

OFFICIAL



Public Protection Bulletin

30th April 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

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

COVID – 19

[The full picture of Covid-linked deaths in Scotland's care homes](#)

A full breakdown of Covid-linked deaths in every Scottish care home has been published for the first time. The data was released to BBC Scotland by the Crown Office unit set up to gather information on the circumstances of all Covid deaths in care homes.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): adult care homes - additional data](#)

Weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland. The files available for download below provide weekly data on: Deaths reported to Care Inspectorate and visiting status of adult care homes in Scotland.

[#LockdownLowdown survey](#)

The next phase of this survey of young people in Scotland has been launched to track the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the lives, aspirations and wellbeing of young Scots. This is the third #LockdownLowdown survey carried out since March 2020 and will focus on the education, employment prospects and mental health of young people, as well as involvement in youth work services. The survey is a partnership between Young Scot, Scottish Youth Parliament and YouthLink Scotland. The survey closes on 31 May 2021.

[Teaching and Learning in a Time of Corona: A Social Work Experience](#)

The preliminary findings of a qualitative study of the lived experience of social work teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Covid winter support webinars](#)

The Care Inspectorate programme of Covid winter support webinars is now complete. The webinars supported services to prepare for winter and implement Covid-19 guidance into their settings. The improvement support team worked collaboratively with colleagues from scrutiny and assurance, the Covid flexible response team and a range of stakeholders from the sector to develop and deliver the webinar programme.

[Lockdowns hurt child speech and language skills](#)

The BBC reports that there is growing evidence that the past year of lockdowns has had an impact on young children's language skills, according to research carried out by The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF).

Children, Young People & Education

[Unsafe Children – Driving up our country's response to child sexual abuse and exploitation](#)

The Centre for Social Justice has published 'Unsafe Children – Driving up our country's response to child sexual abuse and exploitation', a UK report which was written with input from a group of survivors of child sexual abuse.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

[Child brain development](#)

NSPCC Learning has published an evaluation of the Sharing the Science programme that aims to help professionals and families understand child brain development (using six metaphors) and how it can be affected by early adversity. The evaluation of a programme pilot conducted in Glasgow indicated that professionals perceived the metaphors to be helpful and parents, carers and young people who took part in focus groups felt that the metaphors were relevant for their own lives. The link to the booklet and the animation: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-health-development/childhood-trauma-brain-development>

[CHS Business and Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-22](#)

Children's Hearings Scotland have launched their 2021-22 Business and Corporate Parenting Plan.

[Fathers in the family justice system](#)

Research by the University of East Anglia and Lancaster University on the involvement of fathers in repeat care proceedings and experiences of childhood adversity and the care system has been published to generate new understanding and highlight the importance of working with couples, as well as with fathers, for interventions designed to prevent first or repeat care proceedings.

[Care experienced siblings](#)

CELCIS is seeking views to inform the writing of National Practice Guidance to accompany new legislative changes introduced to uphold the rights and meet the needs of brothers and sisters with care experience under the Children (Scotland) Act 2020. CELCIS is keen to hear from: care experienced people; foster carers; kinship carers; parents (including adoptive parents); residential care workers, social workers and teachers. The Guidance is due to be published in July 2021.

[CyberScotland Bulletin](#)

The April edition is available online now, containing a link to guidance aimed at Early Years practitioners published by The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and to the Scottish Government's Strategic framework to tackle scams in Scotland.

[CONUNDRUM Research: Understanding young people's use of condoms and contraception](#)

CONUNDRUM was commissioned in 2019 by three NHS health boards (Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Lanarkshire, Lothian), in partnership with Scottish Government, to provide insight into the social context shaping use and non-use of condoms and contraception among young people in Scotland. The study was led by researchers from the University of Glasgow.

Co-developed with over 100 sexual health stakeholders, CONUNDRUM draws together views and experiences of more than 2000 young people across Scotland.

The study found that:

- In sexual partnerships where pregnancy is possible, unintended conceptions appear to be of greater concern to young people than contracting a sexually transmitted infection (STI).

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- “Pulling out” (i.e. withdrawal) was reported by many young people, despite widespread awareness that it is not an effective method of STI or pregnancy prevention.
- While many young people reportedly turn to official healthcare sources (e.g. NHS websites, GPs, nurses) for accurate information on condoms and contraception, they do not always trust that they will receive the most honest input (e.g. on side effects) from these sources.
- Many young people indicate preference for free condom services that require minimal face-to-face contact, with online ordering of condoms posted home by far the favoured option across all genders.

[Social Worker and Midwife Decision Making Regarding Child Protection Risk and the Unborn Baby](#)

A paper which explores the perspectives and experiences of midwives and child protection social workers regarding the protection of unborn babies within Northern Ireland.

[Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma-Informed Care](#)

New research has highlighted the need for increased trauma-informed care for children to help to mitigate the short- and long-term effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on their development.

Poverty & Inequality

[Gypsy travellers call for Scottish government to apologise for 'tinker experiment' that 'ripped families apart'](#)

Gypsy travellers have criticised the Scottish government for its refusal to apologise for a so-called 'tinker experiment' that blighted thousands of lives. They have described it as a programme of "cultural genocide" that "ripped families apart".

[Plumbing the Depths: The Changing \(Socio-Demographic\) Profile of UK Poverty](#)

A paper which explores an apparent flatlining of UK poverty statistics to establish the changing profile of poverty, as well as those most affected by it.

[Scotland's child poverty targets “destined for failure” unless employability schemes are overhauled, charities warn](#)

The next Scottish Government must “significantly accelerate” progress in reforming employability support to help deliver Scotland’s legal child poverty targets, according to a new report from One Parent Families Scotland (OPFS), with funding and support from Oxfam Scotland.

[Data Poverty in Scotland & Wales](#)

Nesta commissioned demographically representative polling of over 2,000 people in Scotland and Wales in late January 2021.

- One in seven adults in Scotland and Wales are experiencing data poverty: Nearly a million adults in Scotland and Wales struggle to afford sufficient, private and secure access to the internet.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

- Data poverty widens inequalities: Not going online impedes life chances, increases social isolation, impacts on wellbeing and limits economic opportunities.
- Connected but compromised: Individuals' and families' needs for data are often not adequately met. One in ten people with monthly mobile contracts regularly run out of data before the end of the month and larger households struggle to meet very high data needs.
- Financial and data literacy compounds data poverty: Only about half of the people we spoke to felt they were able to shop around for the best data deals. People with low digital and financial literacy and weak purchasing power may not realise that better deals are available to them. Our case studies highlight the high costs of exceeding contract allowances.

Mental Health

[Early Intervention Framework for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)

NES have published The Early Intervention Framework which provides a database of evidence-based prevention and early intervention approaches designed to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. This resource provides opportunity to be methodical and effective in both service commissioning and provision.

[Anorexia: 'Difficult' to get proper support in lockdown](#)

BBC Newsbeat article discusses the impact lockdown has had on access to support with anorexia.

[Clear Your Head Mental Health Campaign \(Spring Phase\)](#)

The Scottish Government 'Clear Your Head' campaign aims to help support people with their mental health. The spring phase of the campaign targets 18-44 year olds, and returns to the messaging around self-care (keeping active, sticking to a routine, doing things you enjoy), managing intense moods, and the importance of keeping in touch with family and friends to combat loneliness. The campaign will run for 5 weeks until 9th May across TV, Video on Demand, Digital and Social Media channels. The 'clear your head' Stakeholder Toolkit is available from cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk on request.

[Time For You - Virtual Mental Health Support For Frontline Workers](#)

Time for You is an online and virtual mental health support service, providing help for frontline workers across Scotland during the pandemic. This ranges from people working in the health and social care sectors, to those providing the nation's supply, logistics, retail and public transport.

[A Narrative Review of Reviews of Interconnecting Risks of Mental Health Problems for Young People](#)

A narrative review which examined the most prevalent multiple or interconnecting risks of mental health problems and examined those most prevalent for children and young people.

OFFICIAL

[The Bidirectional Relationship Between Debts and Common Mental Disorders](#)

A study which examined the bidirectional association between debts and common mental disorders in the adult population of the Netherlands.

Disability

[Impact of lockdown on siblings of disabled children](#)

Sibs, a UK charity supporting brothers and sisters of disabled children and adults, has published findings from a survey of parents to understand how the needs of siblings of disabled children were affected by lockdown. A survey of 640 parents found that: 81% said their sibling child's mental health had worsened; 43% of siblings were providing more care in lockdown and 40% of young siblings were feeling isolated and missing support from family and friends. An earlier survey carried out in May 2020 found that 75% of parents felt their sibling child's mental health had worsened in lockdown.

[Trauma Experiences of People with an Intellectual Disability and Their Implications](#)

A scoping review which aimed to identify the current status of the literature on trauma that is specific to the experiences of adults with an intellectual disability, living in community settings.

Dementia

[How Do We Provide Good Mealtime Care for People with Dementia Living in Care Homes?](#)

People with dementia who live in care homes often depend on care home staff for help with eating and drinking. It is essential that care home staff have the skills and support they need to provide good care at mealtimes. Good mealtime care may improve quality of life for residents, and reduce hospital admissions. The aim of this systematic review was to identify good practice in mealtime care for people with dementia living in care homes, by focusing on carer-resident interactions at mealtimes.

Housing & Homelessness

[Is there enough provision for people with learning difficulties?](#)

Housing Options Scotland is a charity helping people with disabilities to find the best possible accommodation for their needs. Working with a large cross-section of society, the charity has noticed that - despite doubling their caseload in the past year - people with learning difficulties still only represent 1-2% of their client base.

Substance Use & Addictions

[New app to help reduce drug-related deaths in Highland](#)

The Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership has developed an app to help reduce drug-related harm and deaths across the north of Scotland. The Highland Overdose Prevention and Engagement (HOPE) app has been created with input from people with lived experience and a range of experts from NHS Highland and beyond.

OFFICIAL

[Associations Between Occupation and Heavy Alcohol Consumption in UK Adults Aged 40–69 Years](#)

The findings from a cross-sectional study which aimed to determine if certain occupations are associated with increased rates of heavy alcohol consumption in working individuals who drink and are aged 40–69 years.

[How Well Do International Clinical Guidelines on Mental Health and Substance Misuse Address Their Coexistence?](#)

A systematic review which aimed to explore the scope, quality and inclusivity of international clinical guidelines on mental health and/or substance misuse in relation to diagnosis and treatment of such co-existing disorders.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Prison pilot scheme proves its worth during pandemic](#)

COVID-19 has created new challenges for the delivery of treatment and care to individuals with a drug problem within the prison population. Dr Steve Conroy tells how the rapid rollout of a successful pilot scheme involving Healthcare Improvement Scotland has helped both prisoners recovering from addiction and the staff who are there to treat them.

[Pioneering new centre to tackle stalking unveiled](#)

University of the West of Scotland and Action Against Stalking are set to launch a new partnership and centre of excellence, focused on the prevention of stalking, harmful and abusive behaviour in society.

[Information Resource - Risk of Sexual Harm Orders \(RoSHO\)](#)

CYJC have published an Info Sheet on the RoSHO, a civil preventative order with the aim of preventing sexual harm to either a specific child or children in general from aspects of an individual's behaviour. The info sheet explains the circumstances that lead to a RoSHO being imposed, who and what's involved, and next steps.

[Young people in the criminal justice system](#)

West Midlands Combined Authority and West Midlands Police and Crime commissioner have published a report looking at the extent of childhood adversity, abuse, loss and trauma in children involved in the criminal justice system in the West Midlands.

[Rape Crisis Blog: End Not Proven](#)

Rape Crisis calls for an end to the not proven verdict, is used disproportionately in rape and attempted rape cases.

Social Care

[Impact of Sensory Interventions on the Quality of Life of Long-Term Care Residents](#)

A scoping review of the available literature on the impact of sensory interventions on the quality of life of residents living in long-term care settings.

OFFICIAL

[Hospital at home effective alternative to admission](#)

Researchers concluded the 'Hospital at Home' model "can provide an alternative to hospitalisation for selected older persons." Under the model, patients receive the same standard of care they would get in a hospital ward, including access to a geriatrician and multi-disciplinary team, medicines, oxygen and intravenous treatment. Researchers also found a small drop in the chance of admission to a care home among patients who had received Hospital at Home.

Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Trafficking & Modern Slavery

[Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims](#)

The Home Office has updated their guidance on identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery. The guidance includes a section on child victims. This is statutory guidance for England and Wales but also applies in Scotland and Northern Ireland where it is non-statutory guidance.

[Modern slavery](#)

Unseen UK has published their annual assessment of their modern slavery and exploitation helpline. Findings from the report for 2019/20 include: the helpline helped 340 potential child victims in 2020, about 10% of all potential victims, up from 7% in 2019; and reports of sexual exploitation rose 25% on the previous year, with almost a quarter of potential victims being children.

Gender Based Violence

[Abused by the Patriarchy: Male Victims, Masculinity, Honour- Based Abuse and Forced Marriages](#)

Research exploring the ways that men, particularly younger males and those who do not conform to cultural norms of masculinity become victims of honour-based violence and abuse.

Social Work Practice

[Social Workers' Management of Child Interpreting](#)

An article which approaches the topic of using service users' children as interpreters from social workers' perspectives and presents findings from in-depth interviews about child interpreting.

[Transgender Theory for Contemporary Social Work Practice: A Question of Values and Ethics](#)

A paper which outlines the history of transgender theory and how transgender theory can be applied in social work practice.

OFFICIAL

Events & Resources

[Making Children's Rights Real Across Scotland, 27 May 2021, 2:00 – 4:30pm](#)

Purpose: In support to the Year of Childhood, and to continue our commitment to children's rights, this event will give an update on the UNCRC Incorporation. It will also bring people together to share experiences, tools and practice in relation to children and young people participation work.

Contributors include: Aberlour, The ALLIANCE, Children in Scotland, Children's Parliament, Fife Young Carers, Includem, Licketyspit, Together Scotland.

Who is this for? Anyone who has a role in supporting children and young people to realise their rights when making decisions affecting them.

For more details and bookings, please click [here](#)

[Glasgow City Health & Social Care Partnership Host Family Supported Carer Service](#)

Are looking for people who can offer a place to live to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People aged 16+. We ask that you provide some practical and emotional support, whilst helping the young people to learn English and about Scottish culture. Our current carers tell us that it is a very rewarding experience and it is mutually beneficial for both the carer and young people. As a Host Family Supported Carer, the support you provide can help a young person settle, recover and flourish and you can also feel enriched by the special relationships made.

We have organised two online Open Nights where you can get more information. The open nights will be from 7pm to 8pm on **Thursday 20 May and Thursday 17 June** – we have attached a poster with more information on the open nights.

If you would like to hear more about becoming a Host Family Supported Carer or to take part in an Open Night, please email us at: HostFamilyService@glasgow.gov.uk.

[Public Policy Exchange – Events](#)

All Public Policy Exchange events are currently run as webinars hosted on Zoom, including:

6 May [Ending Child Food Poverty: Developing a Long-Term Strategy](#)

11 May [Improving Dementia Care: Dealing with Covid-19, Increasing Choice, and Reducing Costs for People with Dementia](#)

[The NSPCC Reunification Practice Framework: an evidence-informed framework to make safe permanence decisions for children in care](#)

The NSPCC, in partnership with Cardiff University, is delivering an online session on **13 May at 1:30pm**, offering an overview of the Reunification Practice Framework. This comprehensive framework brings together research insights, practical guidance and tools to support practitioners to gather robust evidence and make structured professional judgements around safe permanency decisions. The Framework has been recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) as a resource to improve placement stability.

OFFICIAL