

Keeping Connected - The CPCScotland Weekly Bulletin

Issue 74 - Tuesday 12th October 2021

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

Welcome to **Issue 74 of Keeping Connected**

As I am sure you are aware, this week saw the ruling from the Supreme Court that four provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill are outside the devolved legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament. I hope the technical issues can be resolved quickly and that in the meantime we can continue to make progress in making rights real for Scotland's children.

Can I also draw your attention to the ask from CPCScotland (number 1 in the bulletin) which outlines our ask for help in identifying organisations who work with groups or individuals who might be interested in giving us their views on our neglect campaign messaging.

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

1 Neglect campaign seeks support from CPCScotland partners

CPCScotland have had some very interesting discussions about the language used in child protection recently and some of the feedback we received about our proposed neglect campaign caused us to pause for thought. We agree that's important to work towards language which avoids stigmatisation, particularly of families who are experiencing real difficulties, and have decided to delay the launch of the campaign until early 2022 to allow our communications specialist to undertake a consultation and listening exercise.

We are particularly looking to speak to family support groups and adults who have experienced neglect. We want to talk to them about what themes a neglect campaign should concentrate on and what kind of language we should use. We hope to start meetings/discussions towards the end of October, and discussions will be very informal. Any support you can give us to build the campaign will be gratefully received so if you have contact with any organisations who run family support groups or support individuals within your area and who might be able to help, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact details for organisations should be sent to cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk and will be forwarded on to our Communications Consultant who will make contact to discuss in more detail what would be involved.

2 UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill – Supreme Court Ruling

The UK Supreme Court has ruled that four provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill are outside the devolved legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament. This means that these aspects of the Bill will need to be reconsidered by the Scottish Parliament.

Scottish Government Ministers have pledged that the Scottish Government is committed to incorporating the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into domestic law to the maximum extent possible after the UK Supreme Court ruling.

[Pledge on children's rights - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/pledge-on-childrens-rights)

'Together' has published a short blog article summarising the background to the case, what the judges said and what could happen next along with a social media pack to help inform communications you may wish to put out.

[Supreme Court Judgment: here's what you need to know – Together \(Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights\) \(togetherscotland.blog\)](https://togetherscotland.blog/supreme-court-judgment-here-s-what-you-need-to-know)
[Social media – Dropbox](#)

As part of Together, the Scottish Alliance of Children's Rights, 65 organisations have written a letter to the Scottish Government urging Ministers to address the Court's concerns quickly

Guidance, Resources and Information

3 National Hub for reviewing and learning from the deaths of children and young people

As we announced last week new arrangements for reviewing and learning from the deaths of children and young people come 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 changes to the ways in which local authorities and Health and Social Care Partnerships review the deaths of looked after children, and young people receiving continuing care or aftercare at the time of their death. More information has now been published on the revised processes

[Reviewing and learning from the deaths of children and young people in Scotland \(careinspectorate.com\)](#)

4 Tackling child poverty priority families overview

The Scottish Government has published an overview of the latest evidence on the six priority family types identified as being at higher risk of child poverty:

[Tackling child poverty priority families overview - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

5 Recognising the impact of trauma

As part of the National Trauma Training Programme, the Scottish Government has announced new funding of £1.6 million for local authorities in Scotland to help them deliver services that can safely support people affected by psychological trauma and adversity – this will be used to invest in training and staffing, as well as supporting the involvement of people with lived experience of trauma in the design and delivery of service:

[Recognising the impact of trauma - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

6 Impact of Covid-19 on new parents: one year on (England)

The UK Parliament's Commons Petitions Committee has published a new report, 'Impact of Covid-19 on new parents: one year on', calling on the UK Government to urgently support new parents in England struggling to access health and family support services for their children through a dedicated COVID-19 recovery strategy for new parents

[Impact of Covid-19 on new parents: one year on \(parliament.uk\)](#)

7 Cyber Scotland

This September bulletin is now available and includes information for students and their parents as colleges and universities return.

[September 2021 – Cyber Scotland](#)

8 Securing Safety – the use of out of area placements, or ‘relocations’ as a response to extra-familial harm in adolescence

Since early 2019 the Contextual Safeguarding programme has been carrying out research into the use of out of area placements, or ‘relocations’ as a response to extra-familial harm in adolescence. The Network have produced a range of resources based on the findings of this research. Resources include

- A blog which provides a summary of the whole study
[Securing Safety – Understanding the use of out of area placements as a response to extra-familial harm in adolescence \(csnetwork.org.uk\)](#)
- Info-Sheets for Young People, Parents and Professionals to Navigate Relocations
[Practice guides \(csnetwork.org.uk\)](#)
- Research Briefing on an international scoping review of the use of out-of-home and secure care in response to child sexual abuse/exploitation and trafficking
[Research briefings \(csnetwork.org.uk\)](#)

Training, Learning Events and Resources

9 Leading in partnership - Leadership and strengths-based practice – Webinar recording available

Leadership is a critical aspect of strengths-based practice. Without effective and committed leaders, strengths-based practices are unlikely to flourish. This webinar recording from the Social Care Institute for Excellence looks closer at the topic and is available to view free although registration is required.

[Webinar: Leading in partnership - Leadership and strengths based practice | SCIE](#)

10 A Trauma-Informed Approach to Engaging Parents/Carers in the Review Process

The Association of Child Protection Professionals (AoCPP) are hosting a Special Interest Group meeting on **Wednesday 13 October 10.30am - 12.30pm** to explore the issues around successfully engaging families with the Serious Case Review and Practice Case Review processes. The session will contain experiences from recent reviews and open debate about best practice.

Speakers include Abigail McGarry, Bridget Griffin, Joanne Proctor and Adrian Spanswick. Please [email](#) if you would like to attend.

11 Child Mental Health

The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (ACAMH) has released a podcast discussing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), self-harm, and the importance of early childhood intervention.

[ADHD, Self-Harm, and the Importance of Early Childhood Intervention - In Conversation with Dr. Melissa Mulraney - ACAMH](#)

12 Early help and intervention with Birth Companions

The Association of Child Protection Professionals has released a podcast discussing the work of Birth Companions, a charity specialising in the needs and experiences of women facing disadvantage and inequality in pregnancy and early motherhood and what child protection professionals can learn from their experience.

[Early help and intervention with Birth Companions w/ Kirsty Kitchen | Association of Child Protection Professionals \(childprotectionprofessionals.org.uk\)](#)

For Children, Young People, Families and Communities

13 New Childline posters

NSPCC Learning has updated its series of Childline posters encouraging primary and secondary school children to contact Childline if they need to talk. The series includes posters for the Childline #NobodyIsNormal campaign, to help children cope with feeling different; #ToughToTalk campaign, encouraging boys with suicidal feelings to reach out for help; and #ListenToYourSelfie campaign, highlighting the signs of sexual exploitation. Posters can be downloaded free and copies of Posters and wallet cards can be purchased from NSPCC online shop.

[Childline posters and wallet cards | NSPCC Learning](#)

14 Cyber Security Advice for Students

Staying safe online is important for everyone. Cyber Scotland have put together some tips to help students stay secure online if they are heading off to university or college this autumn. Encourage young people to review their cyber security and be aware of potential cyber risks.

[Cyber Security Advice for Students – Cyber Scotland](#)

HMRC is warning university students taking on part-time jobs to be wary of potential tax scams that may appear to come from the department. Fraudsters will try to trick you into sending money or reveal personal information. These may appear as scam texts, email or calls offering a 'refund' or demanding unpaid tax. HMRC will never email or text you about a tax rebate or grant, ask for personal information like bank details or threaten you over unpaid tax. HMRC

also have information on how to recognise genuine HMRC contact and how to avoid and report scams on their website

[HMRC warns students of scams | HM Revenue & Customs \(HMRC\) \(mynewsdesk.com\)](#)

[Check a list of genuine HMRC contacts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Avoid and report internet scams and phishing: Report HMRC phishing emails, texts and phone call scams - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Research and Evidence Based Reports

15 Girls in the Children and Young People's Secure Estate (England)

The Centre for Mental Health has published 'Out of Sight' a review of girls in the Children and Young People Secure Estate (CYPSE) in England. Findings from the review include: girls entering the CYPSE are highly likely to have complex trauma resulting from experiences of abuse and adversity; girls from racialised communities are overrepresented throughout the youth justice system, but they are less likely to have their mental health needs recognised; and evidence from academic studies suggest that LGBTQ+ girls are likely to be overrepresented in the CYPSE and face a greater likelihood of victimisation.

[CentreforMentalHealth OutOfSight PDF 4.pdf](#)

16 Domestic Abuse Support Services Evaluation

Women's Aid and SafeLives have published a report following a four-year evaluation led by academics at the University of Central Lancashire, in partnership with Bangor University, the University of East London and Manchester Metropolitan University analysing how domestic abuse support services in the UK can become more accessible to those that need them. An evaluation, which involved interviews and surveys about the experiences of 300 women and 70 children affected by domestic violence and abuse in five sites in England, revealed the need for flexible domestic violence and abuse services that are more tailored and responsive to survivors' changing needs.

[Roadmap Report 280921.pdf \(womensaid.org.uk\)](#)

17 Forgotten Children: the intergenerational impact of modern slavery

Hestia has published a report looking at the needs and experiences of mothers who are survivors of modern slavery and the potential impact of their trafficking experiences for their children. Findings from research based on the testimony of 20 women who had been victims of modern slavery and have been supported by Hestia's Phoenix Project, alongside interviews with their case workers and other professionals, found that a mother's trauma can have a deep and long-lasting

impact on a child's life, including the potential for developmental delays and poor mental health. Hestia is calling on the government to amend the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and enable children of modern slavery victims to be recognised as victims in their own right.

[Download.ashx \(hestia.org\)](#)

18 The State of the World's Children 2021 - On My Mind: Promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health

This new report from Unicef examines child, adolescent and caregiver mental health. It focuses on risks and protective factors at critical moments in the life course and delves into the social determinants that shape mental health and well-being. It calls for commitment, communication and action as part of a comprehensive approach to promote good mental health for every child, protect vulnerable children and care for children facing the greatest challenges. Along side the report there are also tips and resources for parents on how to talk to your child about mental health and tips for children and young people on reaching out, providing support and breaking the stigma around mental health.

[The State of the World's Children 2021 | UNICEF](#)

19 Letterbox Contact

Charity Pause, which works with women who have had multiple children removed from their care, has published 'Time to Deliver', a new report which explores birth and adoptive families' experiences of Letterbox Contact.

[Letterbox Contact - Pause – Creating Space for Change](#)

News and Opinion

20 In the media

- The Scottish Sun has reported on a planned US-style 'class action' lawsuit, one of the first of its kind in Scotland, by survivors of alleged abuse at Celtic Boys Club at Celtic football club:
[Celtic Boys Club survivors of alleged abuse to launch multi-million pound 'class action' lawsuit against Celtic \(thescottishsun.co.uk\)](#)
- The £20 per week COVID-19 Universal Credit uplift has now ended, despite calls from poverty charities and campaigners asking the UK Government to maintain the extra support:
[Universal Credit: Food banks 'braced' for demand increase - BBC News](#)

- The Scottish Sunday Post are reporting on their investigation which has found that the number of at-risk children referred to protection agencies decreased during the COVID-19 lockdowns, and experts are concerned that closing schools removed a 'life-changing safety net', with charities urging that children who have suffered harm during this period, and their families, are identified and supported:
[Off the radar: Fears for vulnerable children as lockdown referrals fall \(sundaypost.com\)](https://www.sundaypost.com/off-the-radar-fears-for-vulnerable-children-as-lockdown-referrals-fall/)

21 Greater protection for child victims and witnesses

The Scottish Government has announced the national roll out of the Scottish Child Interview Model which involves pre-recorded investigative interviews of children conducted jointly by police officers and social work staff. The Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Act 2019 created a new rule for child witnesses under 18 to ensure that, where they are due to give evidence in the most serious cases in the High Court, they will be allowed to have it pre-recorded, to protect children and reduce stress when recounting their experiences.

[Greater protection for child victims and witnesses - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/greater-protection-for-child-victims-and-witnesses)

22 Building the Digital World that Young People Deserve

Children's digital rights charity 5Rights Foundation has submitted a report to the Information Commissioner's Office outlining its perceived priorities for the UK Government's Online Harms Bill, flagging that many large technology companies and social media platforms are breaching the UK's Age Appropriate Design Code (known as the Children's Code) and systematically endangering children and young people online

[5rights-priorities---online-harms-bill.pdf \(5rightsfoundation.com\)](https://www.5rights.org.uk/5rights-priorities---online-harms-bill.pdf)

23 Victim Centred Approach Fund

Scottish Government have announced a new Victim Centred Approach Fund, which will invest at least £30 million over the next three years to better help victims of crime. The fund will open for applications from third sector organisations, community interest companies and public sector bodies, including local authorities, later in October. Organisations considering applying to the fund are able to register their interest now.

[Victim Centred Approach Fund - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/victim-centred-approach-fund)

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.