

Keeping Connected - The CPCScotland Weekly Bulletin

Issue 67 - Tuesday 24th August 2021

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

Welcome to Issue 67 of Keeping Connected.

I trust you have all enjoyed a well earned summer break by now. Whether you stayed local or travelled further afield I hope it helped to recharge your batteries.

The number of campaigns, training courses, resources and other activity referenced in the bulletin show that organisations across Scotland and the UK are working tirelessly to protect children and improve their wellbeing.

Remember, if you have anything from your area you think would be of interest to others across Scotland please get in touch with Susan Mitchell at cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk to discuss information we could include in Keeping Connected.

Keep safe.

Alan Small CPCScotland Chair

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 National Joint Investigative Interviewing Course - Actor Recruitment - Training Opportunity

The Joint Investigative Interviewing Project are seeking practitioners with experience of working with children to take on the role of the child in simulated interviews during the new National Joint Investigative Interviewing Course taking place at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan. This opportunity is not limited to those with experience of Joint Investigative Interviewing, it is the ability to meaningfully take on the role of the child that is important. The next available dates are early October 2021. For more information contact CPCScotland co-ordination team at cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk

2 Parent Club 'Boosting Family Wellbeing' Campaign

The 'Boosting Family Wellbeing' campaign provides tips and supports parents to introduce positive interactions with their children into their daily routine. It will familiarise parents with principles that build children's happiness, confidence and independence. These simple, everyday tips can help families reduce stress, improve children's development and strengthen long-term bonds between parents and children. This campaign is now live and will run until the 12 September on radio, digital and social channels. A Stakeholder Toolkit is available at the link below.

[Boosting Family Wellbeing - Summary Doc.pdf \(parentclub.scot\)](#)

Guidance, Resources and Information

3 Lockdown Lowdown :- What do children and young people in Scotland think as lockdown eases?

The latest round of the #LockdownLowdown survey conducted by the Scottish Youth Parliament, YouthLink Scotland and Young Scot reports on what children and young people aged 11 to 25 feel about the impact of COVID-19 on their mental and physical health, access to information, employment, relationships, primary, secondary and further education and youth work.

[July2021-lockdownlowdown-v3-survey-report.pdf \(youthlinkscotland.org\)](#)

4 Survey on Benefits and Challenges of DASH risk assessment tool

Safe Lives are looking to understand the benefits and challenges of the DASH risk assessment tool. As part of this process, they want to hear from professionals from across the UK, who use the DASH directly with victims and survivors of domestic abuse. The survey will be open for a three week window, closing on **31 August 2021**. The data collected will be for internal SafeLives use only and will not be shared publicly. The survey has 6 quick questions and should take approximately 5 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and confidential. Please share with colleagues if appropriate.

[The DASH risk assessment tool Survey \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](#)

5 Transgender children and young people

The Scottish Government has published guidance for schools to support transgender children and young people. The guidance contains real-life examples, best practice and advice on a wide range of issues that are known to affect transgender pupils including bullying, safety and privacy.

[Supporting transgender young people in schools: guidance for Scottish schools](#)

6 Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published the first article in its new monthly 'Spotlight on...' series, covering Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments (EHRIsAs), which are hugely important and can make a significant difference to the way services to children and families, staff and partners are developed and provided:

[Spotlight on... Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments - SCRA](#)

7 Cyber Scotland

This August bulletin is now available and includes information on Cyber Sprinters, an online educational game for teaching cyber security.

[August 2021 – Cyber Scotland](#)

8 Court Ordered Child Contact in Scotland guidance booklet from Glasgow Women's Aid

Glasgow Women's Aid have co-produced this guidance with survivors of domestic abuse. The booklet helps to explain the Court Ordered Child Contact process within the family court system to survivors of domestic abuse - giving helpful and supportive guidance directly from women experienced in this process.

[Glasgow Womens Aid \(Court Ordered Contact\)](#)

9 Think, Look, Act

The Care Inspectorate has launched a new child safety campaign to remind all early learning and childcare services to be aware of how and why children could potentially leave childcare premises without staff or a parent/carer

[Keeping Children Safe - Look, Think, Act campaign \(careinspectorate.com\)](#)

10 Child criminal exploitation

The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) has published advice to government in Northern Ireland on safeguarding children and young people from abuse and exploitation from criminal gangs. The advice calls for a unified strategic response to protect children from harm including abuse, violence, coercion and exploitation by organised gangs and groups which should be embedded in safeguarding and children in need processes.

[Advice to Government - Child Criminal Exploitation - Safeguarding Children and Young People from Abuse and Exploitation. \(niccy.org\)](#)

For Children Families and Communities

11 Scottish Young Carers Festival 2021 – pre-recorded workshops available

As part of the virtual Scottish Young Carers Festival, over 40 free pre-recorded workshops on language learning, life skills and self-care are available on YouTube.

[Scottish Young Carers Festival 2021 - Carers Trust](#)

12 Care Inspectorate interpreter poster for children and young people services

The Care Inspectorate have developed a poster for children's services to display to better support our engagement with children who have English as a second or foreign language. The poster is designed to let young people know that we are happy to book an interpreter to chat with them. It conveys this message through a variety of languages – all of which we are commonly seeing in care services for children and young people.

[CYP insp translations poster \(careinspectorate.com\)](https://www.careinspectorate.com/cyp-insp-translations-poster)

13 Monitoring apps - A guide for parents

Monitoring apps have been built to try and support parents with managing children's devices on a technical level. They usually aim to set boundaries within technology and look to give more control to parents. This blog looks at what these apps can offer to families, along with some considerations around using apps such as these.

[Monitoring Apps – A Guide for Parents | Safer Internet Centre](#)

14 CyberSprinters - Interactive Learning For Children and Young People

The National Cyber Security Centre have developed an educational game for teaching cyber security at primary schools, clubs and youth organisations. The free CyberSprinters game and resources teach children aged 7 to 11 how to stay secure online.

[CyberSprinters: Game and activities - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cybersprinters)

15 COVID-19: Supporting autistic people and people with learning disabilities

SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) have updated their guides for families and professionals supporting autistic adults and adults with learning disabilities during the pandemic.

[COVID-19: Supporting autistic people and people with learning disabilities \(scie.org.uk\)](https://www.scie.org.uk/covid-19-supporting-autistic-people-and-people-with-learning-disabilities)

16 Talking to children about sex and relationships

Stop it Now! has launched a new campaign to encourage parents, carers and professionals to start having age-appropriate conversations with children and young people about boundaries, relationships and sex, in order to help keep them safe. Resources cover: age-appropriate sexual behaviour in children; what to do if your child has got in trouble online; tips on how to keep children safe online; and harmful sexual behaviour in children and young people.

[How to talk to your children about sex and relationships - Stop It Now](https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/how-to-talk-to-your-children-about-sex-and-relationships)

17 Gurls Out Loud

Gurls Out Loud is an Internet Watch Foundation campaign encouraging girls to 'block out online sexual abuse' with a key message of Block. Report. Tell someone you trust.

[Home - Gurls Out Loud](#)

18 Online Child Sexual Abuse - advice for parents and carers

The Internet Watch Foundation has produced TALK, a downloadable guide for parents and carers to raise awareness of the risks of online child sexual abuse and the scale of the issue affecting children today.

[TALK Checklist by Internet Watch Foundation | Home \(iwf.org.uk\)](#)

Training, Learning Events and Resources

19 Cyber Resilience Training for Social Workers

Stop It Now! Scotland are offering training for social workers supporting foster and kinship carers. This 3-hour training for trainers programme will build knowledge and skills to work with carers in relation to keeping themselves and children safe online and will provide resources to run training for carers on this subject. Content includes digital citizenship, helping children make positive online choices, having constructive conversations with children about their online lives, the changing role of the internet in society, online peer to peer abuse and the prevention of online sexual exploitation. Sessions are running from 10am - 1pm on: 4th, 10th, 25th and 28th October 1st and 4th November via Microsoft Teams. To book email your name and job title and preferred session to scotland@stopitnow.org.uk

20 Bereavement Education Conference 2021

NHS Education for Scotland is hosting an interactive online event to discuss bereavement topics. This virtual event will allow delegates to join online conference sessions, view digital assets such as posters and to network with peers throughout. Delegates will have the opportunity to hear from a range of speakers on Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 related bereavement topics including a session on child bereavement. The event will be relevant for those working across health and social care.

[NES Events | NHS Education for Scotland | NES Bereavement Education Conference 2021](#)

21 Mental Health in Lockdown and its Impact on Children, Adolescents and Families – Podcast

In this podcast from the Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Dr. Polly Waite, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Oxford and at the University of Reading discusses her research on anxiety in

adolescents and the Co-Space study on how families are coping during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mental Health in Lockdown and its Impact on Children, Adolescents and Families - In Conversation with Dr. Polly Waite - ACAMH

22 A Critical Analysis of the Complex, Commonly Misunderstood Issues of Cuckooing

AoCPP are offering a masterclass in the issue of 'Cuckooing' on Thursday 14 October and repeated on Friday 9 December from 9.30-12.30 led by Nikki Holmes. Please note there is a charge to attend this event.

The AoCPP Masterclasses: A Critical Analysis of the Complex, Commonly Misunderstood Issues of Cuckooing | Association of Child Protection Professionals (childprotectionprofessionals.org.uk)

23 Child House – multiagency support to children and young people affected by sexual abuse

This free learning event, organised by the Home Office, in partnership with the Lighthouse and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), takes place on 8 September 2021. The event will share learning from the pilot of the UK's first Child House (the Lighthouse) a multi-agency service model supporting children, young people and non-abusing parents, carers and family members following child sexual abuse, and introduce some guidance for other local areas seeking to adopt similar Child House models.

Child House Learning Event Tickets, Wed 8 Sep 2021 at 10:00 | Eventbrite

24 Why domestic abuse is a child protection issue? - Podcast

This podcast by NSPCC Learning discusses the complexities of domestic abuse and why it is a safeguarding and child protection issue.

Podcast: why domestic abuse is a child protection issue | NSPCC Learning

25 Safe & Together Webinar Series

Safe & Together are offering a series of four free webinars between 31st August and 21st September. Topics are:-

- Identifying & Preventing the Weaponization of Survivors' Substance Use and Mental Health by Perpetrators
- Working with Fathers in the Context of Men's Behaviour Change Programs
- How Advocates' and Women Sector Workers Can Use the Safe & Together Model to Strengthen their Work with Survivors
- Applying a Perpetrator Pattern-Based Approach to Child Custody and Access Matters

Registering gives you access to all four webinars. Sessions will be recorded and available 24-48 hours after the live session for two weeks. Each Webinar is 90 minutes

4-part August - September Webinar Series with David Mandel: Applying Safe & Together Across Systems, Agencies & Sectors - Safe & Together Institute (safeandtogetherinstitute.com)

Research and Evidence Based Reports

26 Glasgow Child Protection Committee Thematic Review – Parental Mental Health as a child protection risk indicator

This thematic review considered what could be learned from the increase in the use of Parental Mental Health as a risk indicator for child protection registration during the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic to help inform future practice and service provision. A seven minute briefing on the findings has been published by Glasgow CPC. The briefing will also be added to the Learning Review Knowledge Hub library.

The increase in the use of Parental Mental Health as a risk indicator for child protection registration during COVID-19 (March – September 2020)

27 Glasgow Child Protection Committee Significant Case Review in Respect of Child D

Following the tragic circumstances leading to the death of Child D, Glasgow Child Protection Committee took the decision to undertake a Significant Case Review (SCR) in accordance with the National Guidance for Child Protection Committees: Conducting Significant Case Reviews (Scottish Government, March 2015). The report will also be added to the Learning Review Knowledge Hub library.
[Significant Case Review Child D \(glasgowchildprotection.org.uk\)](http://glasgowchildprotection.org.uk)

28 Baby Box Evaluation

The Scottish Government has published a report evaluating the Baby Box scheme which provides families with a range of essential items including information leaflets designed to inform and support positive parenting behaviours. Findings from a survey of 2,236 parents, and 870 health visitors, midwives and family nurses include: the estimated take up of baby boxes in Scotland is over 90%; 84% of parents surveyed said they had found the leaflet on safe sleeping useful; and 37% of parents felt they had learned about bonding with their baby through playing, talking and reading as a result of reading a leaflet included in the box.

[Baby Box: evaluation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

29 A time of need: Exploring the changing poverty risk facing larger families in the UK

A report from the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion that explores the changing poverty risk facing larger families in the UK.

[A time of need: Exploring the changing poverty risk facing larger families in the UK \(lse.ac.uk\)](http://lse.ac.uk)

30 Children and Young People Statistics in the pandemic

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) has published Children and Young People Statistics in the pandemic, exploring the representation of children and young people in official statistics since March 2020 to understand how visible they have been in key data.

[Children and Young People Statistics in the pandemic – Office for Statistics Regulation \(statisticsauthority.gov.uk\)](https://statisticsauthority.gov.uk)

31 Children and young people's mental health

Unicef has published a report looking at the impacts of disasters and past epidemics on child and adolescent mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, and examines how these insights can guide policies and programmes to support children, their families and communities during the current pandemic.

[Mind Matters: Lessons from past crises for child and adolescent mental health during COVID-19 \(unicef-irc.org\)](https://www.unicef-irc.org/)

32 The development of early intervention policies

The House of Commons Library has published an introductory overview to the development of early intervention policies - a public policy approach to identify and support children and their families at an early stage - to prevent a range of problems developing later in life, such as poor physical and mental health, low educational attainment, crime and anti-social behaviour. The briefing looks at their evidence-base and impact in England.

[Early intervention: a background paper - House of Commons Library \(parliament.uk\)](https://parliament.uk)

News and Opinion

33 In the media

- The Scotsman has published an opinion piece by Fiona Duncan, chair of The Promise and formerly the Independent Care Review, urging MSPs to 'remember their promise' as the Scottish Parliament prepares to return from its three-month summer recess and prepares to help the country recover from the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency: <https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/as-holyrood-prepares-to-reopen-after-recess-its-time-to-remember-their-promise-fiona-duncan-3339846>
- The Herald has reported on HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)'s Progress Review of Police Scotland's response to online child sexual abuse and exploitation, which warned that, although improvements have been made, the force needs to give more priority to tackling online abuse, and police staff who view imagery of abuse need more wellbeing support, to meet the recommendations from HMICS's original report: [Police Scotland fail to fulfil seven key government inspector measures to tackle online child abuse | HeraldScotland](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19510415.rising-numbers-children-attending-hospital-self-harm-scotland/)
- The National reports that human rights organisations have raised concerns that young people who have been trafficked in Scotland are increasingly being criminalised instead of being given protection and support, which they say breaches international human rights law: <https://www.thenational.scot/news/19529459.trafficked-children-locked-scots-jails-breach-rights-law-activists-say/>
- The Daily Record reports that survivors of child abuse in Scottish institutions have warned that £400million Government compensation won't be enough to provide 'meaningful' redress due to the large amount of victims set to receive payments: <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-child-abuse-survivors-slam-24810162>
- The Sunday Post reports that survivors of child abuse in institutions in Scotland run by the Catholic church have urged Pope Francis to meet with them when he visits Scotland for the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow in November, to acknowledge their suffering and explain why they have had to wait so long for justice: <https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/church-abuse-victims/>
- The Herald has reported on new figures that show the number of children in Scotland attending hospital for issues relating to self-harm has risen to its highest level since 2007: <https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19510415.rising-numbers-children-attending-hospital-self-harm-scotland/>

- An article in the Observer reports on an interview with the former Children’s Commissioner for England Anne Longfield. The article discusses the potential number of children who have fallen “off grid” since the start of the coronavirus pandemic including school exclusions, absence from schools, home schooling and child criminal exploitation. Anne Longfield is undertaking an independent commission with Oasis Charitable Trust to examine the scale of the problem.
[Thousands of pupils ‘easy prey for gangs’ when schools reopen | Schools | The Guardian](#)

34 Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry Case Study 5

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has published Lady Smith’s findings into residential care institutions run by the Benedictine monks of Fort Augustus Abbey between 1948 and 1991. Inquiry Chair Lady Smith found that children in their care suffered sexual, physical, and emotional abuse.

[Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry Publishes Fifth Case Study Findings — Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry](#)

35 Hearings System Working Group

A new Hearings System Working Group has been launched by Children’s Hearings Scotland (CHS), The Promise Scotland and the Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA), joining forces to make sure a consistent approach is taken on any developments to the way children’s hearings are run.

[The Hearings System Working Group is established \(chscotland.gov.uk\)](#)

36 End Child Poverty Coalition letter to Scottish Government

Over 100 organisations as the End Child Poverty Coalition have signed an open letter to Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, calling on the Scottish Government to commit to doubling the Scottish Child Payment (from £10 to £20 a week) to eligible families in this year’s budget.

[‘Do the right thing and double the Scottish Child Payment now’ civil society coalition tells First Minister - The Poverty Alliance](#)

37 Getting it Right for Brothers and Sisters

The Promise Partnership has announced c.£500,000 of investment for Getting it Right for Brothers and Sisters, which is now open for applications (until 10 September at 12:00pm) to support two or three collaborative approaches who need additional resource to help implement the legislation for brothers and sisters that ensure children and young people with care experience are able to maintain safe, loving relationships:

[The Promise Partnership - Corra](#)

38 Tackling digital inequality

The Scottish Government's Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville has confirmed that discussions with local government are underway to deliver the government's commitment to provide every school pupil in Scotland with a laptop or tablet, as well as how to deliver consistent digital infrastructure across Scotland's 2,500 school buildings as part of the Scottish Government's commitments for the first 100 days of this government administration: <https://www.gov.scot/news/devices-for-700-000-children/>

39 Grooming Crimes in Scotland

NSPCC are reporting that Police Scotland data shows a record number of recorded grooming crimes in Scotland noting in their press release that there were 685 offences of Communicating Indecently with a Child recorded between April 2020 and March 2021, an increase of 80 per cent from 381 in 2015/16. They also report an increase of 5 per cent from 2019/20 and for offences against children under the age of 13 they report that the number of recorded crimes rose by 11 per cent, from 334 to 370, between 2019/20 and 2020/21. The NSPCC is calling on the UK Government to respond by ensuring the ambition of the Online Safety Bill matches the scale of the biggest ever online child abuse threat. For more information contact scotlandpressoffice@nspcc.org.uk

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.

Please note that the information included in this bulletin is provided in good faith. Inclusion does not indicate CPCScotland endorsement of the content of the linked documents or websites.