**Keeping Connected - The CPCScotland Weekly Bulletin**

**Issue 49 - Tuesday 23rd March 2021**

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

Welcome to Issue 49 of Keeping Connected.

I am pleased to report that CPCScotland launched our 10-day #KeepingKidsSafeOnline campaign on Saturday 20th March. Initial feedback is looking really positive and the campaign was featured on STV lunchtime news on Saturday. This campaign was developed on an incredibly tight timescale and, on behalf of Tam and the Communications sub group, I would like to thank the CPCScotland members and other colleagues who participated in a hastily arranged focus group to help develop the campaign messaging. I would also like to express our thanks to Mairi Damer (our communications consultant) and her team for their effort and commitment without which the campaign would not have been possible.

I was also delighted with the news on 16th March that the Scottish Parliament had passed the bill incorporating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots Law. This is a landmark moment in the long journey to have children rights better realised in Scotland.

Can I also draw your attention to the publication of the National Referral Mechanism Toolkit for Scotland (item 3) and the offer from COSLA to assist in developing your human trafficking policy and response.

As always if you have anything from your area that you would be willing to share with colleagues please let us know at cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk

Keep safe and keep in touch.

Alan Small, Chair Child Protection Committees Scotland

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill**

On 16th March MSPs voted unanimously for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill to become law. The new legislation will make it unlawful for public authorities and anyone undertaking functions or providing services to children with public money to act incompatibly with the incorporated UNCRC requirement.

[https://www.gov.scot/news/landmark-for-childrens-rights/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.scot%2Fnews%2Flandmark-for-childrens-rights%2F&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7C5312d5744c154de632a308d8e9328caf%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637515750603723590%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=60HCRXxWLU3NMAYGEmDLSWgPJ1A8VUCwB9RVybp6IFQ%3D&reserved=0)

**2 CPCScotland Online Safety Campaign is Live**

On 20th March CPCScotland launched their online safety social media campaign as part of a co-ordinated response alongside the Scottish Government CSEthesigns campaign and the Police Scotland ‘Get Help or Get Caught’ campaign. The CPCScotland campaign is aimed specifically at parents and carers and will run until the 29th March.

Please support the campaign by liking and sharing on your social media channels **#KeepingKidsSafeOnline** and check out the new campaign ‘landing page’ on the website.

<https://www.childprotection.scot/stay-safe-online/>

**3 National Referral Mechanism Toolkit for Scotland**

The Migration Scotland Team at COSLA have launched a new toolkit for First Responders to assist in making a referral of a potential victim of human trafficking to the National Referral Mechanism. The NRM toolkit is a resource to improve the formal identification of victims through the National Referral Mechanism in Scotland and ensure that both professionals and potential victims are clear on the process and possible outcomes of this national pathway to identification and protection. The toolkit will be updated regularly. It is therefore recommend you access it directly from the website. If you have any feedback, questions, or if COSLA can assist in developing your human trafficking policy and response please contact Chris Murray, Policy Manager (Migration, Population and Diversity) chris@cosla.gov.uk

<http://www.migrationscotland.org.uk/anti-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-resources>

**Section 1 COVID-19**

**Guidance, Resources and Information**

**4 Recover, Restore, Renew: Chief Medical Officer’s annual report**

The Chief Medical Officer for Scotland has published his Annual Report for 2020 – 2021, which provides the opportunity to reflect on our shared experience of the pandemic and highlight areas of good practice and innovation over the last year, as well as the opportunity to identify areas that require more attention.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/cmo-annual-report-2020-21/>

**Training, Learning Events and Resources**

**5 The impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on children and young people in alternative care - webinar**

Udayan Care, in collaboration with SAGE Publications, is hosting a free webinar on Thursday, 25 March, from 12:30pm. The webinar aims to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on children, young people, and their caregivers in alternative care and to highlight the critical issues of child protection during emergencies such as the current pandemic.

[Webinar link](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vTprhhV1Gka9tBK0oYV_BNIreNcu1oNAhUCNpZXK_hNUMFk0NzY4RFFaOVhXSVdIMzQ3RzJPV0s2NC4u&utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=ICB_emailer-_Webinar_on-_Impact_of_Pandemic_on_Children_and_Youth_in_Alternative_Care_Copy&utm_medium=email)

**Research and Evidence Based Reports**

**6 The Cost of Learning in Lockdown: March 2021 update**

The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) has published a March 2021 update on ‘The Cost of Learning in Lockdown’, building on previous research from June 2020, which gathered the experiences of 1,570 parents and carers, along with 785 children and young people, with an emphasis on the experiences of low-income households.

[https://cpag.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/report/cost-learning-lockdown-march-2021-update](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcpag.org.uk%2Fpolicy-and-campaigns%2Freport%2Fcost-learning-lockdown-march-2021-update&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7Cbdf67d3ac66b4b5d2d0408d8ea049c9a%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637516652821100825%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=KJA7iZP8FzqGkcP7jlASxO0hidkpoQQQrLDo1lfWREM%3D&reserved=0)

**7 New and expectant mums face increased mental health risks caused by the pandemic**

A rapid review of evidence commissioned by the Maternal Mental Health Alliance (MMHA), and conducted by Centre for Mental Health has found that during and after pregnancy, women have faced greater likelihood of poor mental health during the pandemic, including anxiety, depression, loneliness and suicidal thoughts. Extra pressures include anxiety about giving birth during lockdown without partners present, fears of losing jobs, heightened levels of domestic violence, bereavement, worries about catching Covid-19, and concern about new infants catching the disease.

<https://maternalmentalhealthalliance.org/mmhpandemic/>

##### **8 Coronavirus: impact of prison lockdowns on children with a parent in prison**

The University of Oxford Faculty of Law has published a study looking at the experiences of 70 children in the UK whose parents were in prison during the period April - June 2020 and the implications of national lockdowns in 2020 and 2021. The study found that children experienced confusing and complex emotions when face-to-face visits were stopped and this has negatively affected children's emotional, physical, and mental wellbeing.
<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/the_impact_of_covid-19_prison_lockdowns_on_children_with_a_parent_in_prison.pdf>

**9 Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence During Lockdown and the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Previous studies have demonstrated that there is an increase in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) during times of crisis (e.g., financial, environmental, or socio-political situations). The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered an unprecedented global health and financial tragedy, but research is yet to establish exactly how the situation may impact on IPV. This present study investigates victims’ experience of IPV during lockdown and the COVID-19 pandemic, based on a qualitative thematic analysis of 50 discussion forum posts written by victims of IPV.

<https://www.careknowledge.com/media/49841/lyons-brewer2021_article_experiencesofintimatepartnervi.pdf>

**10 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food insecurity**

To assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food insecurity across the UK population, the Food Foundation commissioned a total of seven nationally representative surveys with YouGov between March 2020 and January 2021, one of which was specifically focused on households with children. A further two nationally representative surveys were commissioned with Childwise to hear directly from children and young people about their Covid-19 food experiences. The purpose of this report is to present new data from the most recent surveys conducted in January 2021 and draw comparisons to evidence compiled periodically since March 2020.

<https://www.careknowledge.com/media/49985/ff_impact-of-covid_final.pdf>

**Section 2 Other Child Protection Topics**

**Guidance, Resources and Information**

**11 Play Strategy #summer of play**

Play Scotland have launched their Play Strategy Review Update 2021 and Children and Young People’s Consultation 2021. The review highlights how play organisations have responded to the pandemic and emerging evidence of the impact of emergency measures on children and young people. It takes account of mitigating measures that the Scottish Government have put in place to support children’s play at a time of national crisis. The accompanying children and young people’s consultation found thatChildren want a return to play, more play and better play and supports the eight recommendations in the Progress Review 2021. Play Scotland are calling for a summer of play in 2021 to increase the play opportunities of children and young people.

<https://www.playscotland.org/about/play-strategy/>

**12 Children and young people's voices matter: progress report - March 2021**

The Scottish Government has published a report on progress made on the actions agreed at the fourth annual meeting of Cabinet members and children and young people on 3 March 2020. The fourth annual meeting of Cabinet members and children and young people was held on 3 March 2020 at Bute House, Edinburgh, and seven Members of the Children’s Parliament (MCPs) and seven Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) attended, representing children and young people’s views from across Scotland and talking about issues that were important to them.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-young-peoples-voices-matter-progress-report-march-2021/>

##### **13 Perinatal mental health**

The Scottish Government has published the Peer Support in Perinatal Mental Health Action Plan for 2020-2023. The plan covers a range of topics including equalities, inclusivity, sharing best practice and developing a structure for perinatal peer support across sectors to improve the access and quality of peer support services for every woman, partner and family.
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/peer-support-perinatal-mental-health-action-plan-2020-2023/>

**14 Trauma-informed practice toolkit**

As part of a suite of resources provided through the National Trauma Training Programme, the Scottish Government has published a trauma-informed practice toolkit, which has been developed to support all sectors of the workforce in planning and developing trauma informed services: [https://www.gov.scot/publications/trauma-informed-practice-toolkit-scotland/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.scot%2Fpublications%2Ftrauma-informed-practice-toolkit-scotland%2F&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7C13daba72f0594978aebf08d8e869406f%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637514886036063560%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=szjuONLY0dnGjh1rTc3SZ9FEWFH0hhgCuvrVdWb%2Fjvo%3D&reserved=0)

**15 Competition and Markets Authority examination of children’s social care provision across England, Scotland and Wales**

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), the UK’s competitions regulator, has launched an examination of children’s social care provision across England, Scotland and Wales. The study is set to examine the lack of availability and increasing costs in children’s social care provision, including children’s homes and fostering. It will also investigate concerns around high prices paid by local authorities and inadequate supply of appropriate placements for children in their care.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cma-launches-study-of-children-s-social-care-provision>

**16 Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day**

In support of Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day on 18th March, the Scottish Children’s Reporters Administration highlighted six case studies from their recently published research report.

<https://www.scra.gov.uk/2021/03/child-sexual-exploitation-awareness-day/>

**17 Closing the poverty related attainment gap**

The Scottish Government has published a progress report for 2016-2021 on its long-term commitment on closing the poverty related attainment gap, acknowledging the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on this aim: [https://www.gov.scot/publications/closing-poverty-related-attainment-gap-report-progress-2016-2021/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.scot%2Fpublications%2Fclosing-poverty-related-attainment-gap-report-progress-2016-2021%2F&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7Cbe55396ac4664d7975f308d8ed21e194%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637520077057983193%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=acrbpVgMsFGP1sVkdTz2og5M29tO2mO%2FmQiVS%2FW95U8%3D&reserved=0)

**18 Social work practice: domestic abuse, substance use and mental ill health**

Community Care Inform has provided a downloadable guide for social workers on working with domestic abuse, substance use and mental ill health. The guide: explores the prevalence of co-existing domestic abuse, substance use and mental ill health, and the impact of multiple parental difficulties; provides a list of indicators that a child is living with these three issues; and gives examples of conversations, case studies and practice tips.
<https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2021/03/15/social-workers-can-work-domestic-abuse-substance-use-mental-ill-health/>

**19 Signs of Safety and Contextual Safeguarding: Key Messages for Practice**

This briefing explores the relationship between Contextual Safeguarding and Signs of Safety – and ways that these two approaches can work together when safeguarding young people affected by extra-familial harm, as well as assessing and intervening with extrafamilial contexts and groups.

<https://mcusercontent.com/f5f7e75053b0b223588eeaa95/files/6921fc6d-97a5-434f-aad3-836e27d8e0ae/Key_Messages_Briefing_FINAL__CS_and_SoS.pdf>

To access this and more you can join the Contextual safeguarding network free.

<https://www.csnetwork.org.uk/en/join-the-network>

**20 The Independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (England) recruiting new members.**

Members of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel are responsible for looking at serious child safeguarding cases notified to the Panel to determine whether learning could be identified through further analysis or a national review. Responsibilities include leading reviews, supervising fieldwork, undertaking analysis and other activity supporting the Panel’s remit. Lastly, members are responsible for supporting the dissemination of learning identified by the Panel to those involved in child safeguarding.

<https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/appointment/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel-member/>

**Training, Learning Events and Resources**

**21 AoCPP events**

Association of Child Protection Professionals (formerly BASPCAN) is advertising a series of upcoming events including – NB some events may be for members only

* Early Child Abuse Detection Teams in Maternity Units: Prevent / Diagnose/Treat - Members meeting 1st April 12pm-1.30pm
Led by Dr Idoya Perez, Consultant Social Paediatrician. **Free to members**
* Engage Young People and the Importance of Considering Creative Therapy or Similar - Members meeting - 15th April 12pm-1.30pm
Led by Jo Wagsatff. **Free to members**
* **Advanced Level Masterclass:**

**Led by Prof Brid Featherstone on Child Poverty- 20th April**

* **Special Interest Group – Looked after Children and Care Leavers - first meeting led by Penny Earney - 27th April from 1pm-3pm.**
* Advanced Level Masterclass : Thinking about Communication and how it Triggers Challenging Behaviour – Thursday 29th April
Led by Dr April May Kitchener**.**
* Intermediate Level Masterclass : **Considering Pathways Toward Harmful Sexualised Behaviour**– Tuesday 25th May - 10am-1pm
Led by Steve Bore

Visit the events page on the website for more information.

<https://www.childprotectionprofessionals.org.uk/>

**22 Next steps for protecting children online**

This Westminster eForum policy conference takes place on Tuesday, 29th June, 2021 from 9am – 1pm. It will consider what more is required from policymakers, regulators and industry to protect children online and tackle online harms. Please note there is a fee to attend this event.

<https://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/book/Children-online-21>

**Research and Evidence Based Reports**

**23 From Silence to Recognition: Swedish social services and the handling of honor-based violence**

This paper published in the European Journal of Social Work seeks to identify the factors that affect social workers’ ability to work within the area of Honor Based Violence (HBV) and their experiences of their current work situation. Based on a qualitative approach using in-depth interviews with Swedish social workers, the study shows that HBV is not a new phenomenon in social work, but that unfamiliarity and a lack of legitimacy have made it difficult for social workers to deal with the issue.

<https://www.careknowledge.com/media/49867/from-silence-to-recognition-swedish-social-services-and-the-handling-of-honor-based-violence.pdf>

**Section 3 News and Opinion**

**24 In the media**

* BBC Newsround has published the results of a survey of over 2,000 children and young people from around the UK on how a year of coronavirus restrictions has affected them:

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/nfpahaz8or/newsround-survey](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.co.uk%2Fnews%2Fextra%2Fnfpahaz8or%2Fnewsround-survey&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7Cbe55396ac4664d7975f308d8ed21e194%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637520077057993184%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=kkPHm%2BG2%2B36%2BYfCw61kXMyoD%2B9PIPt9agwh4%2BqXgiRQ%3D&reserved=0)

* A review chaired by Scotland’s Lord Justice Clerk Lady Dorrian has recommended that a specialist trauma-informed court to deal with serious sexual offences should be created in Scotland, with lawyers who are trained in dealing with vulnerable witnesses. The report also proposes improvements to aspects of the Children's Hearings System including a focus on the adoption of trauma-informed practice and the nationwide rollout of training for specialist recorded interviewing of children.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/new-specialist-court-deal-serious-23749041>

* The Independent reports that Facebook has announced updates for Instagram to keep young people safer on the platform. The updates include: making it more difficult for adults to direct message teenagers; encouraging private accounts; and safety notices in Instagram’s direct messages.
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/instagram-suspicious-adults-messaging-children-b1817822.html>

# 25 Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill

On 17th March MSPs voted to pass the Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill in the Scottish Parliament. This will enable police and courts to ban suspected abusers from re-entering the home and from approaching or contacting the person at risk for a period of time to enable them to consider their longer-term options around safety and housing. It will also allow social landlords to end or transfer the tenancy of a perpetrator of domestic abuse to the victim.

# [https://www.gov.scot/news/more-powers-to-protect-domestic-abuse-victims/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.scot%2Fnews%2Fmore-powers-to-protect-domestic-abuse-victims%2F&data=04%7C01%7Csusan.mitchell%40strath.ac.uk%7Cbdf67d3ac66b4b5d2d0408d8ea049c9a%7C631e0763153347eba5cd0457bee5944e%7C0%7C0%7C637516652821080834%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=EhQFW4bN2CCAYvUyZ43MP5KiTQ2cGPTpap92n597YPc%3D&reserved=0)

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.