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Public Protection Bulletin

2nd September 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.

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

[Coping With COVID in Prison: The Impact of Prisoner Lockdown](#)

This study by User Voice and Queen's University Belfast found that prolonged isolation, and the simultaneous reduction in support services, resulted in widespread deterioration of mental health and the erosion of the rehabilitative function in prisoners during the pandemic.

['Do they ever think about people like us?'](#)

An examination of the experiences of people with learning disabilities in England and Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Lockdown Stringency and Paediatric Self-Harm Presentations During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

A study that investigated the mediating and predictive roles of lockdown policy stringency measures in self-harm and emergency psychiatric presentations amongst children and adolescents.

[It's Not All Doom and Gloom](#)

A study that examined whether and how people with learning disabilities were being supported to use technologies to keep connected and stay well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Children, Young People & Education

['In their own words'](#)

A naturalistic co-produced study of young people's experiences of emotional abuse and neglect expressed in anonymous, online peer-peer message forums.

[Vast differences in Scotland's child mental health services, study shows](#)

There are vast differences in the provision of child mental health services across health boards in Scotland, a study led by Dr Lynne Gilmour of the University of Stirling has found.

Research found that 25% of children referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) were suicidal. In one health board 82% of those children were offered an appointment, but in another the figure was only 31%.

[Child Protection Training for Professionals to Improve Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect](#)

A systematic review that aimed to assess the effectiveness of training aimed at improving reporting of child abuse and neglect by professionals, and to investigate possible components of effective training interventions.

[Family Focused Interventions that Address Parental Domestic Violence and Abuse, Mental Ill-Health, and Substance Misuse in Combination](#)

A review that aimed to identify family focused interventions that have combined impacts on parental domestic violence and abuse, mental ill-health, and/or substance use.

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[Digging deeper than “did not attend”: the importance of considering why a child was not brought to an appointment](#)

In this first article, 'Why language matters', a brand-new series exploring the language used in safeguarding and child protection, looks at how a shift from health professionals recording children's missed health care appointments as “did not attend” (DNA) to “was not brought” (WNB) can have a significant impact on the wellbeing of children.

[Options to Increase Mother and Baby Unit Capacity](#)

An analysis of the responses to a consultation on options to increase the capacity to provide treatment at Mother and Baby Units in Scotland.

[Child Disability Payment: High Level Statistics to 30 June 2022](#)

Information on applications and payments for Child Disability Payment from 26 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

[Don't forget about me: The voices of children and young people affected by imprisonment](#)

Families Outside is calling for more action to recognise the impacts of imprisonment on children and young people to help ensure they get the right support at the right time. They are hosting an online engagement event on 24th August to be followed by an Awareness Campaign via social media, launching on 30th August.

[Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Minimum Age\) Act 2022](#)

The Ministry of Justice has announced that the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 will come into force on 27 February 2023. On implementation, the Act will raise the age of marriage and civil partnership in England and Wales from 16 to 18, making it an offence to cause a child under the age of 18 to enter a marriage in any circumstances.

[Keeping in Touch](#)

A study that aimed to explore looked after children and young people's views on their contact arrangements.

[Campaigning for More Responsive Parenting](#)

An evaluation of NSPCC's Look, Say, Sing, Play campaign, which aims to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect by educating parents about the importance of interacting with their babies.

Disability, Autism, ADHD & Learning Difficulties

['Autistic Person' or 'Person with Autism'?](#)

A study that examined terminology preference in Dutch autistic adults and parents of autistic children.

[Disability and Social Justice Project](#)

The Legal Services Agency have launched the Disability and Social Justice Project with the support of the Scottish Government Equality and Human Rights Fund, to address the lack of legal provision for disabled people in Scotland.

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Mental Health

[The Prevalence of PTSD in a Forensic Psychiatric Setting: The Impact of Traumatic Lifetime Experiences](#)

A study that aimed to evaluate the prevalence of PTSD and the role of traumatic experiences and abuse in the development of severe psychiatric disorders in a sample of psychiatric offenders.

[User Participation in Decision-Making – A Qualitative Intervention Study on Mental Health Professionals’ Experiences](#)

A study that explored mental health professionals’ experiences of changes in attitudes towards, and knowledge about, users of mental health-care recovery and decisional participation in clinical practice after an educational intervention.

Adults, Older People & Dementia

[Characterising Elder Abuse in the UK](#)

A study that utilised data from a UK national elder abuse helpline to investigate the characteristics of reported cases.

[Social Class and the Risk of Dementia](#)

The findings of a systematic review that aimed to measure the association between indicators of social class and the risk of all-cause/Alzheimer’s dementia.

[Frailty: Understanding the Difference Between Age and Ageing](#)

A paper that provides an overview of the key achievements in frailty research and clinical practice, and which aims to highlight the considerable number of known unknowns that may be addressed in the future.

Carers

[Caregiver’s Burden at the End of Life of Their Loved One](#)

A study that aimed to describe trajectories in burden of working family caregivers who care for patients with a life-threatening illness, and identify factors in work and care that are related to changes in burden over time

Housing & Homelessness

[The safe place for young people facing homelessness](#)

When Niamh Wilkie became homeless at the age of 16, she was helped out of a "horrible situation" by the emergency accommodation service Nightstop. The charity fears the cost-of-living crisis will have a "huge impact" on youth homelessness, and says it urgently needs more volunteers.

[Homelessness in Scotland: 2021/22](#)

Annual statistical bulletin which provides information on homelessness in Scotland in the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, alongside historical data.

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Substance Use & Addictions

[National Mission on Drug Deaths: Plan 2022-2026](#)

A high-level plan outlining the focus of the Scottish Government's National Mission as it enters its second year.

[E-Learning Spotlight: Overdose Prevention, Intervention and Naloxone](#)

Would you like to know more about drug related deaths in Scotland? Or maybe how to identify an overdose, then why not complete SDF's short free e-learning course.

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Recall details about drug-related deaths in Scotland
- Identify an overdose
- Explain how to respond to an overdose
- Describe naloxone and its use

Equality & Poverty

[Black Lives Matter – a special issue of Critical and Radical Social Work](#)

This special issue seeks to recognise the critical momentum of the BLM campaign. They hope this issue will open up debate within social work about racism, understanding of oppression and racist violence, and the necessary response from within social work.

Gender Based Violence

[The Sentencing of Offences Involving Domestic Abuse in Scotland](#)

An overview of the literature on the sentencing of offences involving domestic abuse in Scotland.

[Working with Women with Learning Disabilities Who Have Experienced Gender-Based Violence](#)

An Iriss Insight that explores the prevalence of abuse against women with learning disabilities, the risk factors, types of abuse and the implications for the social work and social care workforce.

Refugees, Asylum, Trafficking and Immigration

[Preventing Suicide in Refugees and Asylum Seekers](#)

Refugees and asylum seekers are exposed to a unique set of circumstances and experiences that are associated with an increased suicide risk. This study aimed to determine the impact suicide prevention training for health staff may have in supporting refugee and asylum seeker suicide prevention.

[No Knowledge of 'Public Funds'?](#)

An investigation into social work practitioners' confidence and knowledge when working with adults with no recourse to public funds.

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Crime, Justice & Prisons

[County Lines: Cost of living crisis used by gangs to lure new recruits](#)

County lines is the name given to drug-dealing networks connecting urban and rural areas, using phone lines, across the UK. Former gang members and those trying to support them claim the rising cost of living is being used by organised criminals to exploit those struggling to make ends meet.

[Attitudes Towards and Perceptions of Females Who Sexually Offend Against Children: A Comparison Between Students and Professionals](#)

A study that explored how attitudes and perceptions inform decision-making in regard to treatment and supervision of female sex offenders, including how personal factors, such as being a parent or working with victims of sexual abuse, may facilitate this.

Social Care & Practice

[A joint inspection of services for children and young people at risk of harm in East Renfrewshire](#)

A joint inspection of services in the East Renfrewshire community planning partnership has found consistent clear strengths in ensuring children and young people at risk of harm are safe, protected and supported, with no significant areas for improvement identified.

[Supervision as a Secure Base](#)

An exploration of the role of attachment theory within the emotional and psychosocial landscape of social work supervision.

Online & Financial Harm

[Cyberbullying in Plain Sight](#)

A global report, based on a survey of 11,687 parents and their children in 10 countries, that aims to fully understand the extent of cyberbullying children face and highlight gaps in how parents manage these experiences.

[CyberScotland Bulletin](#)

The August 2022 edition of the bulletin has been published.

Events

['\(In\)Visibility of Black Families & Other Vulnerable Groups', 05/09/22, 09:00 – 1.00pm](#)

Saffron Safeguarding African Children and Adults Partnership, In Collaboration with African Families Service International Team, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, UK & The European Consortium Members.

[GCPH Seminar Series 19: lecture 1: How can charity be reimagined to contribute towards a more just society? 07/09/22, 10:00am, Zoom](#)

Delivering services, undertaking research, influencing policy and public campaigns are some of the measures used by charities in Scotland to tackle poverty. In such challenging times,

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are these measures sufficient to disrupt the underlying causes of poverty? Drawing upon their timely book 'The Role of Charity and Poverty in Advanced Welfare States', Andrew and Cameron will pose critical questions in this seminar about the value and role of charity in contemporary society.

[The adolescent neglect conundrum: How can we respond better? 08/09/22, 9:30am - 11am, Microsoft Teams \(online\)](#)

Join CELCIS for the fourth and final, free webinar in the Learning About Neglect event series for child protection leaders and practitioners across Scotland.

Research, policy, and practice continue to struggle with the challenges presented by adolescent neglect. Despite growing awareness of its prevalence and links to many of the problems and harms that young people experience, adolescent neglect is poorly conceptualised and understood, and work to address this form of child maltreatment remains limited in scope and effectiveness.

The webinar will focus on adolescent neglect, providing an opportunity for attendees to:

- Reflect on what we know about adolescent neglect – including findings from research that took innovative approaches to measuring neglect.
- Consider some of the gaps in understanding of this complex issue.
- Look at learning from currently available research and evaluation on how to respond.
- Consider the findings from studies on wider topics that can inform improvements in safeguarding.

[Getting It Right.... realistic approaches to complex needs, 05/10/22, 10am – 4pm, Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow](#)

Registration is now open for SDF's upcoming conference Getting It Right: Realistic approaches to complex needs. Keynote Address delivered by Oliver Hilbery, Director, Making Every Adult Matter.

Speakers include

- Adam Burley, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, NHS Lothian speaking on mental health
- Richard Lowrie, Pharmacist, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde speaking on homelessness

Workshops will focus on the following needs

- Mental Health
- Physical Health
- Homelessness
- Supporting women

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