

Keeping Connected - The CPCScotland Weekly Bulletin

Issue 61 - Tuesday 15th June 2021

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

Welcome to Issue 61 of Keeping Connected.

This week saw the publication of the Care Inspectorate 'Triennial review of initial case reviews and significant case reviews (2018-2021) which I am sure will be of interest to many of you. This will be the last triennial review in this format as we will be moving to adopt the new National Guidance for Child Protection Committees: Undertaking Learning Reviews (due to be published this year). The new Learning Reviews will form the focus of a new style of Care Inspectorate overview report from 2022 onwards.

I was also interested to see the publication of the local benchmarking tool which can be used to compare 4 indicators from the national published child protection data across local authority areas. I am sure those of you who like data and statistics will enjoy exploring the tool and how you can use it.

As always, please let us know of any local work your CPC is involved with so that we can highlight it in the bulletin. 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)

The Care Inspectorate 'Triennial review of initial case reviews and significant case reviews (2018-2021)' was published on 14th June 2021.

This report presents the findings from review reports submitted to the Care Inspectorate between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2021. It includes the key findings from their analysis of 50 ICRs that did not proceed to a full SCR, 23 SCRs and two thematic learning reviews. The reviews considered the circumstances of 96 children and young people. Sixty-four children and young people were the focus of ICRs and 32 were the focus of SCRs.

The report also includes the views and experiences from Child Protection Committee (CPC) members across Scotland. Surveys were sent to the 28 committees who had been actively involved with ICRs and SCRs during the timeframe of this report. All CPCs were invited to participate in the regional focus groups.

The Review can be accessed directly from [this link](#) or via the Care Inspectorate [publications page](#)

If you have not already done so please sign up / share the invite to the learning event, facilitated by the Care Inspectorate and CELCIS which will be held on the Learning Review Community of Practice (Knowledge Hub) on **1 July between 10am – 12pm**. 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. 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.

[Learning event booking form](#)

2 Child protection & looked after children statistics 2020: local authority benchmarking tool

The Scottish Government has published Child protection and looked after children trend data up to the reporting year 2019 to 2020 at local authority level. This provides a tool to compare and benchmark statistics across local authority areas and nationally.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-protection-statistics-2020-local-authority-benchmarking-tool/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/looked-after-children-statistics-2020-local-authority-benchmarking-tool/>

Guidance, Resources and Information

3 Contextual Safeguarding Practice Resources Guide

This downloadable contextual safeguarding practitioner resource guide signposts practitioners to available resources on the Contextual Safeguarding Network. It is organised by stages depending on your level of familiarity with the contextual safeguarding framework.

https://mcusercontent.com/f5f7e75053b0b223588eeaa95/files/f52e84e3-5a90-b148-5f74-9ec01405b5c8/Practitioners_Resource_Guide_May_21.pdf

4 Child Interview Rights Practitioners

The Scottish Government is preparing for the establishment and maintenance of a register of Child Interview Rights Practitioners (ChIRPS). Child Interview Rights Practitioners are those authorised to provide advice, support and assistance to children in relation to their involvement in investigative interviews under the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019. As part of this the Scottish Government has published a code of practice setting out the national standards that apply to all ChIRPS

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/age-criminal-responsibility-scotland-act-2019-child-interview-rights-practitioners-code-practice/>

5 Cyber Scotland Bulletin

The June 2021 CyberScotland bulletin is now available online. This month the bulletin includes information on what the risks are to playing games online and how you can keep young people safe (see 15 below)

<https://www.cyberscotland.com/june-2021/>

6 Scotland's National Outdoor Play and Learning Position Statement

Inspiring Scotland and the Scottish Government have published the Outdoor Play and Learning Position Statement. The statement highlights that it is 'our shared responsibility to enable all of Scotland's children and young people to access our diverse greenspaces and natural landscapes and to empower them to enjoy these spaces for the purposes of playing and learning.

https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/National-Position-Statement-Dec-2020.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

7 Learning Disability Week 2021

To mark Learning Disability Week, from 14 to 20 June, NSPCC Learning has pulled together training and resources to help you protect children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and additional needs, and

to better understand the challenges these children and young people face.
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/awareness/learning-disability-week-2021>

8 Parents with alcohol and drug problems

Public Health England (PHE) has published a toolkit containing guidance, data and other resources to support professionals who are helping families affected by parental alcohol and drug problems. The resources include: planning and operational guidance for adult alcohol and drug treatment services and children's services showing how services can work together to support families affected by parental alcohol and drug problems; and a guide to using case studies to estimate how much money can be saved by supporting families who experience problem parental alcohol and drug use.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parents-with-alcohol-and-drug-problems-support-resources>

Training, Learning Events and Resources

9 All Of Us: Thinking about neglect and the role of communities in prevention

Together for Childhood is hosting an online seminar on neglect and ways of working together to better prevent and respond to issues around neglect by taking a place based approach on Tuesday 22 June from 2:00pm.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/all-of-us-thinking-about-neglect-and-the-role-of-communities-in-prevention-tickets-152837385735>

10 COVID-19 and Domestic Abuse: A Year in Reflection and What's Next?

Glasgow East Women's Aid, which supports women and children affected by domestic abuse, is hosting a webinar on Wednesday, 16 June, at 10:00am reflecting on the past year and how COVID-19 has impacted service providers and service users to discuss the challenges, positives and what is next.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/covid-19-and-domestic-abuse-a-year-in-reflection-and-whats-next-tickets-150879740365>

11 Learning the lessons from Punishing Abuse: Why professional curiosity and knowing a child well matters: 30/06/21, 10am

This free webinar from Care Knowledge provides an opportunity to hear Dr Alex Chard discuss his recently published and highly impactful report, Punishing Abuse, with the Youth Custody Service's Head of Safeguarding, Wendy Tomlinson, who has a longstanding background at a senior management level in children's services. The focus of the webinar will be on drawing out lessons for frontline professionals working in children's services – paying specific attention to the importance of professional curiosity, seeing the links between early harms and later behaviours and the development of empathic knowing.

<https://learn.pavpub.com/ck-learning-the-lessons-from-punishing-abuse/>

12 Safe & Together podcast Integration of trauma healing and behaviour change for people who choose violence

The discussion of the relationship between histories of trauma and the perpetration of abuse is often fraught. Many people are worried that any consideration of the trauma histories of perpetrators will become an excuse for violence. Others advocate for the need for a more holistic approach, especially for those perpetrators who are also survivors of intergenerational traumas related to colonization and racism. This safe & together podcast considers the relationship between trauma histories and the choice to act in abusive, violent and controlling ways.

[S&T Podcast Integration of trauma healing and behaviour change for people who choose violence](#)

13 Proud to care webinar

Care Inspectorate is hosting a proud to care webinar for care professionals on lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans (LGBT+) inclusion in care settings. The webinar will take place on Tuesday 22 June from 10am - 11am. This webinar will share good practice, findings and ideas on supporting LGBT+ people experiencing care. Speakers include: Allan Barker, Doreen Watson, Jacqui Duncan and John Stuart (Care Inspectorate), Stacey Webster (LGBT Health & Wellbeing) and Celeste Berteau (Life Changes Trust).

[Register here](#)

For Children, Families and Communities

14 Online bullying

NSPCC Scotland and respectme Scotland's anti-bullying service have launched Think B4 You Type, an anti-bullying toolkit to help support secondary school-aged children and young people to design and lead their own campaign around online bullying.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/schools/anti-bullying-campaign-toolkit>

15 Gaming4good

Get Safe Online's campaign this month is looking at both the positive and negative aspects to gaming. Get Safe Online are providing advice on what the risks are to playing games online and how you can keep young people safe. Get Safe Online are also hosting three one hour webinars, tailored for parents of children of different age groups.

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/gaming4good/>

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/gaming4good-webinars/>

16 Young Scot Strategic Plan

This survey is a chance for young people to shape the future strategy of Young Scot – and decide what services they offer. Those who work with and care for young people are asked to please encourage young people to fill in the survey. <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90349969/Young-Scot-Strategy-2022-2025-Young-persons-survey>

17 Keep Cool

KeepCool is a series of educational videos designed to help young people learn about and cope with strong emotions created by young people for young people. KeepCool is funded by UK Research and Innovation and led by Andrea Danese, Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry at King's College London and the South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/keepcool>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFds4FMYv3c>

Research and Evidence Based Reports

18 Punishing Abuse

This report by West Midlands Combined Authority and West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner provides the results of an action research project designed to discover the extent of abuse and other adversity for a diverse range of children known to Youth Offending Teams in the West Midlands. <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Punishing-Abuse.pdf?x39505>

19 Ofsted Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges (England)

Ofsted has published its report of a rapid review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges it was asked to carry out by the UK government sparked by thousands of anonymous allegations published on the Everyone's Invited website. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges#contents>

20 Child sexual abuse (England and Wales)

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre) has published a review of the latest evidence looking at the scale and nature of child sexual abuse (CSA) in England and Wales. <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/documents/scale-nature-review-evidence-0621/>

21 One year on: how the coronavirus pandemic has affected wellbeing and suicidality

This report from The Samaritans brings together analysis of anonymous Samaritans' service data from calls and emails, and primary research with our listening volunteers, which took place at 7 different points during the year since restrictions began. The report also includes secondary analysis of findings from focus groups with Samaritans volunteers on the dedicated helpline for NHS and social care workers in England and Wales, and an analysis of data collected as part of the UK COVID-19 Mental Health & Wellbeing study.

[https://media.samaritans.org/documents/Samaritans Covid 1YearOn Report 2021.pdf](https://media.samaritans.org/documents/Samaritans_Covid_1YearOn_Report_2021.pdf)

22 Lessons Learnt From Lockdown: The highs and lows of the pandemic's impact on disabled children and young people

The Council for Disabled Children, working with the Department for Education and KIDS, has published a report on the lessons learnt from lockdown for disabled children and their families. Findings from the report, which consulted over 600 children and young people, 110 professionals and 128 parents, include: many young people felt isolated and alone; many parents felt support services were not accessible; there was poor communication from schools about the needs of disabled children; and not being able to attend extra-curricular activities had impacted many children. Recommendations include: emotional, social and mental health recovery should be prioritised; support for families, including short breaks and free school meals during holidays, should be prioritised; and there should be clear planning and communication on returning to school safely.

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/news-opinion/news/lessons-learnt-lockdown-highs-and-lows-pandemics-impact-disabled-children-and-young-people>

23 A shared experience: outcomes for people through the COVID-19 pandemic

This resource from IRISS brings together the learning from a collection of stories gathered by the Personal Outcomes Network throughout 2020. It was developed to share stories of the experiences of those working across a range of sectors to keep a focus on outcomes for people during an extended public health emergency. By presenting a detailed analysis of these stories and how experiences evolved throughout the year, we are able to make sense of what this crisis has meant for outcomes for people and draw out implications to inform practice, policy and recovery.

<https://content.iriss.org.uk/outcomes-covid-stories/index.html>

24 Understanding why the COVID-19 pandemic-related lockdown increases mental health difficulties in vulnerable young children

An evaluation of the social and emotional impacts of COVID-19 for children identified as 'at-risk' for mental health problems by their teachers prior to the pandemic. Published by the Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

<https://acamh.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jcv2.12005>

25 Where are the infants in children and young people's mental health?

The Parent-Infant Foundation has published findings from an online survey of 283 practitioners working in NHS infant, children and/or young people's mental health services across the UK, looking at the provision of services for children of different ages, and whether their training and professional development had equipped them to work with infants. The survey found that professionals said that their training does not equip them to work effectively with the youngest children.

<https://parentinfantfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/PIF-Where-are-the-Infants-in-CYP-MH-26-May.pdf>

26 A retrospective study examining the adverse effect of childhood abuse among adult psychiatric service users in Britain

A study published in the International Journal of mental Health Nursing that aimed to assess the association between childhood abuse and the development of harmful social and behavioural outcomes among adult psychiatric service users. The authors concluded that their findings suggest childhood abuse may play an important role in shaping risk and vulnerability for mental health problems across a lifespan.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/inm.12860>

27 The Invisible Scars of Emotional Abuse

Childhood maltreatment has been linked with an increased risk of a variety of psychiatric disorders in adults, including posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These associations are well established in the literature for some maltreatment forms, such as sexual and physical abuse. However, the effects of emotional maltreatment are much less explored, even though this type figures among the most common forms of childhood maltreatment. This study aims to investigate the impact of each type of childhood maltreatment, both individually and conjointly, on revictimization and PTSD symptom severity.

<https://bmcp psychiatry.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12888-021-03134-0>

News and Opinion

28 In the Media

- The Herald has published an opinion piece by Joanne Smith from NSPCC Scotland, on Infant Mental Health Awareness Week (running from 7-13 June) and the importance of prioritising the mental health of the youngest children, who are completely dependent on adults for their care and not yet able to voice their needs.
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19347124.agenda-must-prioritise-infant-mental-health/>
- An article in the Herald reports that online child abuse reports in Scotland are up by nearly 6%. The article quotes A total of 1,966 online child sex abuse crimes were logged by Police Scotland during 2020-21, a rise of nearly 6% on the previous year and nearly 25% greater than the five-year average.
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19350683.online-child-abuse-reports-scotland-nearly-6/>
- The Daily Record has reported on a cross-party letter from MPs written to the UK Government's Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Therese Coffey calling for an end to the Young Parent Penalty in Universal Credit. This penalty means parents under the age of 25 are entitled to less financial support. The letter is signed by 60 MPs from nine political parties across the four nations, and over 100 signatories representing leading charities and academics.
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/benefits-loss-young-single-parents-24284098>
- The UK Government has committed to raising the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 in England and Wales after campaigns to close a loophole allowing 16-17 year-olds to marry with their parents' consent which may put young people at risk of coercion and forced marriage.
<https://inews.co.uk/news/government-child-marriage-18-sajid-javid-abuse-1048482>
- The Sunday Times has run comments from Josh MacAlister, Head of England's review of children's social care, ahead of the review's first big report, 'The Case for Change' due to be published this week, in which he says he has concerns about the rising number of parents separated from babies in cases where abuse is ultimately unproven – a subject the Sunday Times has been reporting on over the last few months:
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/social-workers-too-quick-to-wade-in-review-finds-qtd0763wd>

29 Connecting Scotland

The Scottish Government has announced phase 3 of the funding for the Connecting Scotland programme, which helps those on lower incomes and groups like the elderly, to access the internet by offering training in online skills and providing devices like iPads and Chromebooks, and unlimited data for two years

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-people-to-get-online/>

30 Free school meals for primary 4 and primary 5 pupils

The Scottish Government has reached an agreement with local authority partners to introduce universal free school lunches for primary 4 and 5 children by August 2021 and January 2022 respectively. Targeted free school meal support will also be offered during school holidays for all eligible primary and secondary children and young people, starting from July.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/free-school-meals-1/>

31 Get into Summer

The Scottish Government has published details of funding allocations for its £20 million programme to create opportunities for children to socialise, play and reconnect this summer after months of lockdown restrictions:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/get-into-summer/>

32 Contextual Safeguarding Network Blogs

i Talking with Young People about Contextual Safeguarding

In this blog post on the Contextual Safeguarding Network site, Research Assistant Hannah Millar discusses her work with the Contextual Safeguarding 'London Scale Up' project, and the role of young people in the design and implementation of a Contextual Safeguarding approach.

<https://www.csnetwork.org.uk/en/blog/2021/talking-to-young-people-about-contextual-safeguarding>

ii Contextual Safeguarding and intersectionality

In this blog, Molly Manister examines whether intersectional feminism could be a tool for understanding feelings of power/disempowerment that young people experience which are linked to identity. She asks how this lens could help us understand the ways in which young people experience the different contexts they move through, and what questions we can begin to ask as practitioners to inform interventions into the spaces where young people spend their time.

<https://www.csnetwork.org.uk/en/blog/2021/contextual-safeguarding-and-intersectionality>

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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