

Welcome to this edition of the Public Protection Bulletin, bringing together key updates, research, guidance, resources, and learning opportunities from across children's services, adult services, mental health, fostering and adoption, poverty, and public protection.

This bulletin highlights a range of developments that are relevant to practitioners, managers, and partners working to safeguard and support children, young people, adults, families, and communities. Featured in this edition is a joint statement from Scotland's 32 Chief Social Work Officers, raising urgent concerns about the growing shortage of care placements and carers, and the risks this presents for children requiring alternative care.

We also share the latest evidence and research on eating disorders, fostering and adoption, child protection, school exclusion, mental health recovery, advocacy, and supporting adults with intellectual disabilities. In addition, readers will find information on a new sexual health and wellbeing toolkit for adult services, recent publications on poverty and inequality, and a range of upcoming training, webinars, and learning events.

We encourage colleagues to explore the resources included, consider how the findings can inform practice, and share relevant information within their teams and networks. Through continued learning, collaboration, and evidence-informed practice, we can strengthen our collective efforts to promote wellbeing, reduce harm, and improve outcomes for the people and communities we serve.

Thank you for taking the time to engage with this month's bulletin. We hope you find it informative, useful, and relevant to your work.

As part of our upcoming newsletter, we are keen to spotlight agencies and services within public protection, and share the work being undertaken. If you would like your agency to be featured, then please contact Kirsty Rogers (email below). If you would like to share any items for the bulletin or newsletter then please contact Kirsty Rogers, Senior Development Officer at: kirsty.rogers@glasgow.gov.uk

Many Thanks Colin Anderson Independent Chair

CSWO joint statement

All 32 Chief Social Work Officers in Scotland have issued a joint statement to highlight a crisis in Scotland's care system and urge political action, with placement and carer shortages increasing the risk of harm to children.

[Link to joint statement re: Emergency in availability of alternative care options for children - Social Work Scotland](#)

Eating Disorders

Tick-Tock, the Time Has Come: Leveraging TikTok to Understand, Prevent, and Treat Eating Disorders

The findings of a rapid review of the research on TikTok, eating disorders, and body image. [Link to findings of rapid review research on Tiktok and eating disorders.](#)

A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Psychological Therapies for Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID) in Adolescents and Adults

A systematic review and meta-analysis of studies evaluating the preliminary efficacy of psychological therapies for adolescents and adults with ARFID. [Link to systematic review of therapies for ARFID in adolescents and adults.](#)

Fostering and Adoption

Support for Adoptive Parents

A summary of findings from a systematic review of the effectiveness of interventions for foster and adoptive parents. [Link to summary of findings from a systematic review of the effectiveness of interventions for foster and adoptive parents](#)

Temporalities of Trauma

An exploration of the role of socio-temporal rhythms in foster carer experiences of vicarious trauma. [Link to exploration of the role of socio-temporal rhythms in foster carer experiences of vicarious trauma](#)

Children, & young people

Child Protection Plan and Register Statistics

Updated factsheets on children who are the subject of a child protection plan or on a child protection register in the UK. [Link to data on Child Protection statistics within the UK](#)

Antisocial Behaviour and School Exclusion

A report that explores school exclusion and antisocial behaviour in a Scottish policy context. [Link to report which explores school exclusion and antisocial behaviour in a Scottish policy context](#)

School Exclusion, Inequality and Belonging: Participation Evidence From Children

A report that offers insight into how exclusion is experienced in practice and how guidance might better align with both evidence and children's rights. [Link to report which explores exclusion.](#)

Adult Services

Supporting Adult Service Users with sexual health, relationships and sexual wellbeing

We're pleased to share a new online toolkit designed specifically for staff working in adult health and social care services.

This resource has been developed to provide accessible, non-clinical information to support you in your day-to-day practice. It aims to:

- Increase awareness of key topics
- Ensure access to accurate and reliable information
- Build confidence in discussing sexual health, wellbeing and relationships

How to use the toolkit:

The toolkit is designed to be flexible and easy to use. You can:

- Dip in for quick information when needed
- Use it to support conversations with service users
- Explore sections in more depth, including links to further information

Please note, this resource is intended as a tool to support practice but doesn't replace existing policies, procedures and formal training.

We hope you find this resource useful and that it supports you in your role.

- It can be viewed on a PC by clicking this link: [GGC - Sexual Health - Supporting Adult Service Users with Relationships, Sexual Health and Sexual Wellbeing | Right Decisions](#)
- It can be viewed on mobile by scanning the QR Code below:



If you have any questions about this resource, please contact Chris Flynn, Health Improvement Lead, Sandyford Sexual Health Services at chris.flynn@nhs.scot.

Predicting Injuries in Adults with Intellectual Disabilities in Supported Living: Development and Validation of Risk Assessment Tools

A study that aimed to identify risk factors for both fall-related and non-fall-related injuries in adults with intellectual disabilities living in the community with paid support in Scotland, and develop practical, data-driven assessment tools to support early identification and personalised prevention. [Link to study aiming to identify risk factors for fall and non fall related injuries in adults with intellectual disabilities.](#)

Training and events

Thinking Allowed: Freire: Care, Pedagogy and Social Change

Taking time to think and reflect is often seen as a luxury, but the positive impact on our development and wellbeing is increasingly recognised. Each of these interactive sessions uses a different philosophical approach or central question to spark reflection in practice. Join us for this reflective session exploring Paulo Freire's radical vision of education as a practice of freedom and what it offers those working in social care

Wednesday, 2 September 2026, 10:00 AM or 2.30 PM (45 Minutes) [Link to book "Thinking allowed" event.](#)

Featured free webinar: Staying Silent: Unravelling the What, Why and How of Disclosure in Adulthood

Staying Silent is a powerful short film by Jeremy Indika, speaker, founder of Something to Say, and expert by experience. The film asks its audience to rethink how they see disclosure of child sexual abuse, and to consider the barriers that may be in place. This webinar provides a unique opportunity to watch this film and reflect on it alongside peers from across services, and to be part of a dialogue that can start to shift attitudes around disclosure in adulthood. Wednesday, 23 September 2026, 10:00 AM (1 Hour)

[Link to book free webinar: staying silent](#)

Children's Hearing Information Session

Our latest online Information Session for prospective volunteer Panel Members and Panel Practice Advisers is next Friday lunchtime. We'd love to see as many people there as possible, and would appreciate if you could share this with your networks. If you know someone who would be interested in this vital volunteering opportunity, or wanting to learn more about the role and commitment needed? Please follow this link

[Link to book Children Hearing System - National Information Session - Friday 24th July 12:30-13:15](#)

Children In Scotland delivering two further dates of their Child Protection Lead training course. Attendees will have the opportunity to review the latest guidelines and policies, work through practical examples, and connect with peers across the sector.

[Link to book August 2026 Child Protection Lead training](#)

Mental Health

Advocacy: working with independent advocates

The independent advocate's role empowers people to play an integral part in decisions about their care and treatment. Carers' advocacy has a role in supporting carers to express their views and informing them of their rights.

This guidance should help practitioners make sure that advocacy is encouraged and that the advocate plays an important role in care and treatment. [Guidance for working with advocacy services](#)

Personal and Societal Recovery in Depression

A paper that explores the development of personal and social recovery, barriers and facilitators, and ways in which the recovery process can be supported for people with depression. [Link to article exploring the development of recovery in depression](#)

Medical treatment under Part 16 of the Mental Health Act

We receive many calls for advice on the topic of medical treatment under the Mental Health Act. We have used our answers to develop this guidance, which has been updated this year.

This good practice guide contains some guidance on parts of the law on medical treatment that cause the most difficulty. It also contains answers to some of the more difficult questions that have come our way. [link to good practice guidance of medical treatment under the Mental Health Act.](#)

Stigma, Race, and Testimonial Injustice in Mental Health Detention

A study that examined professionals experience of compulsory assessment and treatment under the Mental Health Act 1983. [Link to study of professionals experience of compulsory assessment and treatment](#)

Stability Beyond Care

A briefing that highlights how welfare advice in inpatient and community mental health is essential to effective care and recovery. [Link to briefing regarding welfare advice.](#)

Poverty

The Poverty and Inequality Commission has published its Annual Report 2025–26, covering the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.



The report sets out the range of work that has been undertaken by the Commission, and by the Commission's Experts by Experience Panel, during this time.

[The Poverty and Inequality Commission Annual Report 2025-2026 - Poverty & Inequality Commission](#)