

Keeping Connected - The CPCScotland Weekly Bulletin

Issue 73 - Tuesday 5th October 2021

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

Welcome to **Issue 73 of Keeping Connected**

It continues to be an incredibly busy period in the area of child protection and a range of announcements with direct bearing on ongoing developments in the work we are involved in have been made in recent weeks.

Perhaps the most significant of these is the consultation on proposals for a National Care Service launched on 9th August on which CPCScotland held a well attended and very helpful consultation event last week. Whilst the overall emphasis in these proposals is very much focussed on adult services in Scotland, the consultation asks us to consider how Children's Services may work within these proposals. The debate and discussion will help inform the CPCScotland response.

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 cpscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk to discuss information we could include in Keeping Connected.

Keep safe.

Alan Small CPCScotland Chair

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Hub for Reviewing and Learning from the Deaths of Children and Young People

New arrangements for reviewing and learning from the deaths of children and young people came into force on **1 October 2021**. With the establishment of the National Hub, reviews should be conducted on the deaths of all live born children up to the date of their 18th birthday, or 26th birthday for care leavers who are in receipt of aftercare or continuing care at the time of their death.

These new arrangements, together with the recent introduction of national guidance for child protection committees undertaking learning reviews, will require some changes to the ways in which local authorities review the deaths of looked after children and young people experiencing care. The Care Inspectorate are currently updating their website to reflect these changes.

[National Hub for Reviewing and Learning from the Deaths of Children and Young People \(healthcareimprovementscotland.org\)](https://healthcareimprovementscotland.org)

Disability Toolkit

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the Disabled Children Child Protection Network formed a research partnership to develop and pilot a Disability Toolkit which aims to:

- i. Identify additional needs that could have substantial and long-term impacts upon a child's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
- ii. Provide an indicator of wider vulnerability and contextual factors that are pertinent to understanding child protection risk.

The findings of the research and a copy of the toolkit have now been published [SCRA-Disability-Toolkit-Report-2021.pdf](#)

Guidance, Resources and Information

The Foundations for Bairns Hoose (Scottish Barnahus)

In 2019, the Scottish Government commissioned Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate to jointly develop standards which will provide a blueprint for a Scottish Barnahus (Bairns' Hoose). This work was paused in March 2020 due to the pandemic. In autumn 2020 to spring 2021, the project team undertook a comprehensive review of the first phase of the Barnahus standards development. This report outlines the key learning from this review and aims to provide the Standards Development Group with information and guidance to resume this work.

[The Foundations for Bairns Hoose \(Scottish Barnahus\) report Sept 2021.pdf \(careinspectorate.com\)](https://careinspectorate.com)

Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care (SJRCC)

The latest issue of the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care (SJRCC) was published on 30th September to coincide with the SIRCC conference – 'SIRCC 2021 Online'. The theme of this year's conference was 'The Workforce' – highlighting the experiences, challenges, and opportunities of those working in residential child care; and the issue includes the transcript of the 2021 Kilbrandon Lecture on 'Labours of Love: The Crisis of Care', which specifically considered aspects of the complex task of providing quality care:

[Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care Vol 20 No2 \(celcis.org\)](http://celcis.org)

Scottish Institute for Residential Childcare Conference 2021 - Resources

SIRCC 2021 Online have a range of resources including video inputs and blog post updates by the Scottish Physical Restraint Action Group (SPRAG) and 'Meet the author' videos for the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care (SJRCC). Webinar recordings will also be added to the SIRCC web page once the transcripts are ready.

[SIRCC Online 2021 :: Celcis](http://celcis.org)

Poverty in Scotland 2021

4th October marks the start of Challenge Poverty Week in Scotland, and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has published its Poverty in Scotland 2021 report. This report shows the current state of poverty in Scotland, reporting that even before the COVID-19 pandemic Scotland has been blighted by poverty with a million people, including a quarter of a million children, trapped in poverty.

[Poverty in Scotland 2021 | JRF](http://jrf.org.uk)

Use of secure care in CSE

The Contextual Safeguarding Network has provided a recent briefing on the use of out of home, including secure, care in response to CSE and extra familial risk and harm. The briefing draws from international data and findings

[Latest releases \(csnetwork.org.uk\)](http://csnetwork.org.uk)

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) in Edinburgh

The Contextual Safeguarding Network have published a blog which reflects on CCE and thinking contextually around this issue based on experience working in Edinburgh. David Orr, Team Leader at the Young People's Service (YPS), City of Edinburgh Council, reflects on child criminal exploitation in Edinburgh and what a Contextual Safeguarding approach can offer and the critical issues it raises.

[Thinking contextually about Child Criminal Exploitation \(CCE\): Emerging themes from practice in Edinburgh \(csnetwork.org.uk\)](http://csnetwork.org.uk)

Understanding the mental health needs of women & girls experiencing gender-based violence

Emerging evidence suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic, and the restrictions put in place to address it, has triggered a steep decline in women and girls' mental health and wellbeing, and increased the risk of experiencing gender-based violence. In response, the Improvement Service is coordinating a short-term research project which aims to ensure that the Scottish Government, COSLA, and other key partners have a robust understanding of:

- the mental health and wellbeing needs of women and girls who have experienced all forms of gender-based violence
- how these needs, and the systems and services in place locally to address them, have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- tangible actions for Scottish Government and/or councils as we move towards COVID-19 recovery and renewal.

An overview of the project is available on the website. The call for evidence can be shared widely across any relevant networks.

[Mental Health and VAWG | Improvement Service](#)

Training, Learning Events and Resources

Child Mental Health

The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental health has released a podcast discussing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in very young children. The podcast discusses the methodology and findings from research into PTSD, and its implications for professionals working with young children and their families.

[PTSD in very young children, and proof-of-concept trial - In Conversation Prof. Tim Dalgleish - ACAMH](#)

Tackling Child Poverty Webinars

The Poverty Alliance series of webinars are now available as recordings and can be viewed here:

[Webinar 1: Taking a Strategic Approach to Tackling Child Poverty](#)

[Webinar 2: Hitting the Target: What can we do to reach the Scottish Child Poverty Targets?](#)

[Webinar 3: Preventing Child Poverty: What more can be done in Scotland?](#)

Trauma in children and young people – e-module

NHS Education for Scotland has introduced a free new e-learning module for developing your trauma skilled practice with children and young people. Available for use across the whole Scottish workforce, this short (75 minutes) online course is

particularly helpful for practitioners working directly with and/or anyone caring for children and young people. This module will help you to:

- recognise the impact of trauma in children and young people;
- understand how children and young people recover from trauma; and
- begin to learn ways of meeting the needs of children and young people who have experienced trauma.

You must register and create an online account with Turas Learn, but anyone with an email address can register no matter their location or role. You can register here. [Home | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#)

It is recommended that the foundational module 'Developing your trauma skilled practice 1' is completed before taking this module. You can access the modules [here](#) - please note the link will not display the module until you are signed in.

Children's Rights Webinars

Together Scotland are running two webinar events in October and November focussed on Children's Rights:

Incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into National Law – Comparative and international analysis of progress made around the world - Professor Ursula Kilkelly, a leading expert on international children's rights law will present the findings of her recently published book 'Incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child', the most up to date comprehensive analysis of progress across the world towards giving legal effect to the CRC. Wednesday 20th October 11am-12pm GMT via Zoom:
[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – Lessons from Scotland - the second event will share learning from Scotland on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill. We'll hear from individuals and groups who played a key part in securing this landmark piece of legislation, including Clare Haughey MSP, the Scottish Minister for Children and Young People, members of the Children's and Youth Parliaments, Bruce Adamson, Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Mikiko Otani (TBC) Wednesday 3rd November 10.30-12.30 GMT via Zoom:
[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Intervention and planning using the Good Lives model with young people who sexually harm

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has provided advance notice of this specialist training - facilitated by Interventions for Vulnerable Youth (IVY) - specifically for those undertaking or supporting direct interventions with young people who sexually harm. The training will take place over 2 days (16th and 17th November). More information about the content is available at [Intervention and Planning using the Good Lives Model \(g-map.org\)](#)
Contact cycj@strath.ac.uk for registration details.

For Children, Young People, Families and Communities

NSPCC & Children 1st Joint Campaign

A group of Scottish governing sporting bodies has backed a joint NSPCC and Children 1st campaign which is raising awareness of where parents can turn if they have concerns about their child's sports club. Sporting bodies are backing Parents in Sport Week (4-10 October 2021) – an annual campaign run by the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) and Children 1st, aiming to equip every parent with the safeguarding knowledge they need. Parents can access an online hub that provides information and advice.

[Parents' hub for keeping children safe in sport | CPSU \(thecpsu.org.uk\)](https://www.thecpsu.org.uk)

Research and Evidence Based Reports

Child Maltreatment and Impact Research

New research into child maltreatment, led by the University of Glasgow, has found that children who have been maltreated are still at risk of developing mental health disorders up to 70 years after the abuse happened.

[Child maltreatment and incident mental disorders in middle and older ages: a retrospective UK Biobank cohort study - The Lancet Regional Health – Europe](#)

Impact of Childminding on Family Outcomes

The Scottish Government has published the key findings of a qualitative research study designed to develop the evidence base on the impact of childminding services on child, parent and carer, and family outcomes.

[Perception of the impact of childminding services on child, parent and family outcomes](#)

Adolescent Autism and Substance Misuse

A study published in the Lancet posits that autistic individuals might be more likely to misuse substances than non-autistic individuals. Better understanding of these patterns can help clinicians identify strategies to reduce substance use, protecting physical and mental health.

[Understanding the substance use of autistic adolescents and adults: a mixed-methods approach - The Lancet Psychiatry](#)

New Child Poverty Statistics Published

New experimental statistics released by Scotland's Chief Statistician, 'Children in families with limited resources Scotland 2017-2019', have revealed local estimates for the proportion of children in families with limited resources by local authority area and household characteristics:

News and Opinion

In the media

- The Guardian has reported on a new study which has predicted that an additional 1,500 children a year could be taken into care in the UK as a result of rising child poverty caused by the removal of the temporary COVID-19 £20-a-week Universal Credit uplift:
[Universal credit cut will lead to more UK children in care – study | Universal credit | The Guardian](#)
- The Scottish Government has apologised 'unreservedly' for what the chair of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, Lady Smith, has described as a "woeful and wholly avoidable" 13-year delay in setting up a public inquiry into child abuse:
[Minister sorry for 'woeful' delay in setting up Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry - BBC News](#)
- BBC Scotland's Disclosure programme investigates 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. Leaving high school can be an uncertain time for everyone but for those with a disability or an ASN, it can be fraught with stress and worry:
[Young disabled Scots face 'cliff edge' leaving school - BBC News](#)
- BBC Radio Scotland's Good Morning Scotland programme spoke to two people recently trained in the Scottish Child Interviewing Model and interviewed Chief Executive of Children 1st Mary Glasgow about the planned [Bairns Hoose](#), which aims to bring together services in child protection, health, justice and recovery services all made available in one setting. You can listen through the programme through BBC Sounds from 2:36:05 until 26th October
[Good Morning Scotland - 01/10/2021 - BBC Sounds](#)
- The Guardian reports that Facebook has halted work on its Instagram Kids project after research highlighted the impact of the photo-sharing app on teenage mental health on issues including body image and self-esteem
[Facebook pauses work on Instagram Kids after teen mental health concerns | Instagram | The Guardian](#)

Fund for greater protection of Child Witnesses

The Scottish Government has announced £2 million of funding to help reduce the trauma of child victims and witnesses involved in trials at the High Court by allowing them to pre-record their statements with police officers and social workers so that they do not have to give evidence multiple times
[Greater protection for child victims and witnesses](#)

Child Death Review Article

To coincide with the launch of the new Child Death Review System, Healthcare Improvement Scotland has published an article by Dr Alison Rennie explaining Healthcare Improvement Scotland's and the Care Inspectorate's new practice of collecting national data on the deaths of every single child in Scotland to age 18, or 26 if receiving continuing care or aftercare, since 1 October 2021.

[Learning from the death of every child – Dr Alison Rennie | Healthcare Improvement Scotland Blog](#)

Contextual Safeguarding

In this blog post Dr Julie Harris and Professor Carlene Firmin talk about the next steps for Contextual Safeguarding as the programme begins to be delivered across two sites - the Safer Young Lives Research Centre and Durham University.

[The next steps for Contextual Safeguarding \(csnetwork.org.uk\)](http://csnetwork.org.uk)

Supreme Court UNCRC Announcement

The UK Supreme Court has announced that it will hand down its judgement on Wednesday, 6 October, on whether certain provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill are outside the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament.

[REFERENCE by the Attorney General and the Advocate General for Scotland - United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\) \(Incorporation\) \(Scotland\) Bill - The Supreme Court](#)

Call by First Ministers to Reverse Universal Credit Uplift Decision

The First Ministers of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, have together called on UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to reverse the decision to withdraw the £20 per week COVID-19 Universal Credit uplift:

[First Ministers unite to demand Prime Minister reverses Universal Credit cut - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

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.