

Keeping Connected - The CPCScotland Weekly Bulletin

Issue 60 - Tuesday 8th June 2021

Issued to support Child Protection Committees and partners with up to date information on child protection issues.

Welcome to Issue 60 of Keeping Connected.

This week I would like to draw your attention to the Learning Review Community of Practice event on **1st July** to discuss the findings of the Care Inspectorate Triennial review of initial case reviews and significant case reviews (2018-2021) which is due to be published next week (14th June). This event is open to members of CPCScotland and also to colleagues from Child Protection Committees and other partners, who have a role in leading, undertaking and contributing to significant case reviews and learning reviews. Please share the joining link with interested colleagues from your area or organisation [Learning event booking form](#) . I am sure it will be a lively event with time to consider some of the key issues identified in the review.

As always please let us know of any local work your CPC is involved with so that we can highlight it in the bulletin. If your area has published new guidance, research/evaluation findings or resources related to child protection or who is embarking on a new way of working that you can share with others we would love to hear from you. Contact Susan Mitchell at cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk

Keep safe and keep in touch.

Alan Small, Chair Child Protection Committees Scotland

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 Triennial Review of initial case reviews and significant case reviews (2018-2021) – Learning Event 1st July

The Care Inspectorate's Triennial review of initial case reviews and significant case reviews (2018-2021) will be published on 14 June. A learning event, facilitated by the Care Inspectorate and CELCIS will be held on the Learning Review Community of Practice (Knowledge Hub) on **1 July between 10am – 12pm**.

The session will provide an overview of the report and a short input on what works in supporting learning and practice change. This will be followed by three workshops which will explore key points for discussion.

The event is open to members of CPCScotland and colleagues from Child Protection Committees and other partners, who have a role in leading, undertaking and contributing to significant case reviews and learning reviews.

Please book onto the learning event by close of business on Thursday 24 June using the link below. You will then receive a calendar invite to attend. Places are limited so please book early.

[Learning event booking form](#)

2 Scottish Social Services Awards

Social Work Scotland has announced that the Scottish Social Services Awards, led by the Scottish Government and supported by Social Work Scotland and the Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW), will take place after the Social Work Scotland conference on 26 October 2021. The deadline for nominations is 9 August, and finalists will be announced on 13 September.

<https://socialworkscotland.org/event/scottish-social-services-awards-2021/>

3 Best Start Grant

The Scottish Government has announced that this year's Best Start Grant School Age Payment opened on Tuesday, 1 June, to families who get tax credits or certain other payments and have a child who was born between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2017. Even if the child is not starting school, eligible parents and carers should still apply before the closing date on 28 February 2022. Best Start Foods payments are set to increase to £4.50 per week on 1 August to support low income families to buy healthy food for children under the age of three. To maximise the support available to families, income thresholds that apply to certain qualifying benefits are also set to increase.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/best-start-grant-boost-for-parents/>

Guidance, Resources and Information

4 Contextual Safeguarding - System Review Toolkit

The Contextual Safeguarding Network have made available the System Review Toolkit, used by researchers during system reviews, to support service leaders and other researchers who are evaluating or exploring the use of contextual safeguarding to identify and assess an organisation's/partnership's progress in implementing a contextual safeguarding approach.

<https://www.csnetwork.org.uk/en/resources/practice-guides-and-resources/toolkits/system-review-toolkit>

5 National drugs mission funds: guidance

The Scottish Government has recently launched four funds to reduce drug related deaths and harms. These funds will be available for this year, and the next four years. Therefore, multi-year applications are welcome.

The funds are:

- Children and Families Fund: £3 million has been allocated to improve support for children, young people and families impacted by drug use, and ensure all children, young people and families have access to services
- Service Improvement Fund: £5 million has been allocated to continue the Improvement Fund, launched earlier this year. To provide improved services for outreach, treatment, rehabilitation and after care
- Local Support Fund: £5 million has been allocated to continue the Grassroots Fund, launched earlier this year. To provide access to funding for a wide range of communities and grassroots organisations which support the aims of the national mission
- Recovery Fund: £5 million has been allocated to support access to residential rehabilitation by providing additional residential rehabilitation capacity, support people to access residential rehabilitation and support people after they leave residential rehabilitation.

These funds are accessible to not-for-profit organisations working in the drugs sector, including Integration Authorities, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships, third sector organisations and grassroots/community organisations. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-drugs-mission-funds-guidance/>

6 Meeting the Challenge

The latest Meeting the Challenge example published by CELCIS looks at the Creative Kin project's innovative approach to meeting kinship families face-to-face during lockdown.

<https://www.celcis.org/knowledge-bank/spotlight/meeting-challenge-2/>

Training, Learning Events and Resources

7 Working with dangerous behaviours - managing fear and containing behaviour

On 18 June from 10:00am-1:00pm, the Mulberry Bush, together with Orb8, is hosting an online seminar exploring how we respond physically and emotionally to extreme behaviours, strategies for working with dangerous behaviours, and understanding the roles of the victim and aggressor, as well as the importance of reflective space to counteract emotional enmeshment

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/working-with-dangerous-behaviours-managing-fear-and-containing-behaviour-tickets-148599335613?mc_eid=2e539ebb95&mc_cid=86cb96819f

8 An online conversation on the Christie Commission ten years on

On 22 June at 10:30am, the Robertson Trust is hosting an online discussion on the implementation of the recommendations set out by the Christie Commission in 2011, which was chaired by Dr Campbell Christie and looked into the future delivery of public services. The discussion will also be grounded in findings from the Hard Edges Scotland report, commissioned by the Robertson Trust and Lankelly Chase, which looked at public services through the lens of severe and multiple disadvantage.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christie-plus-ten-are-we-smoothing-the-hard-edges-tickets-157798961943>

9 Looking Inside our Fallibility: Reflections on Cases of Serious and Fatal Child Maltreatment in 2020

In this AoCPP webinar, Peter Sidebotham, a member of the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel will present some key findings from the Panel's 2020 annual report. He will pick up on the six key practice themes identified in the annual report and consider what they might mean for front-line practice. The event is on 30 June 2021 - 12.00pm - 1.30pm. Please note there is a charge to attend this event.

<https://www.childprotectionprofessionals.org.uk/Event/professional-update-webinar-looking-inside-our-fallibility-reflections-on-cases-of-serious-and-fatal-child-maltreatment-in-2020>

10 Safeguarding Supervision for Child Protection Professionals

The supervision of professionals working within children's services is considered an essential part of safeguarding children. AoCPP are offering a training over 4 sessions between 21st June and 23rd September led by Wendy Thorogood. This course can be adapted to offer bespoke supervision training for individual teams or organisations on request. Please note there is a charge to participate or commission this training.

<https://www.childprotectionprofessionals.org.uk/Event/safeguarding-supervision-for-child-protection-professionals>

11 'Policing County Lines - Impact of Covid-19'

AoCPP are offering a Masterclass on Tuesday 24 August 10-1pm. This session will introduce findings from a UKRI-funded research project by the University of Nottingham's

Rights Lab – exploring the effect of COVID-19 on Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines. Through a dualistic focus on detection and enforcement, and vulnerability and safeguarding, we will highlight the impact of Covid-19 on the drug supply method through the voices of those working to address County Lines and the harms it causes. It will also draw upon previous studies to provide a rich contextual overview into Child Criminal Exploitation. Please note there is a cost to attend this masterclass.

<https://www.childprotectionprofessionals.org.uk/Event/the-aocpp-masterclasses-policing-county-lines-impact-of-covid-19>

For Children, Families and Communities

12 COVID-19 Vaccine NHS Scotland Explainer Video,

Scottish Government have created a video in partnership with Public Health Scotland and Third Sector partners. The Vaccine Explainer Video provides key facts about the COVID-19 vaccines for those who may be hesitant to get the vaccine when offered, or for those more likely to have been exposed to myths/misinformation. There is a full-length version of the video as well as short cut-down versions that address specific topics. This video is currently being translated in multiple languages including BSL.

Scottish Government are asking partners to share this video with your audiences via social media channels and WhatsApp/SMS where appropriate.

- [View full-length COVID-19 Vaccines Explainer Video](#)
- [View **shorter version** of the COVID-19 Vaccines Explainer Video](#)
- [View **Safety Information** short video](#)
- [View **Doses and Appointments** short video](#)
- [View **Pregnancy and Breastfeeding** short video](#)
- [View **Faith Leaders and Ingredients** short video](#)

The link to download files via We Transfer is available from cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk

13 Children and young people's mental health

BBC bitesize has published an article and short film outlining top tips to support young people aged 11 – 16 years who are dealing with boredom and low motivation. The article and film are based on evidence-based guidance from researchers and clinicians reported in a research briefing published by the Co-RAY project, part of the Emerging Minds Network. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/ztrx7yc>

14 2021's Day of General Discussion: Children's Rights and Alternative Care

Care experienced children and/or those with experience of the child protection system are encouraged to feed into the next UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion 2021 which is on the theme of Children's Rights and Alternative Care. The closing date for submissions is 14th June 2021

<https://www.childrightsconnect.org/day-of-general-discussion/>

Research and Evidence Based Reports

15 Harmful Sexual Behaviours Online

Young Scot has recently published the final report of the Scottish Government-commissioned 'Harmful sexual behaviours online' survey, addressing one of the proposals of the Expert Group on Preventing Sexual Offending involving Children and Young People. The survey sought the views of young people on four issues:

- Personal safety online
- Education about sexual issues
- Reporting and support
- Effect of the coronavirus outbreak on online experience

<https://youngscot.net/ysobservatory/harmful-sexual-behaviours-online-survey>

16 Supporting and strengthening families through early help - A rapid review of evidence

In response to England's review of children's social care starting its work, the National Children's Bureau, with researchers from Cambridge University and the University of Kent, has published a scoping review exploring the academic and 'grey' literature to better understand the evidence base for the delivery and effectiveness of early help for families.

https://www.ncb.org.uk/supporting-and-strengthening-families-through-early-help-rapid-review-evidence?mc_cid=935f0df300&mc_eid=c01004a476

17 The National Confidential Forum Final Reports

The final reports from the National Confidential Forum have now been released. Shining a Light on Care explores the issues raised by the testimonies and sets out recommendations, and My Message for Scotland, is a collection of individual experiences, messages and reflections. The NCF has been running alongside the Independent Care Review and the ongoing Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry to offer a platform for people to speak anonymously and without cross-examination, taking care to try not to re-traumatise people who shared their stories.

<https://www.nationalconfidentialforum.org.uk/what-weve-heard/>

18 Babies in care proceedings (England and Wales)

The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory has published a report providing new evidence about the number of newborn babies and infants in care proceedings in England and Wales, as well as the frequency of urgent hearings in these cases. Figures show that: in England, the number of newborn babies in care proceedings increased by 20% between 2012/13 and 2019/20, rising from 2,425 to 2,914 per year; in Wales, the number increased by 40 %, rising from 145 to 203 babies per year; London differs significantly from both Wales and many regions of England having the lowest numbers of newborn babies in care proceedings. <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/newborn-babies-urgent-care-proceedings>

19 Health visitor enquiry about caregivers' adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

Public Health Wales has published a report exploring key findings from the evaluation of a pilot intervention, which involved a supportive discussion about childhood adversity and its potential impact on individuals' health and wellbeing and that of their children, delivered with parents and caregivers during routine contacts with health visiting services. Findings from the pilot include: 95% of caregivers said that an enquiry about childhood adversity was acceptable in a health visiting context; and caregivers who had a discussion were significantly less likely to report experiencing parental stress (at six months post-partum), when compared with those who had not taken part in the pilot. <https://phw.nhs.wales/publications/publications1/health-visitor-enquiry-about-caregivers-adverse-childhood-experiences-aces-key-learning-from-a-pilot-evaluation/>

20 National Strategic Assessment (NSA) of serious and organised crime in the UK

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has published the 2021 National Strategic Assessment (NSA) of serious and organised crime in the UK. The assessment estimates there is between 550,000 and 850,000 people in the UK who pose varying forms of sexual risk to children. The NCA reports that collaboration with policing and other key partners has resulted in the safeguarding of nearly ten thousand children in the first nine months of 2020/21 and more than 7,000 arrests. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/533-national-strategic-assessment-of-serious-and-organised-crime-2021/file>

21 Children's helplines

Child Helpline International has published a report looking at the impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on the children and young people who contact child helplines around the world. Findings from quarterly surveys covering January to December 2020 include: globally, child helpline members received 25% more contacts in 2020 compared to 2019; violence and mental health were important reasons for contact globally; and requests for information about Covid-19, contacts relating to family relationships, access to essential services and the caller's own physical health were other main reasons for making contact.

<https://www.childhelplineinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Voices-Covid-19.pdf>

22 'Dropped into a cave' How families with young children experienced lockdown

A report by Save the Children which aims to understand the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on families with young children living on low incomes in Scotland. By sharing their experiences, they hope to help inform how families can best be supported as we emerge from life in lockdown and begin our recovery.

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/content/dam/gb/reports/dropped-into-a-cave-compressed.pdf>

News and Opinion

23 In the Media

- The BBC has reported that the number of children and young people in Scotland waiting at least a year for mental health treatment has almost trebled since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Scottish Children's Services Coalition (SCSC) described the figures as the "worst on record"
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-57315731>
- BBC News reports on findings from a survey of more than 1,500 UK teachers carried out by BBC Radio 4's File on 4 and NASUWT, the Teachers' Union looking at sexual abuse in schools. Findings include: almost a third of teachers surveyed said they had witnessed peer-on-peer sexual harassment or abuse; almost one in 10 said they saw it on a weekly basis; and more than half said they did not think adequate procedures were in place in their schools to deal with abuse. The File on 4 programme is available on BBC Sounds.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-57231920>

- Social workers and children's charities in Wales are warning that a 20% decrease in child protection orders in Wales may be painting a false picture, fearing that many of the most vulnerable children are falling under the radar because of COVID-19 restrictions and that there may be an increase in referrals once restrictions ease
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-57294872>
- The Guardian has published an interview with Emma Revie, CEO of The Trussell Trust food bank, which gave out 2.5 million food parcels in the past year including 1 million for children – Revie shares her thoughts on the failure of the benefits system, the impact of the COVID-10 pandemic, and her respect for the foodbank volunteers:
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/may/31/food-bank-supremo-emma-revie-this-is-the-best-job-in-the-world-and-it-shouldnt-have-to-exist>
- UK charity the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has set up a taskforce, funded through a grant from international child protection organisation Thorn, to take 'digital fingerprints' from millions of illegal child abuse images, so that tech companies can use these prints to recognise and block the images if users try to share them:
<https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/taskforce-help-stop-child-sexual-230100806.html>

BBC News reports on an investigation of the subscription site OnlyFans, known for pornography and which requires users to be over 18. The investigation found that children were sharing uploaded pornographic images, video clips and messages directly with subscribers to the site in return for payment.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-57255983>

- NSPCC Scotland is calling on people to knit two pairs of baby booties to help the charity campaign for better support for young children and their parents. For every pair of booties received, the charity will donate one pair to families it works with in Glasgow and the other it will use to raise awareness with MSPs about the importance of investing in early childhood.
<https://tfn.scot/news/campaign-launches-to-raise-plight-of-babies-and-young-parents-in-scotland>

24 LGBTQ+ young people

To mark Pride month in June Net Aware have published tips for parents and carers to help keep all children and young people safe during Pride month.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/helping-to-keep-all-children-safe-online-this-pride-month/>

25 Finding the confidence to be creative

Ahead of the 'Voice & Vision' celebration of the creative work of young people with care experience, Laura Graham, Senior Evidence and Influencing Officer at the Life Changes Trust, reflects on the role creativity plays in working with young people in the latest blog post from CELCIS.

<https://www.celcis.org/knowledge-bank/search-bank/blog/2021/06/finding-confidence-be-creative/>

Please let us know what you think about the bulletin and provide information for inclusion in future editions. Contact Alan Small or Susan Mitchell at cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk.

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