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Public Protection Bulletin

9th July 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

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COVID – 19

[Covid: School isolation rules could end in autumn](#)

The BBC report that the Covid control system in England's schools, where groups of pupils have to self-isolate if one tests positive, could be scrapped in the autumn. Ministers are looking at asking schools to introduce daily testing instead.

[Scottish COVID-19 Mental Health Tracker Study: Wave 3 Report](#)

This Scottish Government report details the findings from the third wave Study, undertaken in autumn 2020. For this study, a representative sample of the Scottish population completed questions relating to their mental health and aspects of the pandemic.

[Bereavement in the Time of COVID-19](#)

This report brings together the latest ideas and learning from leading experts in bereavement care including Cruse Bereavement UK and St Christopher's Hospice.

[ONS Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest insights](#)

An interactive tool to explore the latest data and trends about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from the ONS and other sources.

Children, Young People & Education

[The Promise Change Programme](#)

Published by The Promise Scotland, following on from Plan 21-24 to outline what is happening now, what is happening next, and what needs to happen.

[The Case for Change](#)

England's independent review of children's social care has launched its first report, 'The Case for Change', which identifies the biggest perceived challenges in social care, including too much of a focus on investigating families in crisis instead of providing early support – a [summary of the report for young people](#) has also been published.

[Adopted children facing mental health emergency, charity warns](#)

Adoption UK in Scotland is warning of a mental health emergency amongst some of the country's most vulnerable children, caused by failings in a system that is not set up to meet their needs.

[Child neglect: statistics briefing](#)

This briefing looks at what data and statistics are available about child neglect to help professionals, and the organisations they work for, make evidence-based decisions. This includes information from different sources such as services that work with children and research into children's and adults' self-reported experiences.

[Young people fear poor mental health will affect post-Covid job prospects](#)

More than one in four young people are worried that poor mental health will affect their ability to find work after the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a Resolution Foundation report.

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[Framework for Risk Assessment Management and Evaluation \(FRAME\) with children aged 12-17 & Care & Risk Management \(CARM\)](#)

This update of the 2014 guidance outlines the standards and operational requirements for risk practice in circumstances where a child's behaviour may pose an imminent risk of serious harm or has caused serious harm.

[Modern slavery and child trafficking](#)

The Home Office has published guidance for a pilot programme that will test alternative models of decision making for child victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. The ten pilot programmes in England, Wales and Scotland start in June 2021 and will run for 12 months. Separate guidance for the pilot site of Glasgow City Council is due to be published in recognition that Scotland operates with devolved legislation and has a different statutory framework regarding child welfare, protection and human trafficking.

Mental Health

[Limits of Remote Working](#)

This article outlines the modification of the Mental Welfare Commission's previous outright rejection of virtual assessments as the pandemic progressed and discusses the ethical and legal issues the possibility of remote assessments has exposed. It also discusses the limits and when a virtual assessment is not considered ethical.

Disability

[Adult Disability Payment: Consultation Analysis and Response](#)

Adult Disability Payment is a new Scottish benefit which will replace the existing Personal Independence Payment for people living in Scotland and will be delivered by Social Security Scotland (the 'agency'). This form of assistance will ordinarily be available for disabled individuals between the ages of 16 and state pension age to apply for, with entitlement arising prior to state pension age continuing beyond that age. It is intended to mitigate the additional costs of living with a disability or health condition. The Scottish Government has published an analysis of the responses, and also its [own response](#).

[Disabled people forgotten during Covid, BBC research reveals](#)

Thousands of deaf and disabled people across the UK have told the BBC of the devastating impact the pandemic has had on their lives. Most said their disability had worsened and more than 2,400 said routine, often vital, medical appointments had been cancelled. More than 3,300 people took part in the research carried out by the BBC. The findings paint, for the first time, a comprehensive picture of a hidden fallout of Covid-19.

Older People & Dementia

[Dementia awareness e-learning course](#)

This SCIE e-learning course aims to raise the awareness and skills of care staff who work with people with dementia. It seeks to improve the wellbeing and experience of people with dementia and of the care staff working with them. It should improve your confidence in managing situations you find challenging.

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[Range of free-to-use 'age-positive' icons launched to replace stereotypical symbols of ageing](#)

The Centre for Ageing Better released a suite of icons, freely available for public use, as alternatives to symbols commonly used to represent ageing and older people.

[The Prevalence, Severity and Chronicity of Abuse Towards Older Men](#)

This study aimed to investigate the prevalence, severity and chronicity of abuse (psychological, physical, physical injury, sexual, and financial) against older men, and to scrutinize factors (e.g. demographics) associated with high chronicity of any abuse. Randomly selected older men aged 60–84 years from seven European cities (Ancona, Athens, Granada, Kaunas, Stuttgart, Porto, Stockholm) were interviewed in 2009 via a cross-sectional study concerning abuse exposure during the past 12 months.

Autism & ADHD

[Self-Reported Camouflaging Behaviours Used by Autistic Adults During Everyday Social Interactions](#)

A paper that describes behaviours exhibited, altered or avoided by autistic adults whilst camouflaging (i.e. camouflaging behaviours).

Housing & Homelessness

[Homelessness Statistics 2020-21](#)

Annual update on Homelessness Statistics covering 2020/21 have been released by Scotland's Chief Statistician. Findings for that period show:

- There were 33,792 applications for homelessness assistance - a decrease of 3,251 (9%) compared with 2019/20
- There were 27,571 households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness - a decrease of 4,010 (13%) compared to 2019/20
- While the number of applications fell, there was also a reduction in the number of cases closed.
- There were 13,097 households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2021 - a 12% increase compared to 11,665 at 31 March 2020. This reached a peak of 14,151 at 30 September 2020.

Substance Use & Addictions

[National drug and alcohol treatment waiting times, Public Health Scotland](#)

This release by Public Health Scotland reports on the waiting times for people accessing drug and alcohol treatment services between 1 January to 31 March 2021. It contains information on the number of people seen for treatment, types of treatment accessed, and length of time waited.

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[Fife study raises concerns over opioid prescriptions](#)

Researchers are calling for greater oversight of prescription painkillers after a study found a third of people prescribed opioids by their GPs were on the strongest types of medication including fentanyl, methadone and morphine.

Looking at GP practices in Fife, a team from Stirling University working with NHS Fife, the University of St Andrews and Glasgow Caledonian University found 42,000 patients had been prescribed opioids – pain-relieving medication used for a variety of conditions – in the last six months. Of those roughly a third – 14,000 – had been given the strongest forms. Stirling researcher Joe Schofield said “clinical practice may need to be tightened to minimise overdose risk”.

[Find the Right Moment Campaign](#)

New research has found that, as the Coronavirus restrictions ease and pubs re-open, one in four people in the UK are concerned about the impact of lockdown easing on their drinking habits. We also found that, as restrictions ease, 1 in 10 (5.6 million people) are worried about the drinking habits of a partner, friend or family member. This new campaign offers advice and support to people to enable them to have better discussions with loved ones about their alcohol use.

Inequality & Poverty

[Poverty and Inequality Commission Child Poverty Scrutiny Report 2020-21 to the Scottish Government](#)

The report states that unless very significant further action is taken now, the Scottish Government is going to miss the interim and final targets by a long way, leaving children and families locked into poverty. The targets can be met, but the Scottish Government must deliver action at a much greater scale and pace, and with significantly higher levels of investment, if it is to do so.

[The Poverty and Inequality Commission Annual Report 2020-21](#)

The Annual Report published covers the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 and looks back at the work carried out during the past 12 months.

[Scotland's Islamophobia](#)

Report of the Cross Party Group on Tackling Islamophobia, which organised an inquiry into the issue of Islamophobia in Scotland. A total of 447 respondents completed the online survey and 15 written submissions have been received from organisations and agencies in Scotland.

[Social Justice and Health Equity Webinar](#)

Glasgow Centre for Population Health are now happy to share the outputs of the above webinar by Professor Sir Michael Marmot, held 25.05.21.

[National Hygiene Week; 5th – 11th July](#)

The Hygiene Bank is launching National Hygiene Week to help raise awareness that hygiene poverty is real for many of the over 14 million living in poverty in the UK. This year during

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National Hygiene Week they are encouraging everyone to 'Look Up' and help tackle hygiene poverty in your community.

Gender Based Violence

[Domestic Homicide and Safeguarding Adults Reviews relating to victims with Additional Vulnerabilities](#)

Research by Amanda Warburton-Wynn, commissioned by Shaping Our Lives to explore recurring recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews and Safeguarding Adults Reviews across the Eastern Region where the victim had an additional vulnerability.

[Equally safe - challenging men's demand for prostitution: consultation analysis](#)

Analysis of responses to a public consultation seeking views on how best to challenge men's demand for prostitution in Scotland, reducing the harms associated with prostitution and supporting women involved to exit.

[Domestic Abuse Figures](#)

Official figures show the police recorded 62,907 incidents of domestic abuse in 2019-20 - an increase of 4% compared to the previous year. The period covers the first year of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 which created a new offence of domestic abuse to give more powers to police and courts to punish perpetrators of abuse and protect people at risk.

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigration

[EU citizens risk losing jobs and homes as July deadline looms](#)

Hundreds of thousands of EU citizens risk losing their jobs and homes if they do not meet the deadline for a post-Brexit settlement scheme, experts have warned.

EU nationals who have not applied for the EU Settlement Scheme by June 30 will find themselves living in the UK illegally, meaning those who cannot show they have been granted settled status or pre-settled status will not be able to rent, work or claim benefits in the UK.

[Priti Patel plans to 'hold asylum seekers in offshore processing centres' - report](#)

The Standard report that Priti Patel is expected to reveal a bill that will allow the UK to hold asylum seekers in Australian-style offshore processing centres. The Home Secretary has even opened talks with Denmark over sharing a centre in Africa in a move aimed to discourage dangerous Channel crossings.

Carers

[Young, caring and struggling to make ends meet. The worsening economic circumstances of Scotland's young carers during Covid-19](#)

Too many young carers in Scotland are facing deepening money pressures and increasingly unable to make ends meet, according to a University of the West of Scotland and Oxfam report. The charity says it is 'deeply concerned' about 'escalating daily pressures'.

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Cyber & Financial Harm

[One in four people bombarded by scams on a daily basis – survey](#)

Nearly a third of over-65s now receive scam contact daily, YouGov said.

[UKCIS Digital Passport](#)

The Vulnerable Users Working Group (VUWG) has developed a Digital passport to help children and young people with care experience talk about their online lives with foster carers or other trusted adults as part of the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS). The passport comprises of an introduction which explains how to use the resources and sections for both young people and adults to fill in and keep.

Social Care & Practice

[Consultation: Refreshed Adult Support and Protection Code of Practice and associated Guidance for Adult Protection Committees](#)

This week the Scottish Government has launched a consultation on a refreshed Adult Support and Protection Code of Practice and associated Guidance for Adult Protection Committees.

The purpose of the refresh of both documents is to ensure Adult Support and Protection guidance takes account of policy and practice developments since the [Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#) was introduced, and thus bring the guidance up to date with current legislation and relevant changes in policy. A revised [Code of Practice](#) was published in 2014 but there has been no previous revision to the Guidance.

The Scottish Government's Adult Support and Protection policy team invite people who have an interest in adult support and protection to respond to the consultation. As the guidance is for practitioners and managers we are also keen to get views from individual practitioners, managers, organisations and others who include adult support and protection as part of their work.

The documents are available [here](#) and [here](#) and contain feedback forms. The consultation is in digital form on [Scottish Government Citizen Space Adult Support and Protection Updated Guidance](#) and there are instructions to help participants follow through the process.

The formal consultation period closes on **28 September**.

[New e-learning: Realistic Conversations - Shared Decision Making](#)

An eLearning module providing guidance for health and social care staff on Shared Decision Making is now available on Turas Learn. On completing the e-learning, you will be able to:

- Describe what shared decision making is and why it is important.
- Identify the barriers to shared decision making
- Explain the importance of presenting benefits and harms of a treatment in ways that people can understand and use to make decisions
- Structure a collaborative shared decision making conversation
- Reflect on whether a good conversation has taken place

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You will need a Turas account to view and access the resource. If you don't have an account, you can register [here](#).

[Safeguarding Adults at Risk of Harm: New research and perspectives](#)

Outputs from the online conference organised by Dr Jeremy Dixon at the University of Bath, held on 15/11/21. Speakers include Dr Megan Robb, Daphne Franks and Dr Sarah Donnelly.

[Unlocking the potential of adult social care](#)

This critical review tool is for leaders and practitioners working in local authorities and partner organisations and people who draw on support to assess their ambitions, strengths, and development areas in relation to developing strengths-based care and support across a local place.

[Scottish Government announces £8 million package for health and social care workforce wellbeing](#)

An £8 million package to support the wellbeing of health and social care staff across Scotland has been announced by the Scottish Government.

Events

[Hidden Harm among Scotland's Children and Families? Making Sense of Weekly COVID Data: Wed, 14 July 2021, 12:00 – 13:00](#)

Alex McTier is the Evidence and Evaluation Specialist at Strathclyde's Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection. The weekly Vulnerable Children and Young People data submission from local authorities to Scottish Government has raised questions about a disconnect between higher levels of early stage child protection activity (e.g. increasing child protection concerns) and yet lower numbers of children becoming registered on the Child Protection Register or becoming looked after. Could this indicate instances of hidden harm where children and families' needs are not being fully assessed and then met? This session presents Alex's research findings.

[Adult Support and Protection and Safeguarding Five Nations Conference - Event 6, Service Refusal, 27 August 2021, 10.30 to 12.30](#)

If you have not already done so, please register to the new mailing list <http://eepurl.com/hvMCd5> or email: fivenations@gov.scot for more information.

[Clinical Forum: Sexual Harm - Beyond Referrals: Addressing Harmful Sexual Behaviour in Schools, 15 July, 10.30 - 12](#)

The Forensic Network Team are pleased to announce that we are co-hosting a further Sexual Harm webinar with NOTA Scotland on the 15th July 2021. NOTA Scotland, Chair Ms Lucy Coleman will welcome Dr Jenny Lloyd (Senior Research Fellow, University of Bedfordshire). Dr Lloyd's presentation will focus on Sexually Harmful Behaviour and the Beyond Referrals Project.

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