PAPER FOR CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES SCOTLAND
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE

September 2018

Introduction

Outlined below is a summary of Scottish Government policy developments and relevant information regarding child protection. It covers developments that have taken place since the last update.

Update on Workstreams of Interest to Child Protection:

*The National Child Protection Leadership Group*

The National Child Protection Leadership Group last met on 27 June. The group considered a draft work-plan and agreed to establish a sub-group to identify priorities and any gaps in the current plan. The subgroup will also consider how the Leadership Group should communicate priorities, timescales and progress to CPCs and other stakeholders. A similar sub-group was established and tasked with the development of a programme for future COLE sessions including topics, potential speakers and how to improve attendance at future events. Both subgroups will present their initial thoughts at the next Leadership Group meeting on 2 October. Anne Houston is a member of the Leadership Group and COLE subgroup and represents CPC interests.

Minutes from the Group’s October meeting and last meeting on 27 June will be made available on the Scottish Government website.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact Susan Downes on 0131 244 7664 or susan.downes@gov.scot
Implementing the Children’s aspects of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015

The first annual progress report of Scotland’s Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy was published in June 2018, setting out the progress that had been made during the first year of implementation of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy.

Implementation of the 18 specific children’s actions within the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy is overseen by the multi-agency Child Trafficking Strategy Group (CTSG), which last met on 18 July 2018.

Key developments from the CTSG’s work referenced within the annual progress report include the publication of revised age assessment guidance and the taking forward of research looking at the presence of children and young people who have been trafficked and establish their routes to arrival in Scotland.

Following the publication of the UK Government report on the National Referral Mechanism pilot and UK work underway to develop a digital platform, a meeting of Scottish stakeholders (many of whom are part of the CTSG) took place on 30 August 2018 to discuss the NRM and how it could be improved.

For awareness - CPC Scotland are already contributing and represented on the Child Trafficking Strategy Group

For further information, please contact Lucy Smith on 0131 244 6437 or lucy.smith3@gov.scot

Child Sexual Exploitation

The Chair of the National CSE Group attended the CPIP Leadership Group meeting on 27 June 2018.

A subgroup of the National CSE Group met on 21 May 2018 to consider CSE indicators. The subgroup met again on 21 August, focusing on the Care Inspectorate’s recently published Quality Improvement Framework, and how the indicators in the QIF could be used as suitable proxies for monitoring CSE across Scotland.

The next meeting of the National CSE Group will be held on 10 September. Discussions will include updates on the CSE indicators work, links and cross-over with the Expert Group on Preventing Sexual Offending involving Children and Young People, and developing regional workshops across Scotland in collaboration with the CTSG.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact Lucy Smith on 0131 244 6437 or Lucy.smith3@gov.scot
Child Internet Safety

Work is continuing to implement actions within the National Action Plan on Internet Safety for Children and Young People and teams are working jointly across Government to fulfill our ambition for Scotland to be a world leader in cyber resilience.

Earlier this year the Scottish Government attended a meeting of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) in July, to hear more about the UK Government’s plans to develop UKCCIS such that it covers all users of the internet, not only children. UKCCIS will become the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS), and the DCMS (the lead UK department) is actively seeking applications for membership for the Executive Board from suitable organisations. The Scottish Government will retain a seat on the Executive Board, and we are keen to influence UK Government policy in this area where possible, which in turn will effectively contribute towards improving internet safety within Scotland.

We held a meeting with stakeholders on 31 July 2018, bringing individuals and organisations together to look at the National Action Plan for Internet Safety, and consider whether we are focusing on the right actions. We received a variety of comments within the feedback, which will guide our next steps.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact Lucy Smith on 0131 244 6437 or Lucy.Smith3@gov.scot

Neglect

Amending the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937

On 22 August the Scottish Government launched a consultation to seek stakeholders’ views on possible changes to the criminal offence of child cruelty. The Scottish Government is working with the CPC Scotland Neglect subgroup to organise a national event during autumn for practitioners to discuss the proposed changes in the consultation. The Consultation will remain open until 14 November 2018.

For further information please contact Stine Nielsen on 0131 244 8290 or Stine.Nielsen@gov.scot

The Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC)

The Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC) brings together the Early Years Collaborative and the Raising Attainment for All Programme to deliver quality improvement (QI) throughout a child’s journey. This aims to reinforce the link between children having positive experiences in the early years and educational attainment.
The CYPIC remains closely aligned with the Maternity and Children Quality Improvement Collaborative where the focus is on maternity, neonatal and pediatric healthcare settings.

2017 CYPIC Learning Session
Last year’s CYPIC learning session – Working Together to Improve Outcomes - took place on 21 and 22 November 2017 at the SEC in Glasgow. Over 700 practitioners, teachers and professionals from Community Planning Partners (CPPs) and National (third sector) Partners attended –representing early years, health, education, police, social work and third sector services.
Across the two days there were a range of excellent quality improvement projects that were showcased, with informative and thought provoking breakouts and a number of inspiring and influential speakers. For more detail in relation to this event please visit http://www.cypic.co.uk/learning-session/

2017 Quality Improvement Awards Ceremony
Following a very successful, inaugural awards in 2016, The Scottish Government and Healthcare Improvement Scotland again supported the 2017 awards programme dedicated to Quality Improvement. The awards were held on the evening of 21 November 2017 at the Glasgow Science Centre and received 140 entries in 10 categories. These awards celebrated and showcased quality improvement practice that taking place across Scotland.
In terms of leadership representation, the Chief Executive of each Local Authority, NHS Board, Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and Third Sector organisation with shortlists from their area were been invited to attend, and were on a top table with senior civil servants.
Very positive feedback was received on both the Learning Session and the Awards: “A great way of highlighting important and life-changing work”
For more information on 2017 winners go to Winners/Shortlisters (http://www.cypic.co.uk/2017-winners/).

2018 Learning Session
The 2018 Learning Session will take place on 13 and 14 November 2018, with a working theme of "collaboration for improvement throughout the child's journey – presentation and early intervention and a focus on attainment". As it’s the Year of Young People, we aim to involve young people throughout the event.

2018 QI Awards
The 2018 Awards programme was launched on 14 May and invites applications until early July 2018. The awards ceremony will be held on 13 November 2018. The Awards showcase the diverse range of quality improvement practice that has been taking place across Scotland to make services the best they can be for babies, children, young people and their families in all aspects of their lives

If you would like to discuss further contact Katie Hislop on 0131 244 1460 or Katie.Hislop@gov.scot

Equally Safe
The Equally Safe Joint Strategic Board, which is co-chaired by the Equalities Secretary and CoSLA Community Wellbeing Lead, last met on 15 November 2017 to discuss the findings from two participation projects, one with women and one with children and young people, and the revised draft delivery plan.

The date for the next Joint Strategic Board has been confirmed as 2 October 2018.

The Equally Safe delivery plan was published on 24 November 2017 and is available to view here: http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/11/5647.

The first annual report of progress against the Equally Safe delivery plan will be published this winter.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact Leonie Stone on 0131 244 7543 or leonie.stone@gov.scot.

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

We continue to implement Scotland’s national action plan to prevent and eradicate FGM, which was published in 2016.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the Unit via Leonie Stone on 0131 244 7543 or leonie.stone@gov.scot.

**The Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill**

The Education and Skills Committee decided in November 2017 that until another draft Code of Practice was developed and submitted for their consideration, the Bill was to be paused at Stage 1.

The Deputy First Minister has committed to proceeding with the development of the Code of Practice with the Getting It Right For Every Child Practice Development Panel which was established in January 2018, independently chaired by Ian Welsh OBE, Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Alliance, and continuing to take forward Named Person Service to ensure children and families get the support they require.

The Panel will ensure that the Code of Practice, Statutory Guidance and other support materials are workable, comprehensive and user friendly. Subsequent to completion of the Bill’s Parliamentary process, there will be a formal public consultation on the revised statutory guidance for Parts 4 and 5 of the 2014 Act and the Code of Practice on information sharing.

The Panel have developed a draft Code of Practice for information sharing and anticipate to finalise this draft as soon as practicably possible. The Panel have developed an extensive stakeholder engagement and communications plan along with a consultation exercise which will commence shortly. The Chair wrote to the
Deputy First Minister in July 2018 with the recommendations from the Panel to report back with the draft Code of Practice later in the Autumn as opposed to the original September timescale. The Panel made this recommendation to ensure a wide and meaningful engagement and consultation process would be put in place. The Deputy First Minister was happy with this approach and wrote to the Committee informing them of this change.

During the development of the authoritative draft Code of Practice we will continue to strengthen implementation of the Getting it Right for Every Child policy. The Scottish Government will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure that every opportunity is taken to improve the quality of service which children, young people and families experience from public services across Scotland.

There will be work at national and organisational levels to identify what may need to change in current and developing practice to support the amended legislative provisions when they are commenced. This will include;

- national support to strengthen Getting It Right For Every Child practice
- national and local communications to inform and engage parents, children and young people and practitioners.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact the Information Sharing Bill Team on 0131 244 7214 or Phil Canavan via Philip.Canavan@gov.scot.

**Supporting Disabled Children, Young People and their Families Information resource**

The Scottish Government has committed to developing a resource to Support Disabled Children, Young People and their Families. This stems from SNP 2016 manifesto commitments to ensure disabled children have the best start in life.

The resource is rights based and has been developed through a process of co-production. It aims to provide clear, accessible information on national policies, entitlements, rights and the different options for support available. The guides to policies, legislation and service provision are interspersed with examples and real life case studies to showcase best practice.

The resource launched for consultation on 6 June 2018 which will run for the full three month period. The consultation document includes content that has been gathered from across Scottish Government and from stakeholder engagement. It is also available in British Sign Language and Easy Read.

We asked disabled and deaf young people about the best way to involve them in policy development. A report has been published on the outcomes of this event and its recommendations are being taken forward. On the back of this a young person’s forum has been created. They will feed into the development of the resource.

As part of the consultation, we plan to hold a number of consultation events in partnership with our stakeholders, to engage directly with disabled children, young
people and their families. These events will be as accessible and geographically diverse as possible, in order to gather a wide range of views and opinions.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact either Gillian Heavie, Inclusion and Participation of Disabled Children and Young People in Scottish Policy on 0131 244 6383 gillian.heavie@gov.scot

Children’s Hearings:

“Oversee delivery of the work plan to implement the recommendations from The Role of the Solicitor in the Children’s Hearing System study. “

Solicitors have been invited to attend three local multi-agency development sessions (Glasgow NE) with a view to strengthening collaborative working and enhancing understanding of roles and responsibilities within the Children’s Hearing system.

The group have met in June and extended their peer group to include Scottish Legal Aid Board, Clan Childlaw, Scottish Child Law Centre, Social Work Scotland, CHS and solicitors from private practice to consider CPD training for solicitors. This work continues.

There are approx. 25 new solicitors per year apply to the Legal Aid Board for legal aid to address Children’s Hearings. Any CPD production would hope to include existing solicitors also.

- Multi-agency development session – September / October
- Material for content continues to be developed.
- Feedback / update to be provided to the CHIP national partnership group (CHS, SCRA, CELCIS and SG) at their next meeting (within the next quarter).

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“Consider whether the speed and quality of the process can be improved – especially for the youngest children - with an emphasis on timely processing of cases where grounds are sent for proof.”

A Better Hearings sub-group (CHIP) has been created and first met on (27th August). They will take on the progression of all matters to do with Blueprint and Better Hearings in an effort to drive improvement across locality areas.

- Blueprint will be available on-line within the next quarter (possibly on CHIP website, but not yet agreed)
- Further engagement and implementation work is being planned

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Continue influencing work regarding the treatment of 16 and 17 year old children within the care and justice system, to introduce practice and behavioral improvements, and will consider whether further legislative change is necessary.
The SLWG had hoped to have a final draft report to CHIP by June 2018. However, we recognise there is further work to do between now and the end of 2018. The recommendation to CHIP was to extend their timescales (as below).

a) **By December 2018** Further development of a paper proposing the changes required

b) Consider informal discussions with groups of young people on the outline proposals (Young Scot/National care Council/ICR Engagement Officers/Secure Care Board STARR group/Our Hearings Our Voice/Scottish Youth Parliament/Young people in Polmont etc). Carefully documenting the debates, views and discussions for summary to CHIP/CPIP to help guide us to the next phase

c) Complete a full mapping of legislative consequential of the proposed changes and areas of conflict against ECHR

d) Prepare initial equalities, privacy and children’s rights assessments

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**Children’s Services Planning**

Part 3 of the Children and Young People’s Act (Scotland) 2014 seeks to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, focused on securing quality and value through preventative approaches and dedicated to safeguarding, supporting and promoting child wellbeing. It aims to ensure that any action to meet needs is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, action is taken to prevent needs arising. Overall responsibility for children’s services planning rests clearly with a local authority and its relevant health board (i.e. the territorial health board in whose area the local authority falls), with other members of the Community Planning Partnership, and some national public bodies, either consulted with, or obliged to participate, at various stages of the plan’s development and review.

The Children’s Services Plan, prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 3 of the Act, and were submitted on 1 April 2017. Subsequently, a report on how the local area has delivered on its plan must be published, as soon as practicable after the end of each one-year period (April to March).

**Current activity**

Children’s Services Plans have identified local priorities and actions and, one year on, the Scottish Government will engage in a dialogue with Community Planning Partnerships to hear what has worked well, how getting it right for every child has been implemented and where further support may be needed, and whether there are
consistent themes and priorities emerging at national level. The programme of engagement with Community Planning Partnerships key aims:

- to identify good practice/initiatives with a view to sharing those with other localities;
- to identify challenges for partners in delivering children services and improving outcomes;
- to inform effective and targeted deployment of existing Scottish Government improvement programmes and data tools (such as Children and Young People’s Improvement Collaborative and Realigning Children’s Services) according to local requirements; and
- to gain feedback on the statutory guidance for the Children Services Plans and provide support on development and implementation of the plans.
- to explore ways of improving and streamlining planning and reporting across education, health and children services.

In advance of the visits the Children’s Services Plans and one year on reports are being reviewed with a view to producing summary reports. These reports will be shared with each local area.

The visits will start in October 2018 and run through to May 2019. The programme of visits will be shared in September once all confirmed. The SG will hold a Strategic Leads events at the end of the programme of visits to feedback on the recurring themes and discuss the review of the Statutory Guidance.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact Hannah Keates on 0131 244 7973 or Hannah.Keates@gov.scot

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry Phase 2 of hearings began on Tuesday 28 November 2017 and is continuing into the summer of 2018. During this phase the Inquiry is examining evidence it has gathered, researched and analysed relating to residential child care establishments run by Catholic Orders. On 23 October the Inquiry will begin hearing evidence relating to Phase 3 of its investigations into residential child care establishments run by non-religious and voluntary organisations.

Phase 3 hearings will begin with a case study about residential child care establishments run by:

- Quarriers, including:
  - Quarriers Village
  - Seafield School Ardrossan (formerly known as Southannan, Fairlie, Largs)
  - Overbridge, previously at Drumbreck Road, Glasgow and latterly at St Andrews Drive, Glasgow
- The Aberlour Child Care Trust, including:
  - Aberlour Orphanage, Aberlour
  - The Dowans, Aberlour
  - Aberlour Children’s Home, Quarry Hill, Keith
o The Sycamore Cluster, Fife
• Barnardo’s, including:
  o Glasclune, North Berwick
  o Balcary, Hawick
  o Tyneholm, Pencaitland, East Lothian
  o Craigerne, Peebles
  o Blackford Road/South Oswald Road, Edinburgh
  o Winton Drive, Glasgow
  o Thorntoun School, Cross House, near Kilmarnock

For queries relating directly to the Inquiry, please contact: information@childabuseinquiry.scot

**Preventing Child Deaths**

Officials continue to work towards setting up a system that will use evidence to help prevent child deaths wherever possible. They are looking to use all available information to prioritise prevention activity whilst simultaneously improving understanding and data through ensuring a review takes place into the deaths of all children up to the date of their 18th birthday and for care leavers in receipt of aftercare or continuing care at the time of their death, up to the date of their 26th birthday. The aim is also to engage with bereaved families to improve engagement with them and involve them in the process.

A pilot is being run in NHS Lothian and it is anticipated pilots in two other areas will begin later this year. Any comments from CPC members about the ongoing work would be welcome.

If you would like to discuss further please contact Mary Sloan on 0131 244 4089 or Mary.Sloan@gov.scot.

**Unaccompanied Children in Scotland**

Unaccompanied asylum seeking and possibly trafficked children are deemed looked after children in Scotland and as such are eligible for all measures of protection and assistance to aid their safeguarding and recovery. The Scottish Government will publish a consultation on section 11 of the Act which seeks to understand the role, responsibilities and functions of the independent child trafficking guardian. This consultation will be published in autumn 2018.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact Chantelle Lalli on 0131 244 0070 or Chantelle.Lalli@gov.scot.

**Expert Group on Preventing Sexual Offending involving children and young people**
The Expert Group on Preventing Sexual Offending involving Children and Young People has been meeting since January 2018. It met for the fifth time on 29 August 2018. The Group is chaired by Catherine Dyer, former Crown Agent, and comprises a number of public and third sector organisations involved in education, health and justice, and members hold a wide range of views. The Group’s remit is to identify fresh actions to prevent harmful sexual behavior and sexual crime involving children and young people, both for those children and young people who cause harm, and for those who have been caused harm, and to better mitigate the effects it causes. The focus of the Group is currently on primary prevention, and the Chair is keen to encourage the Group to describe the “as is” scenario, before moving onto developing what could (or should) exist in the future.

The Group will hold a Sounding Board with a wider group of stakeholders on 24 October.

If you would like to discuss further please contact: Lucy Smith on 0131 244 6437/ Lucy.Smith3@gov.scot.

**Learning and Development Standards for Foster Carers**

Since the last update to CPCScotland the Independent Care Review journey is underway and will see a series of deep dive work streams and the established expert stakeholder group to review foster, kinship and adoption allowances. This work is on-going and will continue into 2019. Following the findings of the independent Care Review and the review of Care Allowances we will consider whether the learning and development Standard for foster care can contribute to future policy which better meets the needs of children with experience of care. Until then, no further work will be undertaken on the Standard, but all updates will be published on the Scottish Government website on the Looked After children pages: https://beta.gov.scot/policies/looked-after-children/foster-care/.

If you have any significant work underway that you think would be relevant to the Scottish Government, please feel free to share this information with us at any time.

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Force/Organisation: Scottish Government