Public Protection Bulletin

29th April 2022

Dear colleague,

Public health protection measures are beginning to ease but COVID-19 remains a risk. For the foreseeable future, our member organisations and front-line workers will continue to face significant challenges. As public protection leaders and managers have a responsibility to focus on how we continue to support our staff and volunteers.

As previously reported, our Adult Support and Protection and Child Protection Committees and subgroups have returned to the regular meeting schedules, albeit on video conferencing platforms. We review this on a regular basis to determine when we will be able to meet in person again.

People continue to tell us these bulletins are a valuable source of information and accordingly, we will continue to seek out the latest news and provide electronic links to more detailed articles. In order to ensure that the bulletin meets the needs of public protection professionals in Glasgow, we have included a link to a short survey so that you can tell us what you think of the bulletin and how it could be improved. We would very much appreciate it if you would take 5 minutes to complete it. Please continue to share any interesting news or developments from your particular agency or organisation.

In this edition you will find a link to a Significant Case Review Report. This demonstrates our ongoing commitment to regularly reviewing and auditing policy and practice. Any lessons learned from these reviews have been referred to the relevant Quality Assurance Subgroup to progress further work as necessary and for dissemination of learning to relevant groups and people. This represents a key component of our commitment to self-evaluation and continuous improvement, and we thank those who contributed to and led the review.

We hope 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

Glasgow Public Protection Committees

Significant Case Review in Respect of Adult A

Significant Case Reviews (now Learning Reviews) are used to learn from what has happened when a child or adult at risk of harm has died or been significantly harmed in order to improve systems and practice, and provide better protection in the future.

This case was referred to the Adult Support and Protection Committee following the death of Adult A, who was in hospital recovering from injuries sustained whilst receiving 24-hour care, purchased for her by Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

Glasgow Public Protection Committees Bulletin Survey

To ensure that the bulletin continues to meet the needs of public protection professionals in Glasgow, we have designed a short survey so that you can tell us what you think of the bulletin and how it could be improved. We would very much appreciate it if you would take 5 minutes to complete it.

COVID – 19

COVID-19: Evolving Challenges and Opportunities for Residential and Vocational Intellectual Disability Service Providers

A review that aimed to identify the opportunities and impacts on service providers for people with intellectual disability during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Children, Young People & Education

The Relationship Between Poverty and Child Abuse and Neglect: New Evidence

This project adds to the work of the Child Welfare Inequalities Project with a critical review of new evidence about the relationship between poverty and child abuse and neglect published between 2016 and 2021. It updates a previous review published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Underlying social and economic inequalities in developed economies have continued to widen. In England this has been accompanied by record levels of children in out-of-home care, with more than one child in 60 being investigated for abuse or neglect every year.

Keeping the Promise Implementation Plan

The Scottish Government has published The Promise Implementation Plan which sets out their actions and commitments to Keep the Promise for care experienced children, young people and their families.

Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan

The Scottish Government has published the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26 (Best Start, Bright Futures), announcing a range of new measures including an increase to the Scottish Child Payment by the end of this year.

Born into care in Scotland: circumstances, recurrence and pathways

The report was commissioned as it is important to understand more about the circumstances in which removal of babies shortly after birth takes place in Scotland, and the work undertaken with parents to prevent separation where possible, and the children's pathways and permanence outcomes.

Improving the chances of successful reunification for children who return home from care: Rapid Review

To understand which services and interventions are successful in reuniting children who return home from care, we ran a rapid review into the existing evidence in this area. The review, published earlier this month, also aimed to identify the types of support included in these interventions to increase the chance of success.

Exploring Populations View on Thresholds and Reasons for Child Protection Intervention – Comparing England, Norway, Poland and Romania

A study that examined citizens' views on restricting parental freedom to protect children's rights in England, Norway, Poland and Romania, and whether there are differences in popular views in these four countries.

Quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare

The Care Inspectorate has produced guidance on care for those working with children in daycare, childminding and school settings in Scotland. It gives information on protecting children, including how to make sure children feel safe and what staff should follow to accomplish this.

Stirling University report raises concern over separated siblings

Research involving Stirling University found that only one in five infants taken into care in Scotland is placed with siblings despite the preference to keep them together.

New data shows Scotland has worrying trend of child abuse and neglect

NSPCC Scotland has today released research that paints a worrying picture of the abuse and neglect faced by children. In 2021/22, the NSPCC's Helpline for adults made 897 referrals about abuse and neglect to agencies in Scotland – an average of two a day. The most common reason for the charity's practitioners to escalate their concerns in Scotland was neglect, with 272 referrals being made for this concern.

Kinship Care protocol

Social Work Scotland guidance covering the management of kinship care where multiple local authorities are involved. It does not extend into matters such as the age of the child at which support for kinship carers stops, the nature of support provided or rates of financial support.

Mental Health

Mental Health Awareness Week 9-15 May 2022

An annual event when there is an opportunity for the whole of the UK to focus on achieving good mental health. Loneliness is affecting more and more of us in the UK and has had a huge impact on our physical and mental health during the pandemic. This year the Mental Health Foundation will be raising awareness of the impact of loneliness on our mental wellbeing and the practical steps we can take to address it.

Mental Health Indicators

Public Health Scotland has developed two sets of mental health indicators, one set for adults and one for children and young people. These are designed to inform and guide action to improve population mental health in Scotland, at local and national level.

Prevalence of Adult Sexual Abuse in Men with Mental Illness

A study that aimed to estimate the prevalence of recent (past year) sexual abuse and adulthood sexual abuse perpetrated by any perpetrator, as well as sexual abuse by intimate partners in males diagnosed with a mental illness.

Disability

Disabled access worsens across the UK during pandemic, new study warns

Research for Euan's Guide found disabled people believe they have been disadvantaged as the pandemic continues.

Disabled people hit hard by rising energy bills

Rising energy prices will affect everyone, but disabled people and unpaid carers have told BBC Scotland they face additional struggles.

Thousands of disabled people left in unsuitable housing

The Ferret reports that thousands of disabled Scots have been unsuccessful in applying for local authority funding to allow them to adapt their homes so they can be safely independent.

Scottish Government Position Paper Disability Assistance: Adult Disability Payment

Information on Adult Disability Payment, the Scottish replacement for Personal Independence Payment

Autism, ADHD & Learning Difficulties

Scottish Learning Disability Week 2022

Will take place from Monday 2nd – Sunday 8th May. This year's theme is 'We all have human rights!' Join the Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) this Scottish Learning Disability Week to raise awareness of the importance of recognising and realising the human rights people with learning disabilities.

Policy Position on Accommodation-based Care and Support for Adults with Learning Disabilities and/or Autistic Adults

The Care Inspectorate have published a Policy Position on Accommodation-based Care and Support for Adults with Learning Disabilities and/or Autistic Adults. The purpose of this document is to deliver a formal policy position in relation to registration, and variation of existing conditions, for services for adults with learning disabilities and/or autistic adults where support is linked to accommodation.

Supporting Each Other Equals Power! – a new peer support model for people with learning difficulties

Hear about how people with learning difficulties used co-production to deliver support for other people with learning difficulties. And hear how important that support was during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Older People & Dementia

Update to quality framework for care homes for adults and older people

The Scottish Government has created two additional Health and Social Care Standards that are focused on connection for people. These are specific for care homes for adults and older people and are designed to support people who experience care to stay connected with people who are important to them, even when an outbreak means that routine visiting may be restricted. The new standards also enable people to be supported and cared for by people who are important to them if they choose.

Scottish Government Consultation: Health and Social Care Strategy for Older People

This strategy will build on the work which has already been undertaken across Scotland to deliver integrated, person centred health and social care for older people, address gaps, and develop any new priorities from emerging areas of work from, for example, the impact of Coronavirus. This consultation forms part of the engagement to develop the new health and social care strategy for older people. Consultation is open until 19 June 2022.

Carers

Care Inspectorate – Unpaid Carer Inquiry

It is estimated that before the Covid-19 pandemic there were around 700,000 to 800,000 unpaid carers in Scotland. Recent polls suggest this may now have risen to over a million. Unpaid carers are a vital part of the health and social care system, however caring responsibilities affect many carers' mental and physical health. The Care Inspectorate is carrying out a national inquiry into adult unpaid carers experiences of social work and social care.

The survey will be open until Friday 3 June and covers all adults who care and need care but not children and young carers. It takes no more than 15 minutes to complete.

[It's Harder Than Anyone Understands]

A Carers Trust report on the experiences and thoughts of young carers and young adult carers.

[Quick guide: Supporting people who provide unpaid care for adults with health or social care needs]

A new SCIE and NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) quick guide for social care practitioners. Read the guide or use the interactive web resource.

Housing & Homelessness

[People at risk of homelessness need help earlier]

People threatened with homelessness should be able to get help earlier, up to six months before they are forced from their home, new analysis from Citizens Advice Scotland and homelessness charity Crisis has found.

Substance Use & Addictions

[Pharmacists reassess role in preventing drug deaths]

The former chair of Scotland's Drug Death Taskforce is to lead a new pharmacy group looking at how the profession can reduce drug-related harms and deaths in Scotland.

Equality & Poverty

[Health poverty hits children halfway through pregnancy]

University of Aberdeen researchers have shown health inequalities are impacting children earlier than previously detected, linking lower household income to smaller than average foetuses as early as 20 weeks into pregnancy.

[Podcast: Poverty and inequality]

Jimmy Black and Kieran Findlay are joined by Kirsty McKechnie, early warning system project manager at the Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland, and Aaron Hill, director of membership and policy at the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, for a fascinating discussion on poverty and inequality where they find much to agree on about the links between housing and social security.

[Improving the evidence on ethnic health disparities]

There is significant public and government interest in addressing health inequalities, and attention has only increased since evidence has shown an increased risk of death from COVID-19 among most ethnic minority groups. Rose Drummond explains how the ONS is working with Wellcome and the Race Equality Foundation to improve estimates of ethnic health disparities in England.

Gender Based Violence

Panorama Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Britain's Rape Crisis

BBC Panorama has released a new episode that investigates why only one per cent of reported rapes in England and Wales result in a conviction. It follows two child victims of rape who are now adults, and explores the difficulties they face on their journey through the criminal justice system.

Reflecting on Legal Responses to Intimate Partner Femicide in Scotland

An article that considers the legal responses to intimate partner femicide in Scotland, based on an analysis of 57 cases.

Falling Between the Cracks

An exploration of the contradictions in approaches to protecting girls and women from female genital mutilation in Scotland.

Refugees, Asylum, Trafficking and Immigration

Emergency foster care placements in response to the Ukraine crisis

The Care Inspectorate has published a statement on its position on the need to augment the number of emergency foster care placements in response to the Ukraine crisis.

People Arriving from Ukraine - Risk and Need

Public protection guidance for all practitioners involved in safeguarding of children and adults who are arriving in Scotland from Ukraine to identify and respond to risk and need.

Crime, Justice & Prisons

Police Scotland's Use of Body Worn Video: Public Consultation Feedback

Police Scotland have published an update on the consultation process around officers wearing Body Worn Cameras - reporting positive public support for this proposal.

Supporting Offenders with Learning Disabilities

SOLD is a national network committed to improving support for people who have difficulty with communication and understanding, and are at risk of, accused, or convicted of committing a crime. This includes people with learning disabilities, autism, foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, acquired brain injury, or other cognitive or neurological impairment.

Prisons, Prison Officers and Prisoners' Families

This research aimed to understand the importance of families of prisoners, their experiences, and the impact a member's imprisonment can have on families.

Lawyers boycott domestic abuse cases in legal aid dispute

Defence lawyers across Scotland are to boycott hundreds of cases brought under ground-breaking legislation against domestic abuse. The move marks an escalation in their long-running dispute with the Scottish government over legal aid fees.

Online & Financial Harm

Online safety and relationships

CEOP has created a new website for children aged 11-18 that has information on online safety and relationships.

Scottish Government Online Safety Campaign

Aims to increase awareness of the importance of online safety to parents and carers of children aged 8-11 year olds. There is a Toolkit for partners and a supporting hub with practical ideas and advice for parents.

Scam Share

Trading Standards Scotland produce a weekly Scam Share bulletin. It looks at the latest phone, email and online scams affecting Scottish consumers. If you receive any emails to your work account which you suspect are phishing emails, please report these to the integrity mailbox at integrity@glasgow.gov.uk as soon as possible. To receive Trading Standards Scotland Scam Share e-bulletin click **here**

Social Care & Practice

A Leadership Model for Social Work: Drawing on Health Care to Inform Social Work Leadership

A paper that presents models of compassionate leadership and considers their usefulness for the current social work knowledge base.

Events

Contemporary developments in social work theory, 05/05/22, 12:00 – 13:00

As the profession adapts and responds to contemporary challenges such as climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis and its consequences for poverty and inequality, Professor Payne will reflect on the way social work theory has changed and moved with the times, while continuing to provide social workers with the building blocks for robust, theory-informed practice.

Closing the gap – launching an independent review on health inequalities in Scotland, 06/05/22, 12.30–13.45, Zoom

The Health Foundation is carrying out an independent review to build a better understanding of health and health inequalities in Scotland over the past 20 years and why they persist despite policy intent. We will be building a conversation and sharing findings from the review throughout 2022.

The Hearings System Working Group Redesign Info Session, 10/05/22, 13:30 – 15:00

The Hearings System Working Group (HSWG) will be hosting an informational webinar open to all those who would like to learn more about the work of the Group. This webinar will explore the five headings of the Issues List and discuss the detailed areas that will prompt discussion around the redesign of The Children's Hearings System.