

Public Protection Bulletin 29 Sept 2026

Introduction

This edition highlights a range of important developments, consultations, research, guidance updates, and learning opportunities relevant to professionals working across social work, child protection, adult protection, mental health, and criminal justice services in Scotland.

A key focus this month is workforce development and professional standards, including updated guidance from the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) on Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) and consultation proposals on changes to SSSC registration requirements. Staff are encouraged to review these updates to ensure they remain informed about professional responsibilities and emerging registration arrangements.

The bulletin also draws attention to significant national consultations and reports, including the draft standards for Domestic Homicide and Suicide Reviews, the Poverty and Inequality Commission Annual Report, developments in Bairns' Hoose, updated guidance relating to Joint Investigative Interviews and Inter-Agency Referral Discussions, and new statistics from the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration. Alongside these are a range of publications covering neglect, adult protection, mental health crisis responses, gambling harms, and criminal justice practice.

Finally, a number of webinars, conferences, and training events are included to support continuous learning and professional development. To which, the Committee Team are delighted to announced multi agency training for: Adult Support and Protection, Child Protection and Young Person Support and Protection Training. We extend our thanks to the Adult Protection, Child Protection and Learning and Development Teams.

We encourage practitioners, managers, and strategic leads to explore the resources, consultations, and events featured in this bulletin and consider how the learning may inform practice, service development, and multi-agency collaboration across Glasgow's public protection landscape

Continuous Professional Learning and SSSC Registration Requirements

Quick Guide to Continuous Professional Learning

The SSSC have published an updated concise, easy-to-follow resource that breaks down what SSSC registrants need to know about CPL. Remember; everyone registered with the SSSC must do continuous professional learning (CPL) every year. This is part of our Codes of Practice. It is your responsibility whether you are employed on a permanent, temporary or casual basis. [Link to SSSC Quick Guide to CPL](#)

Proposed Changes to SSSC Registration Requirements

The Scottish Government is seeking views on proposed changes to Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) registration requirements, including three new groups of workers to be considered for registration – workers in adult day care services, workers in offender accommodation services, and social work assistants.

The consultation is open until 24 September, and we encourage all individuals and organisations with an interest in these proposals to share their views. [Link to SSSC proposed changes in registration](#)

Reports and Consultations

Poverty and Inequality Annual Report 2025 to 2026.

The Poverty and Inequality Commission has published its Annual Report 2025 to 2026, 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. [Link to Poverty and Inequality Annual Report 2025 to 2026](#)

Domestic Homicide and Suicide Reviews – Standards Consultation

The draft standards underpinning Domestic Homicide and Suicide Reviews are now published in draft form for consultation. The consultation on the draft standards closes at on 5 November 2026 at 5pm.

Please respond to the consultation online here:

[Link to Domestic homicide and suicide review standards consultation](#)

In addition to the consultation survey, Healthcare Improvement Scotland will be holding a number of online engagement sessions to support more focused discussion and feedback on standards relating to specific areas.

- **25 August 2026, 10 to 11:30am** – Engagement session on standards relating to children and young people
- **1 September 2026, 2 to 3:30pm** – Engagement session on standards relating to domestic abuse related suicide reviews
- **30 September 2026, 10 to 11:30am** – Engagement session on standards relating to adult protection leads
- **30 September 2026, 2 to 3:30pm** – Engagement session on standards relating to combined learning reviews

If you are interested in attending any of these sessions, please complete the registration form and indicate which session you wish to attend [link to registration form](#)

Working with Children and Child Protection

Social Work Scotland – updated IRD and JII guidance

Social Work Scotland has published refreshed guidance for joint investigative interviewing and inter-agency referral discussions, to reflect the Age of Criminal Responsibility Act.

[Link to refreshed guidance on Age of Criminal Responsibility - Social Work Scotland](#)

Children's First Funding

Thousands more children and families across Scotland will be able to get the help they need, due to a £2 million investment from the Scottish Government in the Children First support line. First Minister John Swinney announced the funding, which will enable us to expand support to up to 7,500 families in 2026-2027 while meeting families at the Children First Glasgow service.

Open every day of the year, the support line provides practical, emotional and financial support to families through a single, trusted point of contact. This investment will help us grow specialist services, strengthen money advice support and ensure more families can access compassionate, joined-up help to reduce the impact of poverty, strengthen families and help thousands more of Scotland's children enjoy the safe and secure childhood every child deserves.

The Children First Support Line is a free, confidential helpline for parents, carers, and anyone worried about a child in Scotland, available at 08000 28 22 33, Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm and weekends 9am to 12pm.

Bairns Hoose

The **Scottish Government** has published a research report on the Bairns' Hoose Pathfinder Phase, focusing on the operation of six Bairns' Hoose partnerships. [link to Bairns' Hoose Pathfinder Phase: research report - gov.scot](#)

Bairn's Hoose Expansion

The Scottish Government has announced multi-year investment intended to help expand Scotland's Bairns' Hoose model, bringing health, justice and care services together for children affected by abuse or trauma, with the aim of delivering recovery, support and better outcomes.

[Link to Supporting the Bairns' Hoose model - gov.scot](#)

SCRA statistics

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has published its Official Statistics for 2025 to 2026; the statistics show that 8,839 children were referred to the Children's Reporter in this time period, representing 1% of all children in Scotland, with the majority of children (7,094) referred due to concerns about them on care and protection grounds. [SCRA's Official Statistics 2025/2026 - SCRA](#)

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.

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

Neglect

This *Insight* explores the evidence on child neglect in the context of the refreshed Scottish definition of neglect published in the National Guidance for Child Protection (Scottish Government, 2021).

[Re-examining child neglect in the changing policy landscape - Iriss](#)

Adult Protection and Mental Health

ASPIre Hub

The ASPIre Hub has been live for two years! If you haven't used the Hub before, it is an online library of information around Adult Support and Protection. The available resources have been suggested by professionals working within adult support and protection. The Hub has grown from nothing to over 250 resources! [Link to ASPIre Hub](#)

From Care to Coercion

A review that aimed to explore the lived experiences of people, including carers, who encounter Police or specialised police teams during a mental health crisis.

[Link to From Care to Coercion: Service User and Carer Experiences of Police-Involved Mental Health Crisis Responses - Hudson - 2026 - International Journal of Mental Health Nursing - Wiley Online Library](#)

Gambling Harm Treatment and Support in Scotland: Current Provisions and Future Directions

The findings from a study providing a comprehensive, system level understanding of gambling harm treatment and support services in Scotland [Link to Gambling Harm Treatment and Support in Scotland: Current provisions and future directions](#)

Criminal Justice

Diversion from Prosecution

These guidelines provide an overview of Diversion from Prosecution (DfP) in Scotland, and the roles and responsibilities of the relevant agencies involved.

This version of the guidelines reflects the recommendations from the Inspectorates' Joint Review of Diversion from Prosecution. To complement this guidance, the Early Intervention and Prevention Sub Group of the Social Work Scotland Justice Standing Committee are also publishing practice guidance and templates to provide specific support and guidance for justice practitioners in this area. [Link to Diversion from Prosecution Practice Guidance - Social Work Scotland](#)

Events and Training

ASP (Scotland) Act 2007 Multi Agency Awareness Training - Webinar

Book this course – [22 September 2026 - 10am to 12:30pm - MS Teams](#)

For further Information – [Staff Updates Adult Support and Protection](#)

Location: Online Teams Webinar

Course Enquiries to - [David Cross](#) or [Linda Gunn](#) Senior Learning and Development Officers

Child Protection Awareness Multi-Agency Online Training

This multi-agency training will support practitioners to gain a basic understanding of Child Protection, even where your job is such that you have no direct responsibility for providing a service to them. It may be used as a basic awareness or if you already have some knowledge of Child Protection and wish to refresh your skills.

This will be an online session. There will not be a waiting list so if you are unsuccessful, you will require to reserve an alternative date.

[Link CP Online Multi Agency 22 September 2026](#)

[Link CP Online Multi-Agency 22 October 2026](#)

[Link CP Online Multi-Agency 24 November 2026](#)

[Link CP Online Multi-Agency 15 December 2026](#)

Multi Agency Young Persons Support and Protection Plan (YPSP) Training

This multi-agency training will introduce partners to Glasgow's updated Young Person Support and Protection (YPSP) Framework for Practice. It will explain its aims, the risks young people may face beyond the family home, the importance of young people's participation, and the contribution expected from each partner agency.

The training aims to build a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities, strengthen information sharing and joint risk assessment, and support agencies to work

together to develop, deliver and review coordinated plans that help keep young people safe.

[Webinar link to training: 13 November 2026, 1 to 3pm](#)

[Webinar link to training: 23 October 2026, 9:30 to 11:30am](#)

Aftercare and Good Practice

Staf is [hosting](#) the second in a series of online summits, focusing on aftercare good practice and the opportunities presented by the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill, that will take place online on 25 August, from 9:30am to 12:30pm. A third and final summit, exploring current challenges, emerging policy, practice innovation, and the voices of those with care and justice experience, will take place online on 24 November, from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

Public Health Information Network for Scotland Seminar

This year's PHINS (Public Health Information Network for Scotland) seminar will take place on **Wednesday 28 October 2026** at 9:30am until 1:30pm followed by lunch.

The event this year is **hybrid** in the Public Health Scotland building at 177 Bothwell Street in **Glasgow**, and online.

Please register for a place on Eventbrite [Link to PHINS Seminar 2026 registration](#)

Strengthening Foster Care: Learning from Evidence, Practice and Lived Experience

Research in Practice and Foundations are working together to share available evidence, actionable recommendations on children's social care and learning about how to put it into practice. Two training courses will be offered, the first being on 7 October 2026 with a Reunification session on 10 November 2026. These will present key messages from each of two newly published Practice Guides from Foundations, alongside presentations that foreground innovative developments in these areas of practice.

[Link to session on 7 October 2026: Strengthening Foster Care: Evidence & Lived Experience](#)

[Link to Session on 10 November Reunification: Evidence, Practice & Lived Experience | Research in Practice](#)

Finding Words: Talking about child sexual abuse in Urdu and Punjabi

The session is designed for practice leaders and professionals working with Urdu and Punjabi-speaking children and families, including those in safeguarding, child protection and interpreting roles, and anyone interested in adapting this approach for other languages.

[Link to booking Talking about child sexual abuse in Urdu and Punjabi | Research in Practice](#)

Webinar recording - 'I love it, but I hate it': what young people think about their digital lives?

On August 21 the webinar "I love it, but I hate it": what young people think about their digital lives?' explored the findings and methodology of a national peer research project to understand young people's digital lives. Iriss was delighted to support the delivery of this webinar, and there's now a recording available for those that couldn't attend. [What do young people really think about growing up in an unregulated digital world? - Iriss](#)

Mackay Hannah conference

MacKay Hannah is hosting a conference to explore the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Act 2026 and its implications. The event will take place online on 8 December from 9am to 1pm. Book your place [Booking link to Hannah MacKay Conferenc](#)