**Keeping Connected - The CPCScotland Weekly Bulletin**

**Issue 38 - Tuesday 15th December 2020**

*Issued to support Child Protection Committee’s and partners with up to date information on child protection issues.*

Welcome to Issue 38 of Keeping Connected.

I am delighted that we have been able to build on our social media based campaigning work with our new ‘Keeping Kids Safe at Christmas’ campaign which will launch on Friday (18th December). I hope you will support the campaign locally by issuing your own local press release and sharing the Child Protection Scotland social media posts. Look out for the briefing pack which should drop into CPCScotland member inboxes on Thursday morning.

I am also pleased to see the continued development of the Learning Review K-Hub with our 4th discussion session scheduled for 21st January (see item 10).

This will be our last issue of Keeping Connected for 2020. We will be taking a break over the festive period but will resume again with issue 39 published on 11th January 2021. I hope you will all be able to take some time away from your work computers to rest and recharge your batteries as it looks like 2021 is shaping up to be just as busy as 2020.

Wishing you all a healthy and safe Christmas and New Year

Alan Small, Chair Child Protection Committees Scotland

**1 CPCScotland Christmas Campaign Announcement**

Following on from the success of our joint digital Back to School campaign CPCScotland are promoting a new Keeping Kids Safe at Christmas campaign.

The campaign will be launched on Friday 18 December at 1000 and will continue to run online via the Child Protection Scotland website and social media streams until Sunday 10 January 2021.

As with our earlier Eyes Open campaigns an editable local version of a press release with accompanying images has been developed for use by child protection committees across the country. This will be circulated on Thursday 17th December and may be edited and circulated to local media outlets with the support of communications and media officers in your area. For further information please contact Mairi Damer, CPCScotland’s communications consultant on 07809 597901 or by email at hello@wordupscot.co.uk

**Section 1 COVID-19**

***Guidance, Resources and Information***

**2 New COVID section of the CELCIS website**

CELCIS have created a new COVID-19 section on their website where all their information and content related to this is hosted together in one place.

<https://www.celcis.org/knowledge-bank/covid-19-homepage/>

***Training and Events***

##### **3 Growing-Up Under COVID-19 – Young People Speak Out**

##### On Wednesday, 16 December at 4:30pm, a webinar planned and run by young people will present the learning and key findings to date from the Growing-Up Under COVID-19 project, a collaboration between 14-18-year olds from the UK, Italy, Singapore and Lebanon, and adult researchers from Ecorys and The University of Huddersfield. The project is funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_If424ASqTTe5oh1z352nCw>

***Research and Evidence Based Reports***

**4 Lockdown Lowdown Report 2**

Young Scot has published the findings from the LockdownLowdown research into the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on Scotland’s young people, which was commissioned by the Scottish Government and delivered in partnership with the Scottish Youth Parliament,  YouthLink Scotland and Young Scot <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5cee5bd0687a1500015b5a9f/t/5fce382924c49707d34a84d7/1607350318582/Dec2020-LockdowLowdown-V2-Survey-Final.pdf>

## **5 Child Protection Conference Practice Under COVID**

## Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdown measures, professionals and families have had to rapidly adapt to remote or socially-distanced Child Protection conferences. The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory have published the findings of research which investigated what these changes have meant in practice and offers points for reflection. The research was undertaken in England and comprised an online survey and series of telephone interviews with family members and professionals between September and October 2020.

## <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/resource/child-protection-conference-practice-covid-19>

**6 The impact of COVID-19 on children and young people in Scotland: 2 to 4 year olds**

This report from Public Health Scotland is one of a planned series of papers that will consider the possible positive and adverse consequences on children’s and young people’s development and wellbeing at different ages and stages of their lives. The purpose is to provide evidence to support planning and action to reduce or prevent negative outcomes (including in the event of future ‘lockdowns’), and promote positive futures for this generation of children and young people.

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/downloads/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-children-and-young-people-2-4-year-olds/>

**7 A Critical Juncture for Public Services: Lessons from COVID-19**

This report from the House of Lords, Public Services Committee examines what the experience of the coronavirus outbreak can tell us about the future role, priorities and shape of public services. One of the identified weaknesses that gave cause for concern was a lack of integration especially between services working with vulnerable children. The report makes recommendations on how public services should be transformed to address fundamental weaknesses, and how public service reform should build on the innovations seen during the pandemic.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/430/public-services-committee/news/123559/lessons-from-covid19-major-report-on-public-services-launched/>

## **8 Life Under Coronavirus**

## Terre des Hommes has published the results of the #COVIDUnder19: Life Under Coronavirus survey of 26,258 children from 137 countries. This briefing presents the headline findings [https://www.tdh.ch/sites/default/files/covidunder19\_thematic\_summaries\_english\_20201209.pdf.pdf](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.tdh.ch%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fcovidunder19_thematic_summaries_english_20201209.pdf.pdf&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7Cb30660cce018483e23dc08d89cf6857b%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637431929907422519%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=f%2FOW%2FrkwXUN3DmT%2F%2Fl5YIanx4HDoc6PgUvS%2BL%2F0uOUg%3D&reserved=0)

**9 The experiences of NSPCC staff who supported children and families during the pandemic**

NSPCC Learning has published findings from a project in which 15 NSPCC staff working in a variety of frontline and strategic roles in Together for Childhood sites in Glasgow, Plymouth and Stoke-on-Trent kept reflective diaries of their experiences supporting children and families during the coronavirus pandemic. Findings include: working online enabled planned work to continue but created new barriers to access for some families; working together with partners helped NSPCC staff respond to the needs of local communities; and staff felt that children were more at risk of experiencing abuse at home and online.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2020/still-here-for-children-experiences-of-nspcc-staff-during-coronavirus>

**Section 2 Other Child Protection Topics**

***Guidance, Resources and Information***

**10 Learning Review Knowledge Hub Members Event - Learning from a Neglect Themed SCR– workshop processes; survey and findings**

The fourth of a series of short discussion sessions for Hub members is taking place on 21st January from 10am – 12 noon. Child neglect has been recognised within West Lothian as an emergent issue from Initial Case Reviews and multi-agency audit. Recognising and responding to neglect can be challenging for professionals across agencies. West Lothian undertook a Learning Together themed review, to help improve the identification of systemic barriers to (and enablers of) good practice in supporting and working with families and children experiencing neglect. In this session, Jane Ridgway will provide an overview of how the Learning Together methodology, along with the scoping of a wider number of cases where neglect features, supported a better breadth and depth of learning.

Membership to the Learning Review Knowledge Hub is open to all members of CPCScotland and Child Protection Learning and Development Officers. If you are a member of the KHub you will be able to join on the day by clicking the link in the events page. If you have not yet joined the Learning Review Knowledge Hub and are a CPCScotland member please follow the link in your email invite or contact Susan Mitchell susan.mitchell@strath.ac.uk or Maureen Wylie Maureen.Wylie@careinspectorate.gov.scot

**11 Raising the Age of Referral – Consultation Analysis**

The Scottish Government has published an independent analysis of the responses received for its consultation on raising the age at which children can be referred to the Children’s Reporter [https://www.gov.scot/publications/analysis-consultation-responses-raising-age-referral-principal-reporter/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.scot%2Fpublications%2Fanalysis-consultation-responses-raising-age-referral-principal-reporter%2F&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7C3bba91bf48e84adfa81e08d89b66fbd2%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637430213916214028%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=7KWQrYwctScKJtxiaFs2NxtrVz0M6FpQijATiVaxDSk%3D&reserved=0)

**12 PACE resources**

As the Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE) programme draws to a close, CELCIS have published a new section of resources on their website including recorded webinars, reports and more.

<https://www.celcis.org/our-work/key-areas/permanence/pace-homepage>

**13 ‘List of Issues’ Report**

As we approach the UK’s next review by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Together has launched its ‘List of Issues report’ which highlights 30 key issues for children’s rights in Scotland.

<https://www.togetherscotland.org.uk/media/1763/together-loipr_final.pdf>

#### **14 Scottish Youth Parliament launches new manifesto**

 ‘From Scotland’s Young People’ is a five-year document detailing what changes Scottish Youth Parliament plans to make during the period 2021-26.
<https://syp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/SYPS-11.pdf>

**15 Equally Safe 3 Year update report**

The Year 3 report for Equally Safe, the national strategy to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls contains details of important milestones and achievements over the lifetime of the strategy. It reflects progress and challenges over the last year, much of which has taken place in the unprecedented climate of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/equally-safe-final-report/>

##### **16 Child protection in sport**

The NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) has published a briefing paper highlighting safeguarding responsibilities when running virtual events and competitions for children and ways to mitigate risks associated with using digital platforms.

<https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/best-practice/virtual-events-and-competitions-for-children/>

##### **17 Working together to safeguard children (English Guidance Updated)**

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated the Working together to safeguard children 2018 statutory guidance for England to include factual changes in relation to information sharing, homelessness duty and references to domestic abuse.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

***Training and Events***

**18 Scotland’s National Trauma Training Programme**

NHS Education for Scotland and partners from Scottish Government and the Improvement Service hosted a webinar introducing Scotland’s National Trauma Training Programme (NTTP) on Wednesday, 2 December. The recording of the session, which provided an overview of the NTTP and its role in supporting organisational recovery from the impact of Covid-19 as well as outlining the high level of commitment from local authorities and public services across Scotland to build a trauma-informed workforce, is available to view online now.

<https://vimeo.com/488470782>

**For Children, Families and Communities**

##### **19 Online safety: SEND**

#### Childnet has launched a teaching toolkit for educators to support the online safety of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

#### <https://www.childnet.com/resources/star-send-toolkit> **20 Talking to children about abuse**

Attensi, specialists in gamified simulation training, have collaborated with NSPCC Learning on a new 3D learning tool to help adults talk to children about abuse. The free tool enables learners to: access simulated scenarios and interact with fictional child characters; learn how to respond to the children and build their trust to help them talk about their experiences; and build knowledge and confidence to talk to children about abuse.

#### <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/december/navigate-difficult-conversations-with-talk-to-me-tool>

#### **21 The rights of child human rights defenders: implementation guide**

##### This guide produced by Child Rights Connect aims to help child human rights defenders undertake activities to defend human rights in conditions where they feel respected and empowered. The guide offers tips and guidelines for States, civil society and UN mechanisms to advance the protection and promotion of child human rights defenders and their work.

<https://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/final-implementation-guide-the-rights-of-child-human-rights-defenders-forweb.pdf>

***Research and Evidence Based Reports***

##### **22 County lines and looked after children**

Crest Advisory has published a report on looked after children and county lines in England and Wales. The report finds that: looked after children are disproportionately represented in county lines networks, but they are not being systematically identified by police or local authorities; a growing number of looked after children are placed in care settings which do not protect them from criminal exploitation; and inadequate information sharing between agencies leads to a poor safeguarding response. Recommendations to government include: the creation of a statutory definition of child criminal exploitation (CCE) and county lines; and a national strategy to tackle CCE.

<https://b9cf6cd4-6aad-4419-a368-724e7d1352b9.usrfiles.com/ugd/b9cf6c_83c53411e21d4d40a79a6e0966ad7ea5.pdf>

**23 Destitution in the UK**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has published the third study in its annual Destitution in the UK series, which reveals that even before the COVID-19 outbreak, destitution – which the charity defines as going without the essentials we all need to eat, stay warm and dry, and keep clean – was rapidly growing in scale and intensity.

[https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/destitution-uk-2020](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jrf.org.uk%2Freport%2Fdestitution-uk-2020&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7C794441042bf14f1fc37f08d89c2deda4%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637431068373634669%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=4f8H2dzjATcfvS7CPlNIwAl424gDhAxtSzdFOcGNuoQ%3D&reserved=0)

**24 How Safe Are Our Children? 2020**

This NSPCC report looks in detail at statistics relating to abuse perpetrated against adolescents. The report also includes an overview of emerging data on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the safety of children and young people in the UK.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/how-safe-are-our-children>

**25 Measuring and mitigating child hunger in the UK**

The Social Market Foundation has published a report on ‘Measuring and mitigating child hunger in the UK’, which seeks to fill the data gap in official Government statistics on child hunger due to the time lag associated with these, and to provide initial findings on the current level of child food security in the UK: [https://www.smf.co.uk/publications/measuring-child-hunger/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.smf.co.uk%2Fpublications%2Fmeasuring-child-hunger%2F&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7Cb30660cce018483e23dc08d89cf6857b%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637431929907422519%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=UnjqDn5tVtzfafUEqV8myGj%2B1prGUwjHpXGyX1WFE68%3D&reserved=0)

**26 A Systematic Review of Risk and Protective Factors of Mental Health in Unaccompanied Minor Refugees**

This study aimed to summarise and evaluate the existing findings of specific risk and protective factors to identify the most verified influences on the mental health of Unaccompanied Minor Refugees.

<https://www.careknowledge.com/media/48742/hoehne2020_article_asystematicreviewofriskandprot.pdf>

**27 Suicide Attempts and Completions among Mothers Whose Children Were Taken into Care by Child Protection Services**

The objective of this Canadian study was to examine suicide attempts and completions among mothers who had a child taken into care by child protection services (CPS). These mothers were compared with their biological sisters who did not have a child taken into care and with mothers who received services from CPS but did not have a child taken into care.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0706743717741058>

***Part 3 News and Opinion***

**28 In the Media**

* In an opinion piece for The Scotsman, former Deputy Chief Constable and former chair of child protection committees Tom Wood discusses his thoughts on whether the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 is needed: [https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/scotlands-smacking-ban-misses-big-issue-child-abuse-tom-wood-3058274](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.scotsman.com%2Fnews%2Fopinion%2Fcolumnists%2Fscotlands-smacking-ban-misses-big-issue-child-abuse-tom-wood-3058274&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7C3bba91bf48e84adfa81e08d89b66fbd2%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637430213916214028%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=4cJAjZ6oztHUj2XKHiINOZBRuws3W0PT%2FHgZ94RIhxg%3D&reserved=0)
* In an interview for the Guardian, Ndidi Okezie, chief executive of UK Youth, describes how youth work is struggling to survive a funding crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact this is having on vulnerable children: [https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/dec/08/ndidi-okezie-covid-has-decimated-services-for-vulnerable-young-people](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fsociety%2F2020%2Fdec%2F08%2Fndidi-okezie-covid-has-decimated-services-for-vulnerable-young-people&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7C3bba91bf48e84adfa81e08d89b66fbd2%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637430213916214028%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1oq%2FfkIBR3KSIC0M6prB4M4jfmOvPUpVZvvO67GVzrE%3D&reserved=0)

**29 Forensic Medical Services Bill**

The Forensic Medical Services Bill was passed unanimously in the Scottish Parliament on 10th December and Health Secretary Jeane Freeman announced £500,000 to improve the NHS response to child sexual abuse and to develop the role of child and family support workers in Scotland – the Bill places a duty on health boards to give victims direct access to trauma-informed, person-centred forensic medical examination services:

[https://www.gov.scot/news/forensic-medical-services-bill-passes-unanimously/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.scot%2Fnews%2Fforensic-medical-services-bill-passes-unanimously%2F&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7C3226ed38427c47c828c108d89dbe9cc5%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637432789297525811%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=HTiWsogNfeyBM3TOhBTVviEwQO5IkkuRRu0ZSaZ1xCM%3D&reserved=0)

**30 Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill**

The Scottish Parliament’s Education and Skills Committee has backed the general principles of the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1, which seeks to set up a scheme to make financial payments to survivors of abuse, although they have raised that there are “fundamental issues with the calculation of ‘fair and meaningful’ contributions and the waiver”.

[https://www.holyrood.com/news/view,msps-back-financial-redress-for-survivors-of-child-abuse-in-care](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.holyrood.com%2Fnews%2Fview%2Cmsps-back-financial-redress-for-survivors-of-child-abuse-in-care&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7C794441042bf14f1fc37f08d89c2deda4%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637431068373634669%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Y8AHMjHEPxl%2FI4l18duDPcQq1iWbVTYLpgxKjL0KYN8%3D&reserved=0)

**31 Extra support for families on low incomes**

As part of the £100 million winter support packaging announced last month, the Scottish Government has announced an extra £3.3 million of funding to help nine children’s charities to support families on low incomes this winter. [https://www.gov.scot/news/extra-support-for-families-on-low-incomes/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.scot%2Fnews%2Fextra-support-for-families-on-low-incomes%2F&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7C3226ed38427c47c828c108d89dbe9cc5%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637432789297515852%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tXsCwXF1XS7n97Vw9k%2FqP%2B0XS%2BEva%2BZXNKeDANP8f5A%3D&reserved=0)

#### **32 Children’s Hearings advocacy service**

Section 122 of the Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 came into force on Saturday 21st November 2020. This activated duties on chairing members of Children’s Hearings to inform children of the availability of children’s advocacy services.
<https://www.togetherscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/12/new-children-s-hearings-advocacy-service/>

##### **33 What have we learnt during covid? - podcast**

NSPCC Learning has released a podcast in which NSPCC chief executive Peter Wanless discusses the NSPCC’s experience over the past nine months. Topics discussed include: priorities for the NSPCC during the early stages of lockdown; what child protection and safeguarding themes emerged as time went on; what has been learnt during this time; and how the pandemic has impacted the NSPCC’s new strategy, which begins in 2021.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/december/podcast-what-have-we-learnt-during-covid-19>

**34 Assessing quality of care**

Research in Practice (RiP) has published a blog in which NSPCC development manager Dawn Hodson discusses Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2). A new antenatal version, Graded Care Profile 2 - Antenatal (GCP2-A), is being developed that supports midwives and health visitors with early decision making and ensures the right support is put in place before the baby is born, with the aim of preventing concerns from escalating.

<https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/children/news-views/2020/december/helping-professionals-measure-care-and-get-the-right-support-in-place-for-parents-to-be/>

*Please feel free to let us know what you think about the bulletin and provide information for inclusion in future editions. Please 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.*