

Keeping Connected - The CPCScotland Weekly Bulletin

Issue 69 - Tuesday 7th September 2021

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

Welcome to Issue 69 of Keeping Connected.

Last week the Scottish Government published the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 with a suite of supporting documents. CPCScotland members have informed and advised on the development of the guidance since the start of the revision process, and we are pleased to see it is now published. I look forward to being part of the national implementation group as it gets to work over the coming weeks.

Scottish Government also published National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Reviews which has benefitted from the input of CPCScotland members throughout its development. I hope this guidance will support CPCs in adopting a proportionate approach to undertaking reviews with learning at the heart of the process. On this note I would like to draw your attention to item 11. This family impact statement follows an adult safeguarding review in England and is a very powerful reminder that we need to use reviews as a catalyst to make improvements to practice or, as Anne's son put it 'what is the point of [the] review'. The message in this statement is equally relevant to Learning Reviews in Child Protection in Scotland as it is for Adult Safeguarding Reviews in England.

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 Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021

The Scottish Government published the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 on 2nd September 2021 with a suite of accompanying documents including a series of Practice Insights and supportive statements from a range of stakeholders including CPCScotland. A PageFlip version has also been published. [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-guidance-for-child-protection-in-scotland-2021/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx)
[Child Protection Guidance 2021 Page Flip Version](#)

This non-statutory Guidance describes the responsibilities and expectations for all involved in protecting children in Scotland and replaces the 2014 version. It outlines how statutory and non-government agencies should work together with parents, families and communities to prevent harm and to protect children from abuse and neglect. The Guidance promotes partnership between those who care about and have responsibilities for the child, and entails a collaborative approach between professionals, carers and family members.

A key change in the 2021 Guidance is to reflect the greater integration of child protection within the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) continuum and use GIRFEC language and core components to frame identification and proportionate responses to child protection concerns within the National Practice Model. The Guidance also has a strengthened focus on children's rights, engagement and collaboration with children and families, and on building on strengths.

Scottish Government have also published a supporting narrative for use in wider communications which is intended to reiterate the commitment to the Promise vision and set out how our approach to child protection in Scotland aligns with and supports strategic developments.

Implementation

The Scottish Government acknowledge that consistent implementation across Scotland will be key to realising the benefits from this revised guidance. They have established an implementation steering group to undertake detailed implementation planning as local areas engage with the Guidance and a fuller picture of support needs for practitioners, managers and leaders emerges. Membership is drawn from statutory and third sector partners and national organisations. Consideration of local resourcing and wider support requirements will be an early focus for this group.

Guidance, Resources and Information

3 UNICEF Child Protection Strategy

UNICEF has published its 2021 – 2030 Child Protection Strategy with a vision of a world where all children are free from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices.

[Child Protection Strategy | UNICEF](#)

4 Supporting young pregnant women and young parents in school

The Scottish Government has published guidance to support pregnant young women and young parents to stay in school, setting out why it is important to provide support, how that support could be provided, and what needs to be taken into account when reaching decisions with the young person: ["Someone to talk to and Someone to listen" - Supporting young pregnant women and young parents in school - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

5 Age of Criminal Responsibility Supporting Documents

The Scottish Government has published Statutory Guidance on Investigative Interviews and on the use of a Place of Safety for the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019: Part 4

[Age of Criminal Responsibility \(Scotland\) Act 2019: Part 4 – Police Investigatory and Other Powers - Statutory Guidance on Investigative Interviews - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

6 Parents with learning disabilities good practice guidance (England)

The Working Together with Parents Network (WTPN) have published a new version of their good practice guidance on working with parents with learning disabilities in England. The guidance contains information for those working with a family affected by parental learning disability including good practice where safeguarding procedures are necessary and situations where no child protection issues have been formally raised.

[FINAL-2021-WTPN-UPDATE-OF-THE-GPG.pdf \(anncrafttrust.org\)](#)

7 Digital innovation used to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic

The pandemic has accelerated the use of digital technology in Scotland's public services. Audit Scotland have brought together a range of case studies on how digital innovation and transformation has been used to respond to Covid19.

[Digital e-hub | Audit Scotland \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](#)

8 Children in Scotland E Learning Hub

Working in partnership with the Charity Learning Consortium, Children in Scotland are providing a hub of resources aimed at strengthening the children's sector workforce across Scotland on a range of issues and topics.

[eLearning-hub User-guide v3.pdf \(childreninscotland.org.uk\)](#)

9 New children and young people's services webpage

The Care Inspectorate have created a new webpage to provide information on their role in children and young people's services.

[Children and young people \(careinspectorate.com\)](#)

10 Inspecting safeguarding in early years (English guidance update)

Ofsted has updated its Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills guidance for England to include a section on its review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges, and outlining expectations of providers in alignment with the Department for Education's (DfE's) updated guidance on keeping children safe in education.

[Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

11 Family Impact Statement (Safeguarding Adult Review)

An adult safeguarding review in England took place into the circumstances surrounding the death of 'Anne'. Anne's sister and son reviewed the report at the conclusion of the review and were asked for any messages they wanted agencies to hear. An extract, adapted from her son's response with his permission has been published.

[Impact-Statement-Anne-1.pdf \(sandwellsab.org.uk\)](#)

12 Child care or caring about children?: Growing an equal nation from the ground up

Scottish think tank Common Weal has published a report setting out a plan for an integrated early years service for children and parents in Scotland to address Scotland's current system of support which it claims is a patchwork of initiatives, fixes, legacy services and omissions:

[Childcare-or-Caring-About-Children.pdf \(commonweal.scot\)](#)

Training, Learning Events and Resources

13 Exploring the relationship between children's rights & restorative justice

CYCJ are hosting a webinar on September 23 from 1pm – 2pm. Leading expert in restorative justice Tim Chapman (University of Strathclyde Visiting Professor) will present on children’s rights and the practice of restorative justice. Tim will demonstrate that, while restorative justice has the potential to support and activate the exercise of children’s rights, it often fails to do so.

[Exploring the relationship between children’s rights & restorative justice Tickets, Thu 23 Sep 2021 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](#)

14 Early help: the key to recovery - policy and practice

This online conference, organised by Children & Young People Now, takes place on 22 - 23 September 2021.

Please note there is a cost to attend this conference.

[Early Help | Home \(earlyhelpconference.com\)](http://earlyhelpconference.com)

15 Safe & Together Virtual Academy Course Catalog

Safe & Together have published a catalogue of all their training and learning offerings.

[2020 VACatalog A4 10520.pdf \(safeandtogetherinstitute.com\)](http://safeandtogetherinstitute.com)

16 The impact and recovery of COVID-19 on under-fives

Parenting Across Scotland held a webinar to explore the issues, research and experience of those supporting under-fives and their families during the pandemic. The webinar has is now available online.

[Covid and the under-fives: impact and recovery - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

17 Examining what the UNCRC means for families

Parenting Across Scotland are hosting a free webinar to discuss how the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child can be used to support families. The webinar takes place on 16th September 2021 from 10:30 – 12:30

[The UNCRC in Scotland – what does it mean for families? Tickets, Thu 16 Sep 2021 at 10:30 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/...)

18 Evaluating place-based initiatives

This free webinar, organised by the NSPCC, takes place on 21 September 2021. The webinar discusses the methods used in evaluating the NSPCC Together for Childhood programme, an evidence-informed approach that focuses on preventing child abuse.

[Evaluating Place-Based Initiatives: Experiences of Together for Childhood Tickets, Tue 21 Sep 2021 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/...)

For Children, Young People, Families and Communities

19 Alcohol and Violence Prevention Toolkit

No Knives Better Lives have introduced an 'alcohol toolkit'. This is designed to create space to discuss the relationship between alcohol and violence with young people.

[Toolkits | Knife Violence Prevention Scotland \(noknivesbetterlives.com\)](http://noknivesbetterlives.com)

20 Safeguarding vulnerable adults from forced, unlawful or predatory marriage and civil partnership

The new My Marriage, My Choice website contains information and resources for people at risk of, or currently experiencing forced, unlawful or predatory marriage. The website also provides information and free training resources for professionals. This includes health and social care professionals, people working in education and youth services, the police and other criminal justice professionals, and marriage registrars.

[Home - My Marriage My Choice | My Marriage My Choice](#)

21 Youth Link Scotland #IWill Movement

Children and young people aged 10 to 25 are invited to become #IWill Ambassadors to celebrate the positive impact children and young people continue to have in their communities and environment. If you know or work with young people, you can encourage them to apply or nominate them.

[YouthLink Scotland | #iwill in Scotland](#)

Research and Evidence Based Reports

22 Staff wellbeing research summary

St Christopher's Fellowship, a charity which provides children's homes, has published research into improving emotional wellbeing for children's social care workforce. Findings from the research includes: introducing individual therapeutic support for staff helped lower the risk of burnout and secondary traumatic stress, and equipping employees with the skills and knowledge to better support young people with trauma increased staff resilience and reduced the risk of secondary traumatic stress.

[Summary-of-ProQOL-Research-into-Staff-Wellbeing-at-St-Christophers-Fellowship.pdf \(stchris.org.uk\)](#)

23 Probable Suicide Deaths 2020

The report published by National Records of Scotland explains that the number of suicides in Scotland decreased by 3% last year, despite consistently higher rates than usual between June and September. In 2020, 805 suicides were registered in Scotland (575 males and 230 females), compared to 833 (620 males and 213 females) in 2019. There were 33 deaths reported for young people under 20 years of age, 27 of these were males. Overall, one in every five suicide deaths was to someone under the age of 30.

[Suicide deaths, 2020, Report \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)

24 Early impact of Covid-19 lockdown on Muslim & Black Minority Ethnic women in Scotland

Amina, The Muslim Women's Resource Centre, a third sector organisation working with women in Scotland, circulated a survey early in the pandemic to learn how its constituent communities were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The survey gathered experiences especially of Muslim and Black minority ethnic women and those in minority religious groups in Scotland, offering an important source of data on the experiences and perspectives of under researched groups. [Early impact of Covid-19 lockdown on Muslim & Black Minority Ethnic women in Scotland | Scotland in Lockdown](#)

25 Evaluation of Keeping Safe programme

The NSPCC has published two evaluation reports about Keeping Safe, a whole-school programme aimed at teaching primary school children to recognise abusive behaviours. Findings from a randomised control trial and the views of children, parents and school staff involved in the programme between 2016 and 2018 in Northern Ireland include: Keeping Safe is an effective whole-school programme with positive outcomes for children, parents and teachers; it takes time and repeated exposure for children to learn and understand concepts about abuse; and strong leadership is the key enabler to successful implementation of the programme.

[Keeping Safe: views and experiences of children, parents and schools | NSPCC Learning](#)
[Keeping Safe: cluster randomised trial evaluation | NSPCC Learning](#)

26 Working for Babies

In a follow-up to an earlier report which highlighted how local leaders and professionals took extraordinary steps to adapt, innovate and reach out and support families with babies during the first UK lockdown, the charity Parent-Infant Foundation has published an update listening to the voices of local professionals and service leaders across England to help map a strong recovery for babies and their families:

[F1001D-Working-for-Babies-2-FINAL.pdf \(parentinfantfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

27 The Role Of Friends and Family Providing Support to Survivors of Domestic Abuse During The COVID-19 Pandemic

This qualitative study looks at of the role of friends and family providing support to survivors of domestic abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic. The data analysed has been collected from England during 2020.

['I Think it Just Made Everything Very Much More Intense': A Qualitative Secondary Analysis Exploring The Role Of Friends and Family Providing Support to Survivors of Domestic Abuse During The COVID-19 Pandemic | SpringerLink](#)

28 Mitigating confirmation bias and improving forecasting accuracy in social work

What Works for Children's Social Care has published findings from a randomised controlled trial (RCT) of a checklist intervention to help social workers avoid some of the negative effects of confirmation bias and improve forecasting accuracy. An online survey of 87 social workers and one student social worker found that participants' forecasting accuracy improved after the checklist intervention, but the change was not statistically significant.

[Social Worker Decision-Making report \(whatworks-csc.org.uk\)](https://www.whatworks-csc.org.uk)

29 Young people and rural youth services in England

The National Youth Agency (NYA) has published a report looking at the provision of youth services in rural areas in England. Findings include: the average spend per head in rural areas in England has dropped from £108 to £47 since 2011, this compares to a drop from £154 to £62 in urban areas; this is despite young people in rural areas having higher levels of alcohol consumption, smoking and being bullied, and an increasing trend for gangs to target vulnerable young people in rural areas for county lines. Recommendations include a rural action plan for youth services and increased government funding for frontline youth work.

[Overlooked-Report-NYA \(joltrouter.net\)](https://www.joltrouter.net)

30 Family members' perspectives of child protection services

This metasyntesis brings together what is known about family members' perspectives of their relationship with social care practitioners as a starting point for developing a pan-European training resource for practitioners.

[Family members' perspectives of child protection services, a metasyntesis of the literature - ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

31 Receiving Threatening or Obscene Messages from a Partner and Mental Health, Self-Harm and Suicidality

A paper that describes the prevalence of exposure to threatening/obscene messaging from a current or ex-partner; characteristics of victims; and associations with other forms of violence and abuse, mental disorder, self-harm, and suicidality. The study was undertaken in England.

[Receiving threatening or obscene messages from a partner and mental health, self-harm and suicidality: results from the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey | SpringerLink](https://www.springerlink.com)

32 The Impact of COVID-19 on Adolescents with Eating Disorders

The goals of this Canadian study were 1) to examine characteristics of adolescents presenting for eating disorder (ED) assessment since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic; 2) to compare adolescents presenting for ED assessment since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to those that presented for assessment 1 year previously; 3) to examine implications of the pandemic on the system of care.

[The impact of COVID-19 on adolescents with eating disorders: a cohort study | Journal of Eating Disorders | Full Text \(biomedcentral.com\)](#)

News and Opinion

33 In the media

- The Observer, in collaboration with the Femicide Census, has published an article looking at what happens to the children of women killed by their partners. Founders of the Femicide Census, a database of female killings over the last ten years, estimate that at least 80 children a year in the UK lose their mothers to femicide. The article looks at children's experiences, the support they were offered, charities providing help, and what more needs to be done.

[What happens to the children of women killed by men? | Domestic violence | The Guardian](#)

- The Guardian reports on the treatment of child refugees arriving from Afghanistan in the UK. The article identifies concerns around a lack of: child protection measures, suitable food and accommodation, health screening and processing of asylum claims. The Home Office has responded to say they take the safeguarding of unaccompanied asylum seeking children extremely seriously and have measures in place to ensure their immediate needs are met.

[No shoes, spare clothes or money: traumatised Afghan children stranded for weeks in hotels | Refugees | The Guardian](#)

- Highland Council will decide this week whether to introduce a Youth Charter to enshrine principles of children's wellbeing, rights and protections, taking into account the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland and the Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment guidance, and The Promise:

[Highland Council will decide this week whether to agree plans to create a Youth Charter to enshrine principles of children's wellbeing, rights and protections \(inverness-courier.co.uk\)](#)

- The Herald reports a warning from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) that a new National Care Service to set up a centralised system on the same footing as the NHS, currently being consulted on by the Scottish Government, could put funding for key services including social care and drug and alcohol addiction at risk in the coming years, and cautioned that lessons must be learned from the 'problematic' formation of Police Scotland:
[National Care Service plan: Cosla warns council funding 'in jeopardy' | HeraldScotland](#)
- A "staggeringly high" number of autistic people are referred to the government's anti-radicalisation Prevent programme, a terror laws watchdog has said, calling for discussion about terrorism cases in which the disability features.
['Staggeringly high' number of autistic people on UK Prevent scheme | UK security and counter-terrorism | The Guardian](#)
- A public consultation has been launched as the Scottish Government considers keeping some temporary provisions made under Scottish and UK coronavirus legislation including pre- eviction protocols relating to rent arrears in the private rented sector.
[Pre- eviction protocols among temporary coronavirus measures which could be made permanent - Scottish Housing News](#)
- The BBC is broadcasting a Panorama programme on 6 September looking at the growing numbers of teenage girls saying they have been abused, assaulted or raped by teenage boys. The programme will be available on BBC iPlayer shortly after broadcast.
[BBC One - Panorama, Who's Protecting Our Kids?](#)

34 Increased risk of homelessness among unseen consequences of Covid

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed more people to the health pitfalls and stigmas associated with poverty and homelessness, University of Dundee experts have told the United Nations.

[Increased risk of homelessness among unseen consequences of Covid, UN told - Scottish Housing News](#)

35 Scottish Child Payment

The Scottish Government has published high level statistics for the Scottish Child Payment and announced that the Payment has so far paid out £17.6 million to benefit more than 108,000 children aged under six from its introduction in February to 30 June 2021

[Scottish Child Payment helps more than 108,000 children - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

36 The power in data and how to share it

This is a think piece exploring themes arising from data Bespoke Support Projects and Rebecca Godar's wider work with authorities and partnerships on using data to understand and tackle exploitation and extra-familial harm.

[The power in data and how to share it - Tackling Child Exploitation \(researchinpractice.org.uk\)](https://researchinpractice.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.