Child Protection

Consultation on duty to notify police about human trafficking and exploitation

A consultation on the duty to notify the police about victims of human trafficking or exploitation has been launched by the Scottish Government. Section 38 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 places a duty on Scottish public authorities to notify the Chief Constable of Police Scotland about a person who is, or appears to be, a victim of a section 1 (human trafficking) or section 4 (slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour) offence. The consultation closes on 6 September.

Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy progress review published

A review of progress in implementing the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy has been published by the Scottish Government. The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 required Ministers to develop and publish a Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy, which was subsequently published in 2017. The second annual report sets out progress in implementing the strategy in 2018 to 2019 and highlights a range of achievements in made across the action areas.
Call for evidence on proposed FGM legislation

A call for evidence on proposed legislation to protect women and girls from female genital mutilation (FGM) has been launched in the Scottish Parliament. The Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill will create a new FGM Protection Order and provide for Ministers to issue statutory guidance about FGM. The Equalities and Human Rights Committee is seeking initial views on the Bill by 30 August.

Campaign urges people to keep ‘Eyes Open’ during summer holidays

A new campaign to encourage everyone to keep their ‘Eyes Open’ for children at risk during the summer holidays has been launched. Child Protection Committees Scotland is urging people to be extra observant to ensure potentially vulnerable people are protected while schools break for summer.

Equal Protection from Assault Bill passes Stage 2

A Bill designed to protect children from smacking has been agreed at Stage 2 in the Scottish Parliament. The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill aims to give children equal protection from physical punishment by removing the defence of “reasonable chastisement”. Stage 3 debate and vote will take place after the Summer recess.

Concerns that domestic abuse information not being shared under GDPR

Less information about those who have committed or are affected by domestic abuse is being shared since the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force, according to concerns reported by Third Force News. Groups such as Scottish Women’s Aid have raised concerns that there is a reluctance among police officers at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences to share the level of information they did previously.

Early Years and Childcare

Early years first aid award recognised in Scotland

An award recognising excellence in first aid in early years settings has been endorsed by the Scottish Government, Nursery World reports. Millie’s Mark, initially set up in England by Millie’s and the National Day Nurseries Association in 2016, is achieved when all staff working with children are trained in paediatric first aid and remain fully up to date with all related policies and procedures.

Songs and nursery rhymes may help develop maths skills, study finds

Singing songs and rhymes with children may be more effective for developing maths skills than counting, according to a study by the Liverpool Early Number Skills Project, Nursery World reports. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the project is
examining the influence of the home learning environment, language and cognitive abilities on early number skills. Researchers found that code-focused practices were better predictors of early number skills than meaning-focused activities or activities focusing on number or quantity. They suggested that interactions focused on discussing sounds in words or identifying letters might develop skills by helping children get to grips with the idea that symbols have meaning.

**Website supports physical development opportunities for under 5s**

A website offering advice on delivering physical development opportunities for children in the early years has been launched by Loughborough University’s School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences. The website provides information on the core principles underpinning physical development in under 5s, including four videos split into core skills and activities.

**UNICEF ranks UK among worst for family-friendly policies**

The UK ranks among the worst for family-friendly policies among the high and middle-income nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and EU, according to a UNICEF report. The analysis ranks nations on indicators such as paid leave for parents, universal childcare and breastfeeding breaks. The report suggests that Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Estonia and Portugal offer the best family-friendly policies among 31 rich countries with available data, while Switzerland, Greece, Cyprus, the UK and Ireland rank the lowest. Parents in the UK were most likely to cite cost as the reason they do not use childcare more.

**Childminder numbers continue to fall (England)**

The number of childminders registered in England has fallen by 9,000 since 2015, according to new Ofsted statistics. There were 39,000 childminders registered with Ofsted on 31 March 2019, with numbers falling over an extended period. However, the number of places on the Early Years Register and the proportion of childcare providers judged good or outstanding has remained broadly stable.

**Education**

**Refreshed guidance on the promotion and management of attendance**

Refreshed guidance for education authorities on the promotion and management of school attendance has been published by the Scottish Government. Included, Engaged and Involved Part 1 promotes a “positive approach” to attendance promotion and suggests that staff in early learning and childcare settings may also find the content useful “as an indicator of good practice in the promotion of attendance and the prevention and reduction of absence”.

**Strengthened guidance on restraint and seclusion due by Spring 2020**

Strengthened guidance on the use of restraint and seclusion in schools is to be published by Spring 2020, the Scottish Government has confirmed. In a submission
to the Scottish Parliament, Education Secretary John Swinney said a short life working group will be established to strengthen Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2. Sharing good practice and guidance implementation events will take place in October 2019 and February/March 2020 respectively. The short life working group will come together 12 months after implementation to review impact. This follows continued consideration of a petition by Beth Morrison.

**Plan to improve sustainability learning published by Scottish Government**

A plan to increase the amount of learning time spent on sustainable skills has been published by the Scottish Government. Learning for Sustainability – Vision 2030+ gives effect to recommendations in the final report of the Learning for Sustainability Implementation Group. The Care Inspectorate is included as a key stakeholder in the plan and is a delivery partner in relation to recommendations on the dissemination of learning for sustainability practice in early learning and childcare.

**Health**

**FASD Hub launched by Adoption UK Scotland**

A new service to support parents and carers of children and young people who were, or suspected of having been, exposed to alcohol during pregnancy has been launched by Adoption UK Scotland. The Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Hub Scotland offers information, support and training to relevant professionals who support these families affected by FASD.

**Justice**

**CYCJ updates Guide to Youth Justice in Scotland**

The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ) has updated its Guide to Youth Justice in Scotland. The resource is aimed at practitioners and managers who work with children and young people who offend or who are at risk of offending, as well as academics, educators and anyone else with an interest in youth and criminal justice.

**Scottish Government responds to review of mental health support for young people in custody**

Plans to address challenges raised by the independent review of mental health support for young people in custody have been announced by the Scottish Government. In a statement to Parliament, Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf announced a new action group to oversee progress against the recommendations made by the Expert Review of the Provision of Mental Health Services for young people entering and in custody at HMP YOI Polmont. In addition, the Health and Justice Collaboration Improvement Board is exploring how public bodies can make sure decisions are as fully informed as possible; a new Scottish Prison Service strategy for health and wellbeing is to be developed; and the National Suicide Prevention Risk Management Group is to develop a self-harm policy. My Yousaf also
confirmed that concerns regarding information sharing between courts, social work, secure care units and the prison estate will be reflected on as part of the work.

**Learning Disability**

**App on sexual health for young people with autism and learning disabilities**

A new app to advise young people with learning disabilities and autism on sexual health has been launched. Be Safe Have Fun, developed by CKUK Common Knowledge and the Scottish Drug Forum, guides young people over the age of 14 to ask themselves some questions before they get involved in any sexual activity.

**Looked After and Accommodated Children**

**New statistics on school leaver destinations and education outcomes for LAC**

New statistics on follow-up leaver destinations and education outcomes for looked after children (LAC) have been published by the Scottish Government. According to the figures, 93.2% of 2017/18 school leavers had a positive destination nine months after leaving school, while the proportion of looked after children in positive destinations nine months after leaving school was 76%.

**Over 70 advanced payments for survivors of abuse in care**

Over 70 payments have been approved for survivors of abuse in care, the Scottish Government has confirmed. In total, 71 applications under the Advanced Payment Scheme have been now approved, with a further 52 applications being considered. Applicants will receive a flat-rate £10,000 payment under the scheme to provide acknowledgement for those who were abused in care in Scotland and who are terminally ill or aged 70 or over.

**Mental Health**

**Holyrood event on social media and children’s mental health**

An event on social media and children’s mental health is to be hosted by Holyrood on 9 October. The Edinburgh event will look at evidence on the impact of social media on children and how to nurture positive relationships with the online world.

**Social Work**

**Reducing poverty should be part of everyday social work, says CELCIS Policy Lead**

Reducing poverty should be part of everyday social work practice, according to Dr Louise Hill, Policy Lead for the Centre for Excellence for Children’s Care and Protection (CELCIS). Writing in a blog for Children 1st, Dr Hill questions whether poverty has become the “elephant in the room” in social work and suggests that during a recent stakeholder roundtable there was “an acknowledgement that it was
time again to ensure that reducing poverty should, and must, be part of everyday social work practice for children, their families, and our communities”.

**Report from Social Work Scotland Annual Conference**

Social Work Scotland has published its Annual Conference Report for 2019. This year’s event took place across 12 – 13 June, with speakers including Health Secretary Jeane Freeman and Care Inspectorate Chief Executive Peter Macleod.

**Iriss highlights case studies to mark Refugee Week**

A series of case studies to mark Refugee Week (17 – 21 June) have been highlighted by Iriss. The case studies, produced to celebrate community social work in Scotland, explore issues such as asylum seeking young people and an Asylum and Roma Team anti-poverty initiative.

**Other**

**Minutes from recent meeting of GIRFEC National Implementation Support Group**

Minutes from a recent meeting of the GIRFEC National Implementation Support Group have been published by the Scottish Government. The minutes relate to a meeting on 17 January, including details of an update from the Chair of the GIRFEC Practice Development Panel.

**NHS Chief Executive and Director General of Health and Social Care appointed**

Malcolm Wright has been appointed as Chief Executive of NHS Scotland and Director General of Health and Social Care at the Scottish Government. Mr Wright carried out the role on an interim basis since the departure of Paul Gray in February.

**Audit Scotland reports on enabling digital government in Scotland**

A report on enabling digital government has been published by Audit Scotland. The report suggests good progress had been made on the ambition to spread digital working across government and public bodies have been helped to collaborate with UK tech companies. A new assurance framework has reduced the risks associated with past public sector IT projects, but a shortage of staff and digital skills has prevented lessons being shared as widely as they might’ve been.
Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning children and young people.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from Newsdirect, Community Care, Children & Young People Now and ISD Scotland.

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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