

## **Keeping Connected - The CPCScotland Weekly Bulletin**

### **Issue 3 - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

*Issued to support CPCs and partners during the COVID 19 Public Health Emergency.*

I hope you are keeping well and that you were able to have some down time over the Easter weekend despite the challenging circumstances. Can I ask you to please share any examples of resources or innovative practice that you think may be of interest to CPCScotland members so that your information and creativity can continue to support us all at this difficult time. We are also interested to hear of any emerging issues and challenges you are experiencing at a local level. This will help inform our ongoing dialogue with Scottish Government and other national partners. Please keep in touch:- [cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk](mailto:cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk)

Alan Small; Chair Child Protection Committees Scotland

#### **1 Public Protection, Risk & Vulnerability Briefing Paper**

SOLACE have prepared a paper outlining how local authorities and their partners, led by Public Protection Chief Officer Groups, are taking a “whole systems approach” to protecting our most vulnerable people during COVID-19. It identifies changes to governance structures, guidance and practice that have been put in place and sets out proposals on the use of data and information to inform responses and decision making during COVID-19. Chairs of CPCs who have not received a copy of this briefing can request this from their Local Authority Chief Executive’s Department.

#### **2 Coronavirus (Scotland) legislation**

On 6<sup>th</sup> April the Scottish Government issued guidance on looked after children and children’s hearings following the introduction of emergency Coronavirus legislation. The guidance document, which is aimed at stakeholders, gives an overview of key provisions in the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020.

<https://www.chip-partnership.co.uk/2020/04/06/guidance-coronavirus-scotland-act-2020/>

The Care Inspectorate have also produced a briefing on the implications of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 aimed at providers of social care services.

[https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/coronavirus/Briefing\\_note\\_for\\_providers\\_Coronavirus\\_Scotland\\_Bill.pdf](https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/coronavirus/Briefing_note_for_providers_Coronavirus_Scotland_Bill.pdf)

### **3 Scotland's national wellbeing survey for children aged 8-14**

The Scottish Children's Parliament has launched a survey exploring the impact of the coronavirus crisis on children in Scotland. All 8-14 year olds living in Scotland are invited to complete the survey which is available at the link below: <https://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/our-work/children-and-coronavirus/>

### **4 Online Safety**

#### **#KeepKidsSafeC19**

Over the past week CPCScotland have been posting messages on twitter with a focus on online safety under the banner #KeepKidsSafeC19

Eg *'Parents and carers can keep kids safe from an increased risk of online abuse during#[covid19](#). It's okay to be curious and ask questions about what your children are doing and who they're talking to online #KeepKidsSafeC19. More info from <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk> '*

Please feel free to share / use on your own twitter feeds.

#### **'Get Help or Get Caught'**

On Tuesday 14th April, Police Scotland launched their online Child Sexual Abuse Campaign - Get Help or Get Caught. A copy of the letter to stakeholders is embedded below and the toolkit is attached to this e-mail. The campaign film can be viewed on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/wC50P-yLyKk> .



Get Help or Get Caught 2020 Campa

### **5 Guide for Victims and Survivors or Domestic Abuse**

SafeLives, a UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, have produced a guide for victims and survivors of domestic abuse during covid-19. <https://safelives.org.uk/staying-safe-during-covid-19-guidance>

### **6 Covid-19 Pandemic – Ethical Guidance for Social Workers**

The British Association of Social Workers has produced Ethical Guidance for Social Workers, which aims to respond to the very specific circumstances generated by COVID-19 which disrupts health, care, safeguarding and support services. <https://www.basw.co.uk/covid-19-pandemic—ethical-guidance-social-workers>

### **7 Public Protection Bulletin - Glasgow**

Along with other areas Glasgow continue to produce a Public Protection Bulletin with national and local information relevant to the current situation. Issue 4 is now available for use by other CPCs who wish to adapt for their area. Please contact [cpscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk](mailto:cpscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk) if you would like a copy.

## 8 In the news

### ➤ **Scottish Government Food Fund**

On 5<sup>th</sup> April the Scottish Government announced £30 million of new investment from the Scottish Government Food Fund, part of the £350 million Communities Fund, to help those most in need who are unable to access food as a result of the coronavirus public health emergency, including families with children who are eligible for free school meals, and pregnant women. <https://www.gov.scot/news/coronavirus-food-fund/>

### ➤ **Funding to support those affected by alcohol and drug use**

On 6<sup>th</sup> April the Scottish Government announced extra support for people affected by alcohol and drug use during the coronavirus pandemic – this includes help through the Supporting Families Fund, which can provide discretionary emergency funding.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-people-affected-by-alcohol-and-drug-use/>

### ➤ **Call for emergency child benefit increase**

On 6<sup>th</sup> April a coalition of children’s charities and related organisations from across the UK have joined forces to demand an emergency rise to child benefit payments of £10 per child per week to help low-income families meet the unexpected costs of having children at home while schools are closed.

[https://cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/page/Letter to Chancellor child benefit.pdf?token=qg6QcfIW](https://cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/page/Letter%20to%20Chancellor%20child%20benefit.pdf?token=qg6QcfIW)

### ➤ **UN rights experts call for urgent action to mitigate heightened risks of violence against children**

On 7<sup>th</sup> April United Nations rights experts appealed to States to boost child protection measures to help safeguard the welfare of millions of children worldwide who may be more exposed to violence, sale, trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/news/un-human-rights-experts-call-urgent-action-mitigate-heightened-risks-violence-against-children>

### ➤ **Uptake of school places for vulnerable ‘very low’**

In an interview with Tes Scotland, Children and Young People’s Commissioner for Scotland Bruce Adamson warned that the uptake for at-risk children who are entitled to school places during the coronavirus pandemic has been very low: <https://www.tes.com/news/uptake-school-places-vulnerable-very-low>

*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 [cpscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk](mailto:cpscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk)*