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Public Protection Bulletin

3rd September 2021

Dear colleague,

We are now at “level 0” and our most vulnerable citizens and front-line staff should have received 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 and guidance on social distancing and, where appropriate, the wearing of masks.

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 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, 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

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NATIONAL GUIDANCE AND INSPECTION REPORTS

[National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#)

Scottish Government guidance, that describes the responsibilities and expectations for all involved in protecting children in Scotland.

[National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Reviews 2021](#)

Guidance to support Child Protection Committees to reflect, learn and improve child protection systems and practice when a child or young person dies, is significantly harmed, or was at risk of death or significant harm; or where effective practice has prevented harm or risk of harm.

[Joint inspection reports of adult support and protection](#)

The Care Inspectorate have published joint inspection reports of adult support and protection measures in East Ayrshire and Fife. During both inspections, there were findings of clear strengths in ensuring adults at risk of harm are safe, protected and supported. However, inspectors also identified areas which could further improve.

COVID – 19

[The Effect of COVID-19 Lockdown on Psychiatric Admissions: Role of Gender](#)

A study that examined whether the first UK COVID-19 lockdown changed the demographics of patients admitted to psychiatric hospitals (to include gender, legality, route of admission and diagnoses).

[The Impact of COVID-19 on Adolescents with Eating Disorders](#)

The goals of this study were 1) to examine characteristics of adolescents presenting for eating disorder (ED) assessment since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic; 2) to compare adolescents presenting for ED assessment since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to those that presented for assessment 1 year previously; 3) to examine implications of the pandemic on the system of care.

[Increased risk of homelessness among unseen consequences of Covid, UN told](#)

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed more people to the health pitfalls and stigmas associated with poverty and homelessness, University of Dundee experts have told the United Nations.

[New report analyses impact of Covid-19 pandemic on social landlords in Scotland](#)

The Social Housing Resilience Group (SHRG) has published a report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on social landlords in Scotland.

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[The Effect of COVID-19 Isolation Measures on the Cognition and Mental Health of People Living with Dementia](#)

COVID-19 prevention and control policies have entailed lockdowns and confinement. This study aimed to summarize the global research evidence describing the effect of COVID-19 isolation measures on the health of people living with dementia.

['I Think it Just Made Everything Very Much More Intense'](#)

A qualitative study of the role of friends and family providing support to survivors of domestic abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Digital innovation used to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic](#)

The pandemic has accelerated the use of digital technology in Scotland's public services. Audit Scotland have brought together a range of case studies on how digital innovation and transformation has been used to respond to Covid19.

Children, Young People & Education

[Children in Scotland E Learning Hub](#)

Working in partnership with the Charity Learning Consortium, Children in Scotland are pleased to provide a hub of resources aimed at strengthening the children's sector workforce across Scotland on a range of issues and topics.

[Family members' perspectives of child protection services, a metasynthesis of the literature](#)

This metasynthesis brings together what is known about family members' perspectives of their relationship with social care practitioners as a starting point for developing a pan-European training resource for practitioners.

[Charities work together to examine mentoring support for care experienced youngsters](#)

Scottish Mentoring Network, in partnership with YMCA Scotland and intandem (Inspiring Scotland), are working on mapping the mentoring provision for care experienced children and young people.

[The Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme](#)

Launched on 1 August 2021, replacing the existing UK Nursery Milk Scheme in Scotland and providing pre-school child care settings with milk and a portion of fruit or vegetables.

[Look, Think, Act](#)

Let's keep children safe by raising awareness of how, and why, they could leave a childcare setting without a responsible adult.

[Promoting race equality and anti-racist education](#)

An overview of race equality and anti-racist education that covers what it is, why it is important and links to additional resources.

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[Removal of NHS dental charges for all young people](#)

£7.5 million to support dental sector. Young people aged under 26 are now eligible for free NHS dental treatment. The change comes as a further £7.5 million has been given to support the dental sector to recover and build back to pre-pandemic capacity.

[UNICEF Child Protection Strategy 2021 – 30](#)

The purpose of this Strategy is to provide a clear vision and strategic framework for UNICEF's work in Child Protection for the decade to 2030 to meet this challenge. It calls upon every sector of society — not just governments — to work together and invest together to prevent violence against children.

[Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Policies, Programmes and Interventions That Improve Outcomes for Young People Leaving the Out-of-Home Care System](#)

A systematic review and meta-analysis that aims to assess the effectiveness of policies, programmes and interventions which improve outcomes for care leavers transitioning into adult living arrangements.

[Baby Box: evaluation](#)

Evaluation conducted by Ipsos MORI to assess the impact of the Baby Box scheme in Scotland on its short- and medium-term outcomes.

[Care experience and employment](#)

Overview of evidence relating to how care experience affects education and employment.

[Care experienced children and young people's mental health](#)

Academic research and grey literature using a wide range of search terms including: care experienced, looked after, care leavers, children, young people, mental health, trauma, child and adolescent mental health services, trauma.

Mental Health

[Probable Suicide Deaths 2020](#)

The report published by NRS explains that number of suicides in Scotland decreased by 3% last year, despite consistently higher rates than usual between June and September. In 2020, 805 suicides were registered in Scotland (575 males and 230 females), compared to 833 (620 males and 213 females) in 2019.

[Sheds for Sustainable Development Project: Men's Sheds as an alternative route for male health engagement](#)

Research from a Scottish university finds Men's Sheds, that encourage informal social support and interaction with other men, have benefits for both mental and physical health.

Disability

[Disability benefit changes ‘three times more generous’](#)

The number of people receiving disability benefits because they are terminally ill could triple under a new system to be introduced in Scotland, a panel of medical professionals has estimated.

[Learning disabilities, the third sector and relationships](#)

The third sector plays a vital role in supporting people with learning disabilities in Scotland. In this episode, FAI explore the impact of a charitable organisation based in Edinburgh and the Lothians, called get2gether. As well as discussing the role of the third sector, they discuss the work that get2gether does and the wider issues it addresses: social isolation, relationships and sexual health for people with learning disabilities.

[My Marriage, My Choice](#)

The new My Marriage, My Choice website contains information and resources for people at risk of, or currently experiencing forced, unlawful or predatory marriage. The website also provides information and free training resources for professionals. So it's a great starting point for anyone who may be able to help prevent forced, unlawful or predatory marriages. This includes health and social care professionals, people working in education and youth services, the police and other criminal justice professionals, and marriage registrars.

Older People & Dementia

[Growing a Good Life](#)

A Care Inspectorate resource, which builds on the learnings from their work on improving older people's physical health and wellbeing, and aims to increase positive outcomes for people receiving care in care homes, or at home, to improve their wellbeing, and add purpose to their lives.

Autism & ADHD

[Dedicated Portal to Help Education Professionals Help Autistic Students](#)

Read stories from other professionals, find articles, good practice guidelines, and the latest training and conferences.

[‘Staggeringly high’ number of autistic people on UK Prevent scheme](#)

A “staggeringly high” number of autistic people are referred to the government’s anti-radicalisation Prevent programme, a terror laws watchdog has said, calling for discussion about terrorism cases in which the disability features.

Housing & Homelessness

[Pre-eviction protocols among temporary coronavirus measures which could be made permanent](#)

A public consultation has been launched as the Scottish Government considers keeping some temporary provisions made under Scottish and UK coronavirus legislation including pre-eviction protocols relating to rent arrears in the private rented sector.

Substance Use & Addictions

[Drug checking 'important response' to record deaths](#)

Researchers are looking at how drug testing services could be rolled out in Scotland, after seven consecutive years of rising drug-related deaths. The two-year project is set to conclude with an evaluation report in January 2023 and aims to facilitate development of drug checking facilities, initially across Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee.

[Alcohol deaths in Scotland rise to highest level since 2001](#)

National Records of Scotland recently released statistics on alcohol-related deaths in Scotland in 2020.

Equality & Poverty

[Gambling: Poorer UK towns found to have the most betting shops, study shows](#)

Betting shops are 10 times more likely to be found in deprived towns than in affluent areas, according to a study by the University of Bristol. The areas with the highest number of betting shops per capita included Glasgow, Liverpool, London and Middlesbrough, the study found.

[Early impact of Covid-19 lockdown on Muslim & Black Minority Ethnic women in Scotland](#)

Amina, The Muslim Women's Resource Centre, a third sector organisation working with women in Scotland, circulated a survey early in the pandemic to learn how its constituent communities were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The survey gathered experiences especially of Muslim and Black minority ethnic women and those in minority religious groups in Scotland, offering an important source of data on the experiences and perspectives of under researched groups.

[Families will suffer if Universal Credit cut goes through](#)

Three in five said it would be harder to afford food after the cut and nearly half said it would be harder to cover essential bills.

[Advancing knowledge on ethnic differences in health](#)

Using new methods, the Office for National Statistics has, for the first time, been able to provide insights into the health outcomes of different ethnic groups. In this blog, Julie Stanborough explains why this experimental data is so important and outlines some of the complexities behind the statistics used.

[Women's Health Plan](#)

Bold plans to improve health and reduce inequalities for women in Scotland have been published by the Scottish Government.

Gender Based Violence

[Survey on Benefits and Challenges of DASH risk assessment tool](#)

Safe Lives are looking to understand the benefits and challenges of the DASH risk assessment tool. As part of this process, they want to hear from professionals from across

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the UK, who use the DASH directly with victims and survivors of domestic abuse. The survey will be open for a three week window, closing on **31 August 2021**. The data collected will be for internal SafeLives use only and will not be shared publicly. The survey has 6 quick questions and should take approximately 5 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and confidential. Please share with colleagues if appropriate.

[Receiving Threatening or Obscene Messages from a Partner and Mental Health, Self-Harm and Suicidality](#)

A paper that describes the prevalence of exposure to threatening/obscene messaging from a current or ex-partner; characteristics of victims; and associations with other forms of violence and abuse, mental disorder, self-harm, and suicidality.

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigration

[Perspectives of unaccompanied refugee children, their foster carers and guardians on placement success: Which factors predict multi-informant discrepancies?](#)

This study examined multi-informant discrepancies (between child, carer, and guardian perspectives) regarding placement success of 39 foster placements, as well as possible factors associated with these discrepancies.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

[Grooming in Scotland hits an all-time high](#)

Crimes of communicating a sexual message to a child have risen by 80% in the last five years to an all-time high, Police Scotland figures obtained by the NSPCC reveals.

Carers

[Our World Reimagined Social Care – Unpaid Carers and Covid Trauma](#)

In this blog, Fiona Collie (Carers Scotland) outlines her own anxieties as an unpaid carer, and lays out the trauma forced upon carers and their families, building on extensive [research](#) carried out by Carers Scotland and Carers UK during the pandemic.

Cyber & Financial Harm

[#ScamWatch Week 2021 – 30th August – 5th September](#)

The more vulnerable members of our communities are often the preferred targets of scammers because of the belief that they will be easier to deceive, and that they will have additional difficulty in seeking help – This campaign aims to change this.

Throughout the course of Scottish #ScamWatch Week 2021, Advice Direct Scotland will be shining a light on the scams impacting Scottish consumers and the ways that the public can reduce exposure to scammers and avoid being caught out.

[Interactive Learning For Children and Young People](#)

The NCSC have an educational game for teaching cyber security at primary schools, clubs and youth organisations.

Social Care & Practice

[Racism in Scottish Social Work: a 2021 Snapshot](#)

A report by the Scottish Association of Social Workers on racism experienced by Black and minoritised ethnic social workers at work.

[Problem-Solving for Problem-Solving: Data Analytics to Identify Families for Service Intervention](#)

The article draws on [Bacchi's ideas about problematisation](#) and links to technological solutionism as governing logics of our age, to explore the double-faceted problem-solving logic operating in the UK family policy and early intervention field.

[The power in data and how to share it](#)

This is a think piece exploring themes arising from data Bespoke Support Projects and Rebecca Godar's wider work with authorities and partnerships on using data to understand and tackle exploitation and extra-familial harm.

Events

[Scottish Community Safety Network AGM: 15 Sept, 10am – 12pm](#)

This event will take the format of a formal AGM followed by a discussion on Economic Exploitation of Under 18s and re-showing the Animation created earlier this year.

[In Their Own Voices: Tue, 14 September, 13:00 – 15:15](#)

Edinburgh Napier University, Forensic Psychology in Association with the Scottish Prison Service and Tinderbox. Engaging with the lived experience: using the expressive arts to reflect on current concerns from inside prisons.

[LEAD Scotland: Free training to stay safe online for public and practitioners](#)

As part of their Cyber Resilience and Accessible Formats project, LEAD Scotland are offering FREE webinars for members of the public and training for practitioners/organisations that support others. They are also offering 1 hour 'Training for Trainers' lunchtime sessions for practitioners, volunteers or others who support people with low digital confidence.

[Cyber Resilience Training for Social Workers](#)

Stop It Now! Scotland are offering training for social workers supporting foster and kinship carers. This 3-hour training for trainers programme will build knowledge and skills to work with carers in relation to keeping themselves and children safe online and will provide resources to run training for carers on this subject. Content includes digital citizenship, helping children make positive online choices, having constructive conversations with children about their online lives, the changing role of the internet in society, online peer to peer abuse and the prevention of online sexual exploitation. Sessions are running from 10am - 1pm on: 4th, 10th, 25th and 28th October 1st and 4th November via Teams. To book email your name and job title and preferred session to scotland@stopitnow.org.uk