



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PUBLIC URGED TO KEEP EYES AND EARS OPEN FOR CHILDREN AT RISK DURING C-19**

With the closure of schools and nurseries during the Covid-19 crisis, a national child protection group is urging everyone to keep their eyes and ears open for children who may be at risk during this time.

Child Protection Committees Scotland, a national grouping of child protection professionals, supports all efforts by the Scottish Government, local authorities and the third sector to keep children safe from harm during the enforced break in normal routine.

The Outer Hebrides Child Protection Committee recognises the impact a significant change in day-to-day life may have on vulnerable children.

“Schools and nurseries across the Western Isles play a central role in contributing to the safety of all local children, especially those who may be at risk of abuse and neglect. When children are not at school we lose the ability to monitor their wellbeing on a daily basis, and we are making every effort possible to support those children and families who may need it during these demanding times.”

However, The Comhairle stresses the need for the public to join efforts to protect potentially vulnerable children during the Coronavirus outbreak. Tam Baillie the Independent Chair of the Committee urges everyone to play a part to keep local children safe.

“The onus of care has now shifted from schools to local communities, and we’re asking everyone to keep their eyes and ears open. Local people always provide a significant protective factor for children and that’s even more important at a time when families may be under significant additional stress. If you’re at all worried about a child’s welfare, it’s much better to say something than do nothing.”

The Comhairle urges everyone to take action if they’re concerned about a child or children. If you’re worried don’t hesitate to contact the social work department on 01851 822749, or call the police on 101.

For further information, or to request an interview with Tam Baillie, please contact:-  
Gordon McKay, Co-ordinator and Development Officer, Tel No. 01851 822737