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### Public Protection Bulletin

6<sup>th</sup> August 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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## COVID – 19

### [The impact of COVID-19 on children and families in Scotland: Understanding needs and services through local social work data](#)

A report prepared by CELCIS in collaboration with local authorities and stakeholders in Scotland to inform the Scottish Government Children and Families Collective Leadership Group's consideration of the impact of COVID-19 on children and families.

### [#ScotYouthandCOVID2: Children and Young People's Participation Through Crisis](#)

Wave 2 of a Virtual Participatory Action Research Project with 25 Young Consultants across Scotland. The project was supported by [The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland](#).

### [Timeline of Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Scotland](#)

This timeline focuses on Scotland's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and includes all major developments. Each entry includes a link to further information and/or relevant official reports, policies and guidance. The blog is updated weekly to reflect new developments.

### [Five key findings from The Health Foundation's COVID-19 impact inquiry](#)

As the success of the COVID-19 vaccination programme sets the UK on a course towards recovery, it is essential to learn the lessons of the past 18 months. Earlier this month The Health Foundation [published the findings of their COVID-19 impact inquiry](#) – a comprehensive review of the factors that fuelled the UK's pandemic death toll. Here they discuss some of the key insights from the report.

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - experiences of vulnerable children, young people, and parents: research](#)

This report presents findings from qualitative research conducted with a range of children, young people and parents in vulnerable or seldom heard groups, carried out to explore their lived experiences during and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

### [Coronavirus: child protection system](#)

The Department for Education (DfE) has published the latest data (wave 25) on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on children's social care in England. Findings include: the total number of referrals from 31 May–06 June 2021 was 17% lower than the usual number at that time of year (although this may have been impacted by the fact the time period fell during half term for most schools); and the total number of children who started to be looked after reported in waves 1 to 25 of the survey was 10,020 - this is around 29% lower than the same period in 2017-20.

## Children, Young People & Education

### [Staying together and connected: getting it right for sisters and brothers: national practice guidance](#)

Guidance supporting implementation of the new duties for Scottish local authorities: that every looked after child will live with their brothers and sisters, where appropriate to do so. Siblings should be supported to sustain lifelong relationships, if appropriate, even if they cannot live together.

### [Children's Hearings Participation Rights](#)

From Monday 26 July 2021 there are new participation rights in a Children's Hearing. These participation rights give some people rights in a Children's Hearing that they didn't have before. The participation rights will mainly affect brothers and sisters.

### [Child Protection Improvement Programme Update](#)

The latest Child Protection Improvement Programme Update can be found on the Scottish Government website.

### [NHSGGC Mental Health Improvement Resources for Schools and Youth Organisations](#)

This document offers a range of suggested resources that can be used to protect, promote and support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (C&YP).

### [Dire poverty in north-east England 'driving many more children into care'](#)

Directors of children's services say region is in 'vicious cycle' after 77% rise in care population.

### [Eating disorders: The terrible impact of the pandemic on the young](#)

BBC News reports that a BBC investigation using data from NHS Digital shows that there were more than 3,200 under 20s admitted to hospital in England with eating disorders over the past year - nearly 50% higher than in 2019/20.

### [Family court hearings](#)

The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory has published findings following a consultation, carried out at the request of the President of the Family Division, about which aspects of remote hearings could continue to inform the post-pandemic recovery plans of the family court and the Court of Protection in England and Wales.

### [Children in Care](#)

The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory has published two reports summarising the findings of two Family Justice Data Partnership reports looking at deprivation associated with rates of infant entry to care in local authorities in Wales and health-based vulnerabilities experienced by mothers and fathers of children aged 0–17 across a two-year period prior to their involvement in care proceedings.

## Mental Health

### [Rising numbers, falling safeguards - new report shows a rise in numbers of people being detained for mental health care during the pandemic](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission published a [report](#) analysing the use of detention of people for mental health care and treatment during the pandemic. While detentions had been rising pre-pandemic, the new report shows a 9.1% rise in detentions in year 2020-21, which is a clear increase on the average 5% rise over the previous five years. The report also shows a drop in safeguards when people were detained. A mental health officer should be involved when a person undergoes emergency detention, and while that safeguard had been reducing pre-pandemic, for the first time, the percentage of emergency detentions without a mental health officer's consent dropped below 50%.

### [Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland Visits: Seven New Reports – July 2021](#)

The reports highlight positive and negative findings from the Commission's visits. They make recommendations for change where necessary. The Commission expects a response to each of its recommendations within three months of the reports being published.

## Disability

### [BSL in Scotland: Language and communication guides](#)

The National Deaf Children's Society Scotland has produced new 'BSL in Scotland: Language and communication' guides aimed at [families](#) and [professionals](#). The professionals' version details services and resources available, as well as key principles developed through feedback from deaf children and their families.

## Older People & Dementia

### [Stronger Together Toolkit](#)

Co-created by the 14 national Ageing Better programmes across England as a one stop, user friendly space where collective experiences are shared. The toolkit brings to life the work of Ageing Better programme in a way that can be accessed by anyone wanting to work with people in their communities, whether at a strategic, operational or grassroots level.

## Autism & ADHD

### [Adult autism advocacy in the UK: a policy review](#)

The need for advocacy for autistic adults is emphasised in many government policy and good practice guidelines. The purpose of this paper is to investigate legislation and policy relevant to advocacy for autistic adults in England and explore whether this translates into practice.

## Housing & Homelessness

### [South Lanarkshire Council plan continues to help reduce homelessness](#)

The second annual review of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan has highlighted excellent progress in both preventing homelessness and improving outcomes for homeless households, despite the challenges raised by Covid-19. The report has been widely approved by members of the council's Housing and Technical Resources Committee.

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### [Healthy Housing for Scotland](#)

This paper draws on current evidence on how housing can influence health and wellbeing. It is intended to support 'Housing to 2040' which sets out the Scottish Government's vision for the housing system over the next 20 years.

### [Scottish Labour highlights 'shameful' mental health and homelessness link](#)

Analysis by Scottish Labour of the Scottish Government's 2020-21 [report](#) on Homelessness in Scotland showed that measures introduced during the pandemic to prevent homelessness had a limited impact on the number of people with mental health problems assessed as homeless or at risk of homelessness, and failed to reverse the long-term upward trend.

## **Substance Use & Addictions**

### [Drug-related Deaths in Scotland in 2020](#)

Statistics of drug-related deaths in 2020 and earlier years, broken down by age, sex, substances implicated in the death, underlying cause of death, and NHS Board and Council areas.

### [Drugs deaths in Scotland soar to record level](#)

Nicola Sturgeon calls figures 'shameful' and promises action after 1,339 people killed last year.

### [Recovery Network launches toolkit to get people talking about mental health](#)

The new engagement toolkit developed by the Scottish Recovery Network has been created to help organisations and services involve people with lived experience of mental health challenges in the planning, design, delivery and evaluation of mental health support. It aims to enable organisations to run their own "conversation cafes."

### [Drug Death Task Force update](#)

The Drug Deaths Taskforce has published a report summarising the research and short term tests of change projects funded through phase one of the Task Force which will now have an advisory role.

## **Inequality & Poverty**

### [Further Out: The Scottish LGBT Rural Equality Report](#)

The Scottish LGBT Equality Report represents the first of its kind looking at the unique lived experience of LGBT people living in rural Scotland.

The report details how social inequalities, prejudice and discrimination as well as a lack of access to inclusive and equalities competent services can have a detrimental effect on wellbeing and mental health. As well as presenting statistical data, the report shares the qualitative experiences of individuals living rurally gathered between 2017 and 2020.

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### [Citizen's Advice Scotland: Half of clients forced into debt when accessing Universal Credit](#)

This report, the first in a three-part series on UC during the pandemic, covers clients' experiences applying for UC and the circumstances that led them to seek advice from CAB. Research highlights that difficulties with the application process are disproportionately encountered by older people, disabled people, single parents, and those who are currently unemployed or economically inactive.

### [Low life expectancy in Glasgow, and what to do about it: Episode 10 of the Health Foundation podcast](#)

In this episode, Dr Jennifer Dixon, Dr David Walsh and Sir Harry Burns explore:

- What is fraying health to this degree in Glasgow?
- What is being done to help?
- And what can we all learn from Glasgow's longstanding efforts to try to mend the health fabric, as we all attempt to build back better after the pandemic?

### [Challenge Poverty Week 2021 will take place from 4-10 October](#)

Challenge Poverty week is three months away. Visit the website for more info & keep your eyes out for our new-look website and resources coming soon.

## Gender Based Violence

### [New move-on service for women experiencing domestic abuse launches in Scotland](#)

Women experiencing domestic abuse will be able to access a new support service to help them find suitable and safe housing in a different area. The project will rehouse women and children experiencing homelessness due to domestic abuse to an area of their choice outside their own local authority area. The 'Revive Scotland' service is a partnership between Wheatley Group and Homefinder UK.

### [Learning from case reviews: domestic abuse](#)

NSPCC Learning has released a podcast discussing what we can learn from serious case reviews published since 2019 where children experienced domestic abuse. The podcast highlights the main themes from the NSPCC Learning case review briefing on domestic abuse including: why domestic abuse is not always recognised as a child protection issue; how domestic abuse impacts children and young people; the need to understand the dynamics of domestic abuse; and avoiding making assumptions about the capacity of both parents to care for children.

## Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigration

### [A Housing Practitioners' Guide to Integrating People Seeking Protection and Refugees](#)

Scottish Refugee Council and the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) have launched new guidance to help landlords give refugees and people seeking asylum a safe and secure place to call home. A Housing Practitioners' Guide to Integrating Refugees and People Seeking Protection provides those working in the housing sector with information and advice to help them better understand and support tenants from refugee backgrounds.

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## Crime, Justice & Prisons

### [Justice for children and young people - a rights-respecting approach: vision and priorities](#)

This vision builds on the youth justice strategy which concluded in 2020. It represents a shared foundation between the Scottish Government and partners to continue to support the agenda to keep children out of the criminal justice system and promote the use of the Whole System Approach.

### [Youth Justice](#)

The Alliance for Youth Justice has published a literature review on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic across each stage of the youth justice system in England and Wales, bringing together evidence from three main areas: children in the community, children in court, and children in custody.

## Carers

### [Carers \(Scotland\) Act 2016 Terminal Illness Directions](#)

New legal duties in relation to unpaid carers who support people with terminal illness came into force on the 31st July, introducing timescales for the preparation of carer support plans.

## Cyber & Financial Harm

### [Online Media Literacy Strategy](#)

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport has published a strategy and action plan setting out the government's plan to coordinate media literacy education in the UK and enable users, including children and young people, to make safe choices online. Initiatives outlined in the action plan include upskilling youth workers to support young people to manage their online safety, and make early interventions to prevent harm occurring online.

### [SafeSurfing](#)

SafeSurfing aimed to support people with a learning disability to know what personal information they should share online, how to protect their personal data and surf the web safely.

### [Charity warning over new "despicable" pet scam](#)

Scammers claim to be calling from a vet, advising that the missing animal has been found and needs immediate treatment with payment required upfront. The new scam has been highlighted by Perth and Kinross Council Trading Standards team.

## Social Care & Practice

### [Joint inspection report of adult support and protection services in East Ayrshire](#)

The joint inspection of the East Ayrshire partnership took place between March 2021 and June 2021. Building on the 2017-2018 inspections, this is one of 26 adult support and protection inspections to be completed between 2020 and 2023. They aim to provide timely national assurance about individual local partnership areas' effective operations of adult support and protection key processes, and leadership for adult support and protection.

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[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) living with dementia in care homes: Guidance on supporting people remain safe during periods of isolation](#)

Guidance on supporting people to remain safe during periods of isolation.

### Events

[One in three: taking action on early childhood poverty; 14/09/21, 14:00 - 15:15](#)

This webinar will explore the causes, patterns and solutions to early childhood poverty and how they have become more complex and interlinked over the last two decades.

[GCPH Seminar Series 18 - Lecture 1: 'Priorities for post-COVID-19 public health research, education and practice' led by Sandro Galea – 21/08/21, 2.00-3.30 via Zoom](#)

COVID-19 is the defining public health crisis of a generation, and it should generate a full-scale assessment of how public health has fared in this moment – what we have done well and what we have not, and the implications this has for the future of public health.

This presentation will address priorities for research, education, and practice agendas in the post-COVID-19 world. GCPH webinar events are free to attend however registration is required. If you would like to attend, please register [here](#)

[NES Bereavement Conference; Wednesday 24 November 2021](#)

The NHS Education for Scotland 'The Changing Face of Bereavement: Providing care and maintaining our own wellbeing during the pandemic' virtual conference will take place online. You can register free for the conference.

Poverty Alliance Zoom Webinars:

[Taking a Strategic Approach to tackling Child Poverty.](#) 13/08/21, 10.00 am.

[Hitting the Target: What can we do to reach the Scottish Child Poverty Targets?](#) 21/08/21, 10.00 am.

[Preventing Child Poverty: What more can be done in Scotland?](#) 27/08/21, 10.00 am.