

## **ScotPHN Team Bulletin – 012**

Welcome to the twelfth 'ScotPHN team' bulletin. Please read, cascade and respond [via reply email](#) as appropriate and as time allows. We also welcome notification of potential content/information for future bulletins.

### **Scottish COVID-19 Contact Tracing Programme**

Weekly updates are now available from the Tracing Programme. Further information can be found on the [PHS website](#) or to receive weekly, Monday updates, contact [PHS.COVID-19ContactTracingProgramme@phs.scot](mailto:PHS.COVID-19ContactTracingProgramme@phs.scot)

### **Public Health Scotland Covid-19 Data Dashboard**

Public Health Scotland now have daily updates on coronavirus figures and cases, available on their [dashboard](#).

## **Public Health Scotland Publications**

### **Transport use, health and health inequalities**

- The impact of measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. A rapid review of evidence in support of a health inequalities impact assessment; and
- The impact of measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 – Briefing

The evidence and briefing papers cover:

- Why transport is important for health and wellbeing;
- How COVID-19 influenced transport use and attitudes in Scotland from the implementation of lockdown until the beginning of September. It also looks at the implications of these changes for health, wellbeing and health inequalities; and
- Recommendations for actions to support future decision-making

➤ [Read both transport, health and inequalities reports](#)

## Scottish Government publications

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues - evidence on children, schools, early learning and childcare settings and transmission from COVID-19 - summary report](#)

Summary report of the evidence on children, schools, early learning and childcare settings and transmission from COVID-19.

- [Access the report](#)

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): mental health tracker study - wave 1 report](#)

The Scottish Government mental health tracker study runs from May 2020 to May 2021. Wave one reports on data collected in the period 28 May to 21 June, and includes a range of mental health outcomes and other contextual factors.

Key findings from this first report are that young adults (18-29 years), women, individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions, and individuals in the lower socio-economic group consistently reported worse mental health outcomes.

There is also data around suicidal thoughts with around 10% of all respondents reporting suicidal thoughts within the week prior to questionnaire; and for young adults (18-29 years) around one in five (21%) reporting suicidal thoughts within that week

Access the report: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-covid-19-scovid-mental-health-tracker-study-wave-1-report/>

Data from wave two of the study is currently being analysed and data collection for wave three is underway.

### [Rights of the Child – Updated report](#)

The Scottish Government has updated their report on the 11 recommendations cited by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and how these are being upheld in Scotland throughout the current pandemic. A statement, dated 2 October, can be accessed [here](#).

### Child Protection

The Scottish Government have published a factsheet on 'Physical punishment and discipline of children: how the law is changing'.

This factsheet explains the changes in Scottish law to physically punishing children. From 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 there will no longer be a defence of 'reasonable chastisement' for parents or carers in Scotland. For full details use [this link](#).

### Homelessness in Scotland: equalities breakdown 2019 to 2020

This Scottish Government bulletin provides information about homelessness in Scotland, with a focus on the equalities characteristics of homeless applicants.

- [Read the bulletin](#)

### Ending Homelessness Together

The Scottish Government have updated their action plan 'Ending Homelessness Together' published in 2018.

The updated report details progress made on recommendations as well as recent additions to the action plan such as the planned creation of 'rehousing welcome centres'. The full action plan can be [accessed here](#).

## **ScotPHN Networks/Groups**

### ScotPHN Work on Gambling Harms - Policy Review

As part of its 3 year project to co-produce a strategy to mitigate the impact of gambling harms in Glasgow using a whole system approach, ScotPHN undertook a desktop review of action plans, policies and strategies to better understand how local and national priorities relate gambling harms.

Gambling harms are not currently visible in the policy landscape in Scotland. Regulation of gambling is a matter largely reserved to Westminster; there is no UK Government owned strategy to prevent or reduce gambling harms.

Making explicit these links will help to identify opportunities to embedded actions to address gambling harms into work already underway across a range of policy areas locally and nationally and inform public health advocacy approaches.

The causes of gambling harms are complex. Addressing gambling harms requires effective collaboration between experts by experience, local communities, the third, public and private sector.

- Read the recently published [ScotPHN Policy review on gambling harms](#)

### [Public Mental Health Special Interest Group - Covid-19 Impact on Mental Health Services](#)

The Covid-19 pandemic has alarming implications for individual and collective health and emotional and social functioning, as it is impacting all areas of health in Scotland and is likely to have a long-lasting effects on population. These effects may translate into a range of emotional reactions (such as distress or psychiatric conditions) and unhealthy behaviours (such as excessive substance use) in both people who contract the disease and in the general population.

Public health structures must, in the current health crisis, therefore address the impact of Covid-19 on mental health and mental health services.

To coordinate this response, a two-part study was conducted by ScotPHN on behalf of the Public Mental Health Special Interest Group.

- [Read the brief report of study findings](#)

### [Healthy Working Homes Group \(est. on behalf of Scottish Health Promotion Managers\)](#)

Now more than ever access to affordable and appropriate housing is fundamental to protecting and promoting the health of our communities. As we continue to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and move to 'build back better' for our communities, housing must be central to our recovery.

- Access a previous [blog](#) by Jackie Erdman NHS GGC and Healthy Working Homes Group member on the role of housing in health inequalities has been brought into sharp focus.

The Healthy Homes Working Group have finalised an action plan recently and agreed to initially take forward priorities around collaborative practice and mental health. Their intention is to maintain momentum around the healthy homes agenda as much as they can whilst balancing with our national and local responses to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Get in touch with the National Healthy Working Homes group and request a copy of their finalised HWHG Action Plan via email: [michael.tornow@phs.scot](mailto:michael.tornow@phs.scot)

## General Updates

### [NSPCC Scotland - Child Poverty](#)

The NSPCC has published a report which finds that an increase of families in Scotland are facing destitution, isolation and mental health issues even before the appearance of COVID 19 and subsequent restrictions.

The report which compares evidence from 2013 from family support services with evidence from 2019 can be found [here](#).

### [Scottish Child Payment](#)

Scottish Child Payment is a new weekly payment of £10 for every child you look after who's under 6 years of age. You may be entitled to Scottish Child Payment if all of the following apply:

- you live in Scotland
  - you or your partner are getting certain benefits or payments
  - you or your partner are the main person looking after a child who's under 6 years old
- [Find out more information about the payment](#) and/or apply (noting that current applications will receive a decision/payment in February 2021.)

### [Scottish Government consultation- free bus travel in Scotland \(aged under 19\)](#)

The Scottish Government intends to launch a new statutory national concessionary travel scheme providing free bus travel for young people resident in Scotland up to their 19th birthday.

The purpose of this consultation is to set out the proposed arrangements for the new scheme and options for how the scheme operates. By providing your views, Scottish Government can establish the most appropriate way to provide free travel for young people to meet their needs and requirements.

- [Access the consultation](#) (closing date 7 December 2020)

### [Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland – Annual Report](#)

'Our Annual Report for April 2019 to March 2020 covers a year where progress was made on key issues for children's human rights in Scotland, including UNCRC

Incorporation, equal protection of children from assault and raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.’

- [Download the annual report](#)

### [Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration \(SCRA\) and Barnardo’s Scotland - Sexual exploitation of children involved in the Children’s Hearings System](#)

[This report](#) explores the prevalence of sexual exploitation amongst children involved in children’s hearing and in the care system.

The study aims to answer four questions:

- What are the pathways of children to becoming at risk of sexual exploitation?
- When child sexual exploitation vulnerability indicators first emerged, were these recognised as such by agencies and interventions made to protect and support the child?
- What are the backgrounds, vulnerabilities and trajectories of boys most at risk of sexual exploitation in Scotland?
- Is child sexual exploitation considered in decision making by Children’s Hearings for children who are victims of sexual exploitation?

In addition to the report is [a policy paper](#) which details recommendations.

### [Who Cares? Scotland](#)

Care experienced people of any age are invited to share their experiences of the current COVID 19 pandemic and restrictions.

For access to the Survey Monkey questionnaire which will be open until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, follow [this link](#).

### [Scottish Human Rights Commission](#)

The SHRC has published the ‘COVID-19, Social Care and Human Rights: Impact Monitoring Report’ which investigates the impact COVID 19 has had on social care in Scotland.

[Access report here](#)

### [Race Inequality in the Workforce: Analysing the state of play in the coronavirus economy](#)

A report from [Carnegie UK](#) highlights the impact of Covid-19 on the labour market highlighting the impact for specific groups of workers to be more than others, including those with an ethnic minority background. It explores evidence of the specific impact of the pandemic for black and ethnic minority workers, including the range of additional risks during the economic downturn, in terms of loss of employment and poorer quality work.

The report makes 11 recommendations for government and employers to ensure both that job quality is protected for all and that groups at particular risk are safeguarded. It also complements a recent Carnegie UK report on *Good Work for Wellbeing in the Coronavirus Economy* which seeks to understand how to ensure the best possible jobs recovery and how to achieve good work for all in the coronavirus economy.

- [Access the full report](#)

### [Help to self-isolate animations – information in community languages](#)

[MECOPP](#) has been working closely with the Scottish Government and community members to produce the Need Support to Self-Isolate? Information animation in community languages.

The animation is now available in Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Arabic, Gujarati, Polish and Romanian language versions.

- [Access the animations on MECOPP's Vimeo Channel.](#)

## **Virtual Events and Campaigns**

### [NSPA Gambling and suicide webinars](#)

[The National Suicide Prevention Alliance](#) (NSPA) are hosting webinars to consider the challenges we are facing during Covid, and potential restrictions in Winter.

Tue 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2-3pm: NHS audience invitation via MS Teams

Thu 26<sup>th</sup> November, 10-11am: Public Health audience invitation via MS Teams

- Register to attend via email [events@nspa.org.uk](mailto:events@nspa.org.uk)

## Food Standards Scotland's Future Strategy Consultation Webinars

Food Standards Scotland draft strategy, '[Protecting Scotland in a Changing Food Environment](#)', is currently out for [public consultation](#). As part of their consultation process they are inviting more detailed views on their proposals from key stakeholders via webinar sessions.

Dates for key stakeholder groups:

- [Monday 7 December](#): Government/Agency/Local Authority/NHS
- [Wednesday 9 December](#): Food Industry
- [Monday 14 December](#): Non-Governmental Organisations/Consumer bodies
- [Wednesday 16 December](#): Academics/Scientists

Time: 12- 1pm

Register to attend the zoom webinars via the links above no later than 27 November

## **ScotPHN Contact:**

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- Scottish Directors of Public Health Inbox: [p hs.sdph@p hs.scot](mailto:p hs.sdph@p hs.scot)
- National Special Interest Groups Inbox: [p hs.sig@p hs.scot](mailto:p hs.sig@p hs.scot)
- [ScotPHN website](#)

**Stay Safe**

**Public Health Scotland- ScotPHN Team**