 Public Protection Bulletin 

23rd October 2020

Dear colleague,

It is now clear that our support and protection services are going to feel the COVID-19 impact for the foreseeable future. As we move to a five tier system of lockdown we need to make sure our services continue to be flexible and responsive to emerging needs.

We already have evidence from our data collection systems concerning the impact of lockdown and social isolation on mental health and wellbeing and we can already see this impacting our adult and child support and protection services.

Our Adult Support and Protection and Child Protection Committees and subgroups have returned to the previous meeting schedules albeit on video conferencing platforms and I won’t even hazard a guess at how long this new way of working might last.

People tell us that these bulletins continue to be a valuable source of information and as various studies emerge on how Covid-19 has impacted on the needs of vulnerable people and how services have been developed in response, we will continue to seek out the latest news and provide electronic links to more detailed articles.

As always, this needs to be a two-way process so please continue to share any interesting news or developments from your particular agency or organisation.

We hope that you find something of interest to you in the articles below.

Please stay safe and healthy,

Best wishes,

Colin

Colin Anderson,

Independent Chair

Adult Support & Protection Committee/Child Protection Committee

[Scottish COVID-19 Mental Health Tracker Study](https://www.careknowledge.com/media/48297/scottish-covid-19-scovid-mental-health-tracker-study-wave-1-report.pdf)

The objective of this report is to present findings of Wave 1 of the Scottish COVID-19 (SCOVID) Mental Health Tracker Study. These findings are based on questionnaire data collected between 28th May and 21st June 2020 (a period which coincided with the Phase 1 easing of lockdown measures in Scotland) and draws on a nationally representative sample of 2514 adults. The primary focus of this report is the mental health and wellbeing outcomes as reported by these respondents, as well as other lifestyle factors which describe the circumstances and experiences of these respondents at the time of the questionnaire.

[Risk of Depression in Family Caregivers: Unintended Consequence of COVID-19](https://www.careknowledge.com/media/48287/risk_of_depression_in_family_caregivers_unintended_consequence_of_covid19.pdf)

This study aimed to investigate whether rates of depressive symptomatology increased in caregivers during COVID-19 and whether the unintended consequences of health protective measures, i.e., social isolation, exacerbated this risk. Another aim was to see if caregivers accessed any online/phone psychological support during COVID.

[Poverty in Scotland 2020](https://www.careknowledge.com/media/48301/poverty_in_scotland_2020_0.pdf)

This report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation looks at what has happened to poverty in Scotland before and during the coronavirus outbreak. This year's report also insights from an advisory group made up of people with lived experience of poverty.

[Learning from Lockdown: 12 Steps to Eliminate Digital Exclusion](https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/learning-from-lockdown-12-steps-to-eliminate-digital-exclusion/)

A report from the Carnegie Trust setting out a series of 12 recommendations calling for action from policy makers, practitioners, academics and industry to tackle this issue. The recommendations build on their work on digital inclusion over the past decade, and particularly draw on learning and reflections from the coronavirus outbreak and lockdown period.

[Moving Beyond ‘People First Language’ – a glossary of contested terms in substance use](http://www.sdf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Moving-Beyond-People-First-Language.pdf)

*The Glossary*, from the Scottish Drugs Forum, supports a consensus on some key concepts and terms in substance use by defining and explaining the cause and nature of contention and suggesting better practice in terms of the language choices we make.  The central aim is to improve understanding and address the stigma betrayed in some common terms and concepts current within the field.

[Early learning and childcare: induction resource](https://www.gov.scot/publications/early-learning-childcare-national-induction-resource/)

This induction resource provides new ELC employees with all the relevant information they need on what to expect in their first few months in post, including the most up-to-date resources and best practice.

[My Support, My Choice](https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/news/my-support-my-choice-major-report-on-peoples-experiences-of-self-directed-support/#expanded)

“My Support, My Choice”, a project funded by the Scottish Government, includes evidence, analysis and recommendations for improvement to SDS/social care in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, based on people’s experiences.

[Joint Investigative Interviews of Child Victims and Witnesses](https://www.cosla.gov.uk/about-cosla/our-teams/children-and-young-people/joint-investigative-interviews-of-child-victims-and-witnesses)

Child protection and justice partners are working in partnership with the Scottish Government to take forward recommendations of the [Evidence and Procedure Review](https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/evidence-and-procedure-review) to improve the quality and consistency of Joint Investigative Interviews (JIIs) of children.

[Secure Care Pathway and Standards](https://www.gov.scot/policies/youth-justice/secure-care/)

These new national standards for secure care set out what support children should expect from professionals when in the community or secure care.

[COVID-19, Social Care and Human Rights](https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2102/covid-19-social-care-monitoring-report-vfinal.pdf)

Impact monitoring report from the Scottish Human Rights Commission into human rights affected by changes to social care during COVID-19.

[Physical punishment and discipline of children: how the law is changing](https://www.gov.scot/publications/physical-punishment-and-discipline-of-children-how-the-law-is-changing/)

An explanation of changes to the law covering the physical punishment and discipline of children by The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019.

[Human Trafficking and Exploitation Newsletter](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/correspondence/2018/03/human-trafficking-exploitation-newsletters/documents/human-trafficking-newsletter---october-2020/human-trafficking-newsletter---october-2020/govscot%3Adocument/Human%2BTrafficking%2B-%2BCommunications%2B-%2BNewsletter%2B-%2BOctober%2B2020%2B-%2BPublisher.pdf)

Anti-Slavery Day edition

[Poverty and Income Inequality](https://www.understandingglasgow.com/assets/0004/3062/Children_s_report_card_-_poverty.pdf)

The Glasgow Centre for Population Health has produced a ‘report card’ on poverty and income inequality.

[Children & Young People's Mental Health Coalition Annual Report 2020](https://www.careknowledge.com/media/48179/cypmhc_annualreport.pdf)

A report from the Children & Young People's Mental Health Coalition, which reflects on societal progress on children and young people's mental health.

[COVID-19 and the Nation’s Mental Health](https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/publication/download/CentreforMentalHealth_COVID_MH_Forecasting3_Oct20_0.pdf)

The Centre for Mental Health worked with NHS colleagues to build a model based on the best available evidence to forecast how many people may need mental health support as a result of the pandemic. The primary purpose of the model is to support local organisations to predict levels of need for mental health support among children and adults in their communities.

[Scottish Health Survey 2019](https://www.careknowledge.com/media/48140/scottish-health-survey-2019-edition-volume-1-main-report.pdf)

The Scottish Health Survey 2019 main report presents statistics on general health, cardiovascular conditions, diabetes, smoking, physical activity, alcohol, mental wellbeing, diet, obesity, dental health and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

[Adults With Incapacity Act Monitoring Report 2019-20](https://www.careknowledge.com/media/48137/awi_monitoringreport_2019-20.pdf)

A report from the Mental Welfare Commission, published as part of its safeguarding duties under the Act.

[Scotland’s Invisible People](https://mk0fraserofalladdy84.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Scotlands-Invisible-People-Learning-Disabilities-Report-1.pdf)

A report on the support and opportunities for adults with learning disabilities in Scotland. An [easy read version](https://mk0fraserofalladdy84.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Phase-1-report-easy-read-FINAL.pdf) is also available.

[Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill](https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/disabled-children-and-young-people-transitions-to-adulthood-scotland-bill)

The Bill would require:

* the Scottish Government to have a strategy explaining how they are going to improve opportunities for disabled children and young people
* a Scottish Government minister to be in charge of improving opportunities for disabled children and young people moving into adulthood
* local authorities to have plans for each disabled child and young person as they move into adulthood

[Joint Inspections of Services for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection: Review of Findings from the Inspection Programme 2018-2020](https://www.careknowledge.com/media/48095/review-of-findings-from-inspection-programme-for-cyp-2018-to-2020.pdf)

A Care Inspectorate review of the findings of joint inspections in eight areas across Scotland.

[Delivering care at home and housing support services during the COVID-19 pandemic](https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/5816/Delivering%20CAH%20and%20HSS%20during%20the%20COVID-19%20pandemic%20-%20%20FINAL%2022092020.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

A Care Inspectorate inquiry into decision making and partnership working.

[Relationships matter](https://www.scld.org.uk/relationships-matter-for-people-with-learning-disabilities/)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities has launched ‘Relationships Matter,’ a report which focuses on relationships and loneliness, and explores some issues that relate to these, like happiness, choice, and support. An [easy read](https://www.scld.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Relationships-Report-Executive-Summary-Easy-Read.pdf) version is also available.

[4P Log for Children's Wellbeing](https://inspiringchildrensfutures.org/log4p)

The 4P Log app has been created for practitioners and policymakers who are working to support children’s wellbeing, to log their experiences and views through the current global challenges.

[Fire safety in the home](https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news-campaigns/news/2020/08/self-checker-launch.aspx)

A new online fire safety quiz has been launched by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to support people to stay safe at home. The ‘Fire Safety in the Home - Self Assessment’ survey asks a series of simple questions and then automatically generates a home fire safety report for them. People are also encouraged to sign up for a free Home Fire Safety Visit.

[Hate Crime Survey](https://www.hmics.scot/news/hmics-seeks-your-views-police-investigation-hate-crime)

An online survey has been launched by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland as part of their ongoing inspection of Hate Crime. The survey closes at 12 noon on 30 October 2020.

[Consultation on the revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland](https://consult.gov.scot/child-protection/consultation-on-the-revised-national-guidance/)

The Scottish Government is undertaking a consultation on updating the national child protection guidance.