Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the March edition of the Public Protection Bulletin. This month's bulletin is being shared slightly earlier than planned to ensure readers have timely access to the upcoming events and learning opportunities highlighted within.

We recognise that world events continue to shift at pace, contributing to widespread fear, uncertainty and, for many, growing financial pressure. In response, this edition includes resources to support those experiencing anxiety related to global conflict, as well as information on financial advice and cash-first support available to families.

There have also been recent changes to Adult Support and Protection legislation in Scotland. Although these developments are too extensive to cover fully here, they will be explored in detail in our forthcoming newsletter.

Alongside these updates, we share important developments within the sector, including the launch of the National Social Work Agency on World Social Work Day, and a range of national events, training, and research publications across adult protection, justice, children's services, and gender-based violence.

We encourage you to read through the bulletin at your leisure and make note of the learning and development opportunities included. Thank you for your continued commitment to public protection and for the essential work you do every day.

If you have something new to share or publicise that might be of interest to our subscribers, then please do not hesitate to email Public Protection Committees Team.



Colin Anderson
Independent Chair

Child Protection Committee and Adult Support and Protection Committee

Support with budget

Thanks to funding from the Scottish Government and British Gas Energy Trust, Children First is supporting families facing severe financial hardship by offering immediate relief through a flexible cash first approach.

Families can call the Children First support line on 08000 28 22 33 or start a webchat at www.childrenfirst.org.uk/supportline.

Children First can also support families with debt management advice and benefits entitlement checks. The free support line is open from 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 12 noon at weekends.

Financial Support

Step change is a charity providing information and support on debt and finances. Their website can be found here: https://www.stepchange.org/debt-info/emergency-funding.aspx

Glasgow Helps can help you with money worries, health and wellbeing, housing, childcare, benefits, accessing essential services, employment, training, advice or offer a listening ear. Glasgow Helps - Glasgow City Council

Glasgow Community Food Network have an interactive map for those requiring support with food services, including foodbanks. Their website can be found here Find Local Food Services Map | Glasgow Community Food Network (en-GB)

The Trussell Trust provide emergency food and practical support to people in their hardest moments Ending hunger together | Trussell

Managing News Anxiety

The Mental Health Foundation have produced this article on looking after your Mental Health during traumatic world events. https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/articles/tips-look-after-your-mental-health-during-traumatic-world-events

National Social Work Agency

World Social Work Day, 17 March 2026, will mark the official launch of the National Social Work Agency. World Social Work Day is an international moment to recognise the impact, professionalism and values of social work. The National Social Work Agency will play a key role in supporting the social work workforce, strengthening leadership and learning, and providing national coordination that complements and amplifies the important work already happening across Scotland.

Some of the work being undertaken by the National Social Work Agency will include:

- advocate for all social workers (statutory, third sector, independent sectors), including students
- provide professional, impartial social work advice to Scottish Ministers and provide annual reports to Ministers via , National Chief Social Work Adviser.
- support the National Chief Social Work Adviser to provide national professional leadership
- hold policy responsibility and oversight of social work education and professional learning
- work with partners, including COSLA and Social Work Scotland, through the Scottish Social Work Partnership (SSWP), to have oversight of national workforce planning and workforce numbers

Upcoming events

- **Care Roadshow Scotland** returns to Glasgow on **21 April 2026** at Hampden Park, bringing together professionals from across adult social care, including domiciliary, residential and complex care. This event is free, and you can register your place for the event here: Scotland Care Exhibitions | Healthcare Seminars Scotland | Care Roadshows

- **Social Work Scotland** announced their second Justice Conference will take place in **Glasgow, 3 June 2026**. Confirmed keynotes from Joanna MacDonald, Chief Executive, National Social Work Agency, and National Social Work Adviser, Scottish Government, and Cat Dalrymple, Director of Justice, Scottish Government. Register for the event here: https://socialworkscotland.org/sws-events/justice-conference-2026/

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- **Harmful Sexual Behaviour Forum** The Lucy Faithful Foundation and CYCJ are hosting further Harmful Sexual Behaviour forums this year for practitioners in Scotland. The next forum is planned for the 24th March 1-4pm (Venue TBC however will take place at University of Strathclyde). For further information on any of the above, or to join the forum, please contact carole.murphy.100@strath.ac.uk

- The **'5 Nations' Adult Safeguarding and Protection Seminar series** is returning for 2026. The seminars will take place on Friday mornings from 10.30 to 12.30 (Note: Fri March 27th - may be longer than usual to allow coverage of the topic (TBC)).

Dates and topics are as followed:

Friday 27th March: Adult Safeguarding – Policy Developments
Friday 17th April: Domestic/Intrafamilial Abuse
Friday 25th May: Adult Safeguarding. Data Protection, and Information Sharing
Please visit https://safeguardingireland.org/5nations/ for information on how to access the seminars.

Violence against women & tackling misogyny

Violence against women in Glasgow has escalated sharply in recent years, with sexual violence, domestic abuse, and gender-based harassment all showing significant increases.

Recent Safe Glasgow Partnership data shows:

- Rape cases increased by 41%, sexual assaults by 28%, and domestic abuse cases by 41% year-on-year.
- Rape and attempted rape reached a 10-year high, with 494 cases recorded in one year (+32%). Sexual assault similarly hit a 10-year high, with 800 cases (+22%).
- A sexual crime was reported in Glasgow every two hours, according to national reporting.
- Domestic abuse crimes against women rose by 41% in 2025.

The NSPCC has launched a call for evidence as part of its review of the Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART) programme. DART is a 10-week intervention for children aged 7- to 14-years-old who have experienced domestic abuse and their non-abusing parent. It is designed to strengthen the parent–child relationship, build emotional resilience and support recovery from trauma through structured group work.

Find out more about the review: DART programme review: information sheet

Find out more about DART**:** Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART)

Scottish Government and youth-sector reports consistently highlight that online spaces are the primary driver of rising misogynistic attitudes among boys and young men.

- Boys and young men increasingly encounter harmful sexist content algorithmically, even when they have not searched for it.,
- This content appears normalised through repetition, shaping attitudes, behaviours, and expectations in real-world interactions.
- The Scottish Government warns that young people can be easily influenced, with harmful online narratives spreading rapidly.
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On 16 February 2026, the Scottish Government launched a public awareness campaign tackling misogyny. Aiming to encourage boys and young men to think before sharing or interacting with harmful content, the campaign highlights the hurt that misogynistic social media can cause to women and girls – including those known to them – in real life. The campaign will run for 5 weeks across various online channels, including popular social media sites such as Instagram and Snapchat. While messages will be aimed at young people, elder people (namely parents and caregivers) will also have messages directed at them. These messages will primarily inform parents and caregivers about the scale and impact of such content and, how they can be supported to have conversations with young people.

The campaign can be found below:

Tackling Misogyny - New Campaign Launch | Scottish Government Marketing News

Tackling Misogyny Campaign Toolkit

Additionally, NSPCC Learning has launched a new online masterclass on recognising and responding to misogyny, sexism and gender-based hate. The masterclass has been designed for professionals working or volunteering with children and young people. Click on this link to access the training: Tackling misogyny masterclass

Building Better Policies for Girls' Mental Health

Briefing paper published by The Children's Society and The University of Manchester summarising discussions and findings from a workshop on building better policies for girls' mental health. The discussion identified practices that should be sustained and strengthened. The briefing highlights some of the complex challenges girls are facing such as pressures rooted in gender stereotypes, sexism and misogyny, and underscores the need for greater collaboration to address these. Click here to access the paper: Building better policies for girls' mental health

Care Experience and Mental Health

A new study, focusing on how care experience affects the social and mental health of participants, has found that one in four 17-year-olds with care experience have attempted to take their lives, compared to only one in fourteen without care experience. Please click on this link to access the article. One in four UK teenagers in care have attempted to end their lives, study says | Health | The Guardian

Improved Responses to Self-Harm

The Scottish Government has published a tool designed to help leaders consider and support local improvement in response to self-harm, in line with the Scottish Government and COSLA Self-Harm Strategy and Action Plan.
Supporting improved responses to self-harm: A reflection and improvement tool - gov.scot

Tackling Poverty

As part of the Scottish Budget, the Scottish Government announced that the Scottish Child Payment will be increased to £40 per week for babies under the age of one, with the Director of Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland, John Dickie, saying the proposed increase "falls far short".
Scottish child payment increase `falls short´, says... | Daily Mail Online

Key Messages from Research on Child Sexual Exploitation

An updated briefing paper, from the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse, that brings together current research on child sexual exploitation with implications for practice and strategic commissioning. Read more

The Behaviour Support Plan Content Appraisal Tool

An examination of the feasibility of a new tool for assessing and improving the quality of behavioural support plans for learning disabled people. Read more

SCRA Learning hub

Since January 2025, SCRAs Learning Leads project has been working with partners to support the external demand for training, by working to produce training videos for a new Learning Hub on our website. The first videos are now live on the Hub, with more materials to follow soon. You can access the Learning Hub via this link: SCRA's Learning Hub - SCRA

We would also draw your attention the Learning Events - SCRA . This webinar is for professionals who work alongside the Children's Hearings System. It will introduce you to the Children's Hearings System, the process of referrals to SCRA and the principles upon which the system operates. The webinar will further progress to guiding your understanding of making a referral to SCRA and factors which you should consider when doing so.

Kinship Care

Kinship care The Scottish Government has published a draft version and public consultation of 'Scotland's Vision for Kinship Care', which puts forward the government's proposals to provide consistent and fair support for families caring for children.
Scotland's Vision for Kinship Care: Our Offer of Support for Families - For engagement and consultation - gov.scot