



Safeguarders Panel

Safeguarders Panel Newsletter

Summer 2020

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Safeguarders Panel newsletter. The newsletter is designed to keep you updated with news about the Safeguarders Panel and the Children's Hearings System, as well as highlighting relevant issues. We hope you enjoy reading.



SPT News

Safeguarder Training / Virtual Learning Academy

We apologise and are fully aware of the obvious delay in providing information to Safeguarders regarding this year's training due to Covid-19. We thought it would be helpful to share our 'learning strategy' for going forward which outlines plans for digital learning starting in the near future. Please [read the document here](#) and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries.

Appointment of New Safeguarders

The new Safeguarders appointed in May 2020, following Pre-appointment Assessment and Training between November 2019 and February 2020 have been participating in on-line Induction sessions during July 2020. These sessions have covered Allocations, Fees and Expenses, Data Management, Learning & Development and Support and Monitoring. While unable to undertake the planned Induction Day in Edinburgh in April 2020, we have planned two 90-minute sessions over Microsoft Teams bringing the 18 new Safeguarders together in three smaller groups. We wish to thank the six existing Safeguarders who agreed to participate in the Q&A sessions at the end of July, sharing their experiences and learning as Safeguarders.

Report Sampling

As we are now into the first year of the new contract, we are preparing for report sampling. In line with the new contract, there will be **one** mandatory 1:1 Support Session per year to include report sampling. In this session a minimum of two reports will be sampled. Sample reports will be requested from SCRA and shared with Safeguarders via secure email, CJSM (or via post where CJSM is unavailable) together with a copy of the Report Sampling Tool to allow for self-assessment of the report against the Practice Standards. Report sampling will take place between mid-September 2020 and April 2021 and Support Managers will communicate with Safeguarders to arrange a date and time for this.

Outwith this single 1:1 Support Session, there will be opportunities for further 1:1 sessions and group sessions; the latter commencing January 2021. Again, individual conversations between Safeguarders and Support Manager should take place to ensure support is tailored and responsive to the needs of individual Safeguarders over the course of the next three years.





Safeguarders Panel

Safeguarders Panel Newsletter

Summer 2020

Practice Standards

As you will be aware, the Practice Standards for Safeguarders have been in place since July 2015. As such, we will be undertaking a review in the coming months in order to update the current version. The Safeguarding in Sport service at Children 1st and consultant, Laura Lebec will be supporting this work. The Safeguarding in Sport team operate the Standards for Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport while Laura Lebec supports voluntary sector organisations with the development and implementation of performance measurement approaches and quality management systems.

We wish to seek the expertise and views of key stakeholders on how the Practice Standards could be further improved to the benefit of children and young people. Consequently, we would like to invite you to be a part of this consultation exercise and, in the first instance, would welcome volunteers who could attend a focus group on one of the following dates:

Tuesday 08/09/2020

Thursday 10/09/2020

There will be a further opportunity for all Safeguarders to feed into the final draft of the Practice Standards at a future date. Please register your interest by emailing safeguardinginsport@children1st.org.uk.

An Ask



Keen to share good practice – do any Safeguarders have examples of **Privacy Notices** they use and would like to share with the wider

Safeguarders Panel? If you have an example

you are willing share or any learning regarding their use, please contact Paula Gaunt-Richardson, Service Manager at paula.gaunt-richardson@children1st.org.uk.

Complaints Review

Thanks to everyone who responded to the request for volunteers for the Safeguarders Group and for giving comments about the Review. If you didn't manage to give comments, it's not too late – please just email them to safeguarderspanel@children1st.org.uk.

Six Safeguarders expressed interest in being part of the Group and are all now members – Betty Bott, Sheelagh Carradice, Janine Melville, Helen Hunter, Stephanie Miller and Margaret Small. Group members are happy for Safeguarders to relay any comments that you wish to put through them. Betty also wanted to let people know that she is on the Group as a Safeguarder but also with an interest as the Chair of the Working Group of the Scottish Safeguarders Association.

The Review work continues to identify what is needed for improvements to the Policy and Procedure from all those with an interest. The new Safeguarders Group had its first meeting on 8th July. Work is ongoing to produce a baseline document which will contain the detail of the policy and procedure. This will be produced alongside other (more accessible) Guidance, FAQs, points of access to raising a concern, and other work which will help Safeguarders, persons raising concerns, Safeguarders Panel Team members and others.



Safeguarders Panel

Safeguarders Panel Newsletter

Summer 2020

Complaints Review (contd.)

The new Children's Rights and Resources member of the Team, hoped to be in post soon, will be looking at getting the input of children and young people. All Safeguarders will get a chance to comment on final drafts of the Review work in a consultation at the end of July/ beginning August. It is hoped that the Review can be concluded by the end of August, with implementation thereafter. If you are particularly interested in this work and want more detail – please contact the Team on safeguarderspanel@children1st.org.uk.

Scottish Safeguarders Association

As you will recall, the Safeguarders Panel Team sent out information regarding the Safeguarders Association in September last year so that Safeguarders could understand further the role of the Association and if you wish to, join. As we stated in that email, we wish to continue to build a good working relationship with the Association, acknowledging they represent the views of a number of Safeguarders. The Safeguarders Panel Team is keen to engage with all Safeguarders, and we met recently with the Association and the Scottish Government to plan the next stage of our engagement. We intend to meet again in August 2020, and all partners stated our commitment to regular constructive discussion.

Safeguarder Appointment Statistics

The first quarter of this Safeguarding year has seen low numbers of appointments due to Covid however we are starting to see a gentle increase week on week. We continue to

monitor appointments as time progresses and will keep you informed of any further changes. [View appointment numbers here.](#)



Research, Policy & Practice

Covid-19

You will know we have now moved into [Phase 3 of the route map out of lockdown](#). Face coverings are required in shops and public transport and other parts of the economy are reopening. Updated guidance has also been published on domestic abuse with respect to travel arrangements and is [available here](#).

SCRA Virtual Hearings : External Feedback Survey—Results

268 people responded to the SCRA survey which ran from 4th May to 15th June 2020. This included Safeguarders, Social Workers, Solicitors, Parents, Carers and other professionals. The results are available [here](#) and present very mixed views about peoples' experiences of Virtual Hearings, ranging from very positive to very negative experiences. Thanks to all Safeguarders who took part in the survey to support future improvements.



Supreme Court Judgement

Safeguarders may recall the Winter 2019 newsletter which highlighted the involvement of a Safeguarder in a judicial review regarding the



Safeguarders Panel

Safeguarders Panel Newsletter

Summer 2020

rights of a sibling to be deemed a relevant person. The full judgement is now available to [read here](#) - ABC (AP) (Appellant) v Principle Reporter and another (Respondents) (Scotland). In summary, the Supreme Court decided that the current opportunities for siblings to be involved in Children's Hearings about their brothers or sisters are compatible with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In two separate cases where a sibling wanted to have full involvement in the Children's Hearing as a 'Relevant Person', the Supreme Court decided that the sibling did not require the procedural protection of being a Relevant Person. The Supreme Court acknowledged that there are measures in place to support Reporters and Panel Members in their considerations when determining the degree of sibling involvement.

The Safeguarder was represented throughout in the case of XY and agreed with this position. The Safeguarder's view is that the decision made by the Supreme Court ensured that the child in question was heard and protected. SCRA has welcomed the decision however ClanLaw who were also involved in proceedings have expressed their disappointment in a press release, [available to read here](#).

Consultation—Raising the Age of Referral to the Principle Reporter in Children's Hearings

The Scottish Government is currently seeking views on their proposals for legislative change to allow 16 & 17 year olds to be referred to the Reporter on care, protection and offence grounds. It could be argued that the current approach to support being determined by chronological age is not consistent with the GIRFEC aspiration of seeing each child as a separate and unique individual. Older young people are arguably not being adequately protected by the current legal provisions and any

legislative change aims to ensure the approach is consistent with prevailing policy in Scotland. The closing date for consultation responses is 7th October 2020 and [more information can be found here](#).

Stop it Now! Scotland

Stop it Now! Scotland is a child protection charity dedicated to preventing child sexual abuse. Since 2008 they have been providing confidential support services to individuals and families to protect children from harm. More recently, the charity has created an '[Upstream Prevention pack](#)' which is designed to help keep children safe. These free resources contain practical advice for professionals, individuals and families. If you wish to receive printed copies of any of these items, please contact scotland@stopitnow.org.uk.



NSPCC

The number of people contacting the NSPCC helpline has increased by 32% during lockdown. May 2020 saw the highest number of concerns in record in a single month. Concerns have included parental behaviour, physical and emotional abuse and neglect. The charity are calling for the Government to urgently commit to a *children's recovery plan* to support the delivery of services for children and families in need. [You can read more about this here](#).

Learning & Development

Following the celebration of Mental Health Awareness Week (18-24 May 2020), the Mental Health Foundation have released a podcast 'Kindness matters to our mental health' which you can [listen to here](#).



Safeguarders Panel

Safeguarders Panel Newsletter

Summer 2020

The discussion features talks about kindness and how this can have a positive impact on our own and others mental health, particularly in the aftermath of Coronavirus.

Book Recommendation

Social work beyond borders: The importance of relationships. Edited by Ruth Stark. Chapters within this book are written by one of our fellow Safeguarders as well as other authors. These provide an understanding of the Social Work role across different countries with a focus on the importance of strengthening relationships with and within families.

[Download the book for free here.](#)

Children 1st News

In March 2020, Children 1st led a study visit for Scottish Police, Justice, Health and Social Work professionals to learn from Iceland's experiences of their Barnahaus – an approach that brings all the services child victims and witnesses need together under one roof. It supports the production of 'best evidence' for Courts, Police, Health and

Social Work while ensuring that children are given time and support to recover from abuse. Children 1st and partners Victim Support Scotland, the University of Edinburgh and Children England have generously been awarded £1.5 million to establish Scotland's first Child's House called the '**Bairnshoose**' - thanks to players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

Learning from this experience will be shared with services across the whole of the UK to help support and protect all children. In the wake of coronavirus, it is important that children's care, justice and protection is at the forefront of all considerations.

[Read more about the 'Bairnshoose' here.](#)

Children are not the face of this pandemic. But they risk being among its biggest victims.

(United Nations, April 2020)



Contact the Safeguarders Panel Team:

Call us on **0345 60 44 296**

Email us at **safeguarderspanel@children1st.org.uk**

Visit **www.children1st.org.uk/safeguarders** to find out more



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Children 1st Registered Office, 83 Whitehouse Loan Edinburgh EH9 1AT
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC016092

