

# Keeping Connected - The CPCScotland Weekly Bulletin

## Issue 72 - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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

Welcome to Issue 72 of Keeping Connected.

Hopefully many of you will had opportunity to enjoy some time off for the September weekend.

There is a tangible autumnal feel in the air, a sign of the approaching winter months. Within this context a number of the news items in the past weeks have focussed on the impact of poverty on children and families and this along with the recent news of the universal credit payment uplift ending reinforces the increased difficulties many families will now face.

The announcement of the extension of the winter heating allowance to vulnerable families is therefore a welcome one.

Elsewhere, in this weeks issue I was interested to see the continued focus on children and young people's lived experience in care with events and resources focussed on brother and sister contact, transitions and the voice and participation of the children and young people we work with. I trust that you will find some of these of interest too.

As always, 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](mailto:cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk) to discuss information we could include in Keeping Connected.

Keep safe.

Alan Small CPCScotland Chair

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 1 CELCIS announce online conversation

CELCIS issued a statement on 21<sup>st</sup> September from their Strategic Advisory Board Chair Professor Alexis Jay OBE and Claire Burns on the Scottish Government's consultation on a National Care Service, and inviting people in the children's care sector to take part in an online conversation considering 'What could a National Care Service mean for children and young people in need of care and protection and their families?', chaired by Professor Jay, on Friday 1 October at 10:00am.

[Meeting the care and protection needs of children and their families in Scotland: A statement on the proposals for the National Care Service :: Celcis](#)

## 2 Winter Heating Assistance Payment

The Scottish Government has announced that the eligibility criteria for the Child Winter Heating Assistance payment for families of disabled children and young people will be extended to support 5,000 additional families, with payments being backdated to last year when the payment was introduced.

[Child Winter Heating Assistance eligibility extended - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

## 3 Ministerial Statement – Diversion from Prosecution Scheme

Dorothy Bain, the Lord Advocate, gave a ministerial statement in the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday, 22 September, on the diversion from prosecution scheme, which sees young offenders referred to social work teams or other services.

[Meeting of the Parliament: 22/09/2021 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

## Guidance, Resources and Information

## 4 Throughcare Resource Launch

The Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum (Staf) is launching a new resource to support young people transitioning out of care and the people who work with them to navigate the transition and early adulthood in general – a discovery event was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September to launch the toolkit.

[The Real Toolkit - A leaving care resource by Staf](#)

## 5 The Big Answer Report

The Children's Commissioner for England Dame Rachel de Souza has published The Big Answer report (including a child-friendly version) on the results of The Big Ask survey, the biggest survey of its kind asking children in England to share their hopes for the future to inform a review aimed at tackling "generational

problems that have held back too many children for decades" – mental health concerns were the biggest worries expressed by children and young people.

[The Big Answer | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](#)

[The Big Ask - Big answers \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](#)

## **6 Cost of the School Day Toolkit**

The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) has updated its Cost of the School Day toolkit, which is a range of resources to support schools, local authorities and their partners to identify and address financial barriers to participation and learning.

[The Cost of the School Day Toolkit, updated 2021 | CPAG](#)

## **7 State of Child Poverty Report**

Children's charity Buttle UK has published its State of Child Poverty 2021 report, which looks at the ongoing impact of COVID-19, as well as challenges faced before the pandemic which have now been exacerbated.

[State of Child Poverty 2021 - Buttle UK](#)

## **8 Children's Hearings Participation Rights**

The Children's Hearings Improvement Project (CHIP) has put together information for people working in partner agencies such as advocacy workers about new participation rights in hearings, set out in the Children (Scotland) Act 2020.

[Partner Information on Participation Rights | Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership \(chip-partnership.co.uk\)](#)

## **9 LGBT Inclusive Education Resources**

The Scottish Government has launched resources to support schools in delivering lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) inclusive education across the school curriculum. Resources include: a website where school staff, parents, carers, children and young people can access information to support LGBT children and young people; awareness e-learning course for education staff on LGBT inclusive education; and a toolkit of LGBT inclusive education teaching resources.

[LGBT Education](#)

## **10 SCRA: Rights, Inclusion & Corporate Parenting Strategy**

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has published its three-year Rights, Inclusion and Corporate Parenting Strategy, including a version for children and young people, to coincide with National Inclusion Week 2021:

[Rights-Inclusion-and-Corporate-Parenting-Strategy-2021-2023.pdf \(scra.gov.uk\)](#)

[Stay Connected \(scra.gov.uk\)](https://www.scra.gov.uk)

## **Training, Learning Events and Resources**

### **11 New Belongings Seminar**

Coram Voice have arranged a learning seminar as part of their New Belongings Programme. The seminar will be an opportunity to join the Coram Voice team and their care-experienced consultants to hear about care leavers' experiences during lockdown and the wider lessons from the New Belongings Programme. The seminar will examine how the Programme was established across the 8 local authorities, their use of the 'Your Life Beyond Care' Bright Spots survey and the Baker-Dixon self-assessment to gain a clearer understanding of young people's needs and how their services are meeting those needs. Hear how care leavers' voices are helping to implement changes in their authorities and the young people's recommendations for all authorities to adopt. The seminar is on the 20<sup>th</sup> October from 12.30pm until 2.00pm and is free, online and can be booked through Eventbrite. To reserve your place please register on Eventbrite [New Belongings Peer Learning Seminar Tickets, Wed 20 Oct 2021 at 12:30 | Eventbrite](#)

### **12 Brothers and Sisters Together Webinars**

Stand Up for Siblings is hosting a series of free webinars between 4 and 8 October - Brothers and sisters – our rights to be together, be heard and participate on 4 October at 4:30pm, Research into Practice on 6 October from 12.30pm, and Implementing Policy and Practice Change on 8 October at 12:30pm.

[Free Webinars – Registration Now Open | Stand Up For Siblings](#)

### **13 Relationship Based Practice Event**

The Life Changes Trust is hosting an online event exploring the powers of relationship-based practice on 5 October from 10:30am. The online event is free and you can register through Eventbrite.

[Relationship-Based Practice & the Life Changes Trust Tickets, Tue 5 Oct 2021 at 10:30 | Eventbrite](#)

### **14 Young People and Care Proceedings Webinar**

The Nuffield Foundation is hosting a webinar on 13 October at 5:00pm asking 'Why are more older children and young people entering care proceedings?' The webinar is free and runs for 1.5 hours on the above date.

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

## **15** Child sexual abuse: the experience of black girls

NSPCC Learning has released a podcast discussing the absence of black girl's experiences of child sexual abuse in research and practice. The podcast discusses why the experiences of black girls is missing from the research and the impact that this has on policy and practice; key findings from research; and learning to improve practice and research. This episode contains quotes from research participants about their experiences which might be upsetting and cause distress.

[Podcast: Black girls' experiences of sexual abuse | NSPCC Learning](#)

## **For Children, Young People, Families and Communities**

### **16** Right to Family Life Inquiry Launch

The UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights has launched a new inquiry, The right to family life: adoption of children of unmarried women 1949-1976, and is calling for birth parents to come forward and give evidence as part of this.

[New inquiry: The right to family life: adoption of children of unmarried women 1949-1976 - Committees - UK Parliament](#)

### **17** Parents in Sport Week

The NSPCC Child Protection Unit (CPSU) Parents in Sport Week 2021 takes place on 4 - 10 October 2021. The campaign focuses on giving parents the information and tools they need to help keep their child safe in sport including: an e-learning course for parents on how to keep children safe; an animation for parents on what abuse might look like in sport and how to get help; and an updated parents' hub on the CPSU website.

[Parents in Sport Week 2021 | CPSU \(thecpsu.org.uk\)](#)

## **Research and Evidence Based Reports**

### **18** Safeguarding Approaches in Child Sexual Abuse

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre) has published a report looking at how child sexual abuse is identified and responded to within complex safeguarding approaches. Findings from telephone interviews, an online focus group and an online survey of 64 practitioners highlighted the complexities in language used to distinguish child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation and the challenges professionals face in addressing concerns of child sexual abuse, especially without verbal disclosure. To read the report follow the link:

[Identifying and responding to child sexual abuse within complex safeguarding approaches: An exploratory study \(csacentre.org.uk\)](#)

## 19 Child Poverty Research

The Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University has published research estimating the cost of child poverty in the UK which and found that the cost of dealing with child poverty has risen by £8 billion since 2013. The study looked at the level of child poverty, earnings and benefits spending on services due to child poverty and policies that direct public spending towards children in low-income families:

[The Cost of Child Poverty in 2021 CRSP Paper.pdf \(lboro.ac.uk\)](#)

## News and Opinion

### 20 In the media

- STV have reported on a Freedom of Information Request (FOI) that has revealed that no financial contributions for redress payments for survivors of abuse in care in Scotland have been given from organisations responsible, despite the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021 having been passed in the Scottish Parliament six months ago  
[No money paid into abuse survivor scheme despite looming deadline - STV News](#)
- The Guardian has reported on a large scale online survey - the largest major survey of people who watch online child sexual abuse has found that one-third of respondents attempted to directly contact a child as a result of the illegal images they watched online. Many had also had exposure to online images of abuse as teenagers:  
[Online child abuse survey finds third of viewers attempt contact with children | Child protection | The Guardian](#)
- The Scotsman has published an opinion piece by Fiona Duncan, Chair of The Promise and formerly the Independent Care Review, on the new Scottish Government Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, and the importance of investing in wellbeing as well as support.  
[Investing in wellbeing will bring happy, healthy families - Fiona Duncan | The Scotsman](#)
- BBC Scotland's Disclosure programme has been investigating what happens to the thousands of pupils with additional support needs (ASN) and disabilities who leave school each year as they make the move into adulthood, despite the Additional Support for Learning Act placing a legal duty on schools to provide a transition planning process for young people with additional support needs, how that duty is met can be patchy:  
[Young disabled Scots face 'cliff edge' leaving school - BBC News](#)

- The Guardian has reported on the UK Parliament's House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee's criticism that government ministers have no clear cross-departmental anti-poverty strategy and no clear objectives, making it hard to hold them to account on progress in reducing child poverty  
[Ministers have no clear plan to tackle child poverty, say cross-party MPs | Poverty | The Guardian](#)
  
- The cost of child poverty has soared over the past eight years and has now reached £38bn a year, according to a new independent report by Professor Donald Hirsch of Loughborough University - the findings, to be released in the next few days, will add to concerns over government plans to end the £20-a-week uplift for universal credit, as MPs of all parties voice concerns that a cut will hit low-income families with children particularly hard:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/sep/19/child-poverty-now-costs-britain-38bn-a-year-says-new-independent-report>

## **21 TACT call for National Care Family service to be established**

UK fostering charity TACT has published a paper calling for a national care service, or 'National Care Family (NCF)', a lifelong service covering fostering, adoption, kinship, and residential care (or foster based group care) and secure care, as well as supporting birth parents whose children return to them from care – the charity proposes that local authorities would no longer hold parental or operational responsibility for children in 'public' care.

[TACT calls for new national care service for children, families and care experienced people - TACT Fostering \(tactcare.org.uk\)](#)

*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](mailto: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.*