Outcome](#)

This study investigates which case factors affect the decision to screen-in cases with other types of concerns.

Events

[A radical new vision for social care: REAL Challenge annual lecture, Tuesday 2 November, 12.30–14.00](#)

Delivered by Dr Hilary Cottam OBE and followed by a panel debate. Will explore whether this moment – as we emerge from the pandemic – might offer us a real chance to re-imagine and re-organise how we care for one another.

[Systems science in public health: turning thought into action, Tuesday 2 November, 12.30 – 13.30](#)

The second webinar in this series sharing emerging findings from UKPRP-funded projects and exploring their implications for policy. Speakers from the SIPHER (Systems science In Public Health and Health Economics Research) consortium will discuss the importance of a systems science approach to research and practice in public health and share their learning so far from their research.

[GCPH Seminar Series 18 - Lecture 2: 'The social crisis within the climate crisis' led by Gary Belkin - Wed 10th November 2021, 14.00- 15.30 via Zoom](#)

A psychiatrist who approaches mental health as a building block of social policy and progress, Gary recently founded Billion Minds as a non-profit policy and “think-action tank.” The intention of Billion Minds is to link mental health to problems of great scale, specifically to the climate crisis, and to safeguarding sustainable societies through a humane social climate.

In this seminar, Dr Belkin will explore what climate change means for population mental health, the need to redesign our mental health system, what a ‘next system’ looks like, and what we need to do get there.

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[Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems \(SHAAP\) and Scottish Alcohol Research Network \(SARN\) Celebration Research Seminar for Dr Eric Carlin, Monday 15 November, 15:00](#)

Celebration of the leadership and commitment of Dr Eric Carlin, SHAAP's Director for nine years.

There will be six short presentations on the following major projects/reports overseen by Dr Eric Carlin during his time as SHAAP Director:

- Liver Disease, by Professor John Dillon
- Lived Experience, by Jardine Simpson
- International Work, by Mariann Skar and Donald Henderson
- Sports Marketing, by Dr Richard Purves and Vivienne McLaren
- LGBT Drinking, by Professor Carol Emslie
- COVID Heavy Drinkers Guidance, by Dr Peter Rice and Michaela Jones

[Sexual Harm: Restorative Justice in Sensitive Cases Webinar, 16 Nov, 1 – 3 pm](#)

By 2023 Scottish Government has an expectation of all local authorities to be providing restorative justice services within a range of settings. Currently in Scotland there are no statutory restorative justice services supporting survivors or perpetrators of sexual violence. This topic has long been contested, however, there is emerging evidence and theory to indicate the benefits in restorative justice within such sensitive or severe cases.

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