



Safeguarders Panel

Safeguarders Panel Newsletter

Winter 2021



Welcome to the Winter 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

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2021. We hope you had a safe and peaceful festive period. As we continue to be in unique times, it feels only appropriate to hope that 2021 brings us some positivity and a safe reduction of the restrictions placed on us. Please find below the latest updates and key information regarding developments in the SPT and partner agencies.

Learning & Development 2021

Due to Covid-19 restrictions being implemented in March 2020 we were unable to deliver full day training events and face to face workshops throughout the year. The current climate means that we are in the same position as we move into 2021 with a continued focus on a digital learning experience until such times as we can offer more blended opportunities.



The Safeguarder community have a wealth of skills, knowledge and expertise in a diverse professional landscape which we believe should be embraced and shared wider amongst Safeguarders. In 2020 one of our Safeguarders delivered a webinar on 'The role of the Social Worker' which was extremely well received by those who attended. We kindly invite you to **let us know if you have particular skills, knowledge and expertise that you believe would benefit other Safeguarders and would be keen to share** as an online webinar experience. For further discussion please contact Lisa Goodman by email

lisa.goodman@children1st.org.uk or by phone 0345 6044296.

We have always been considerate of the need to share quality training opportunities around Online Digital Citizenship and Online Safety. Jess McBeath, Peace Online Safety consultant, has been providing training for the Safeguarder Community for 3 years. 'Engaging Young People Online' workshop was delivered in December 2020 and 'Digital Safeguarding' in January 2021.

In December 2020, Crew 2000 successfully delivered online workshops on 'Drug awareness and the impact on families'. We are currently filming the presentation to allow wider access for the Safeguarder community and for this to be a resource that Safeguarders can refer to. We will let you know when this is available to access.

Feedback for recent training has been positive. For example, comments from the Drug Awareness workshops include: "... very good, very clear and really current with statistics and information"; "non-judgemental, really interactive...". We welcome all feedback to ensure our training is relevant and engaging for the whole Safeguarder community.

We continue to explore new learning opportunities that will support your role and with this in mind we have the following Learning and Development opportunities available in the coming months (dates to be confirmed):

February	Court Practice module
March	Children's Right's; Working with Diversity and Understanding Unconscious Bias
April	Report Writing; The role of the Safeguarder
May	Autism Awareness and communication



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Other opportunities on the horizon include: Powerful use of language, Talking Mats, Mental Health in Children and Young People and Value Based, Restorative Practice. We welcome any suggestions you believe to be beneficial and would love to hear your comments, thoughts and suggestions.

Resources Library

We have been busy developing some resources/materials on our website for your perusal to support you in your role .



This will include legislation, policy, helpful websites, presentations, academic papers, podcasts, book recommendations etc. The library is organic and although in its infancy we invite you to share any interesting and useful resources that you believe to be beneficial to others and help us grow and develop the library.

Please send your ideas, resources or links in to the Safeguarders Panel Team for us to upload. The Resources Library can be accessed [via our website](#).

Virtual Learning Academy

We continue to develop modules for the Virtual Learning Academy and recommend that you take full advantage of what this has to offer. Be mindful that any additional CPD you believe supports your role as Safeguarder will be considered as part of your appointment and therefore we would kindly ask that you keep your learning log on the Virtual Learning Academy up to date to allow this to be discussed with your Support Manager. If you need any support with accessing the Virtual Learning Academy, please contact the Safeguarders Panel Team. For technical support please select the support/help icon on the Academy itself.

CELCIS – FREE Online Training Opportunities

Caring for Vulnerable children

This course will help you consider what is meant by risk and vulnerability, the definition of parenting, how children grow and develop and the concepts of attachment, containment and child development. It is suitable for anyone who comes into contact with vulnerable children and is run over six weeks – you choose when and where you learn. **Starts Monday 15th February 2021**. For more information please visit the [CELCIS website](#).

Caring for Children Moving Alone: Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children

This course will help you gain insight into why unaccompanied and separated children are on the move, the risks they face, and how best to respond to their circumstances, how to assess needs and vulnerabilities of those children and make decisions that are in their best interests. Registration is open and the course begins on **Monday 15th February 2021**. For more information please visit the [CELCIS website](#).

Digital Safeguarding: Research

Safeguarders who attended 'Digital Safeguarding' training with Jess MacBeth throughout January may be familiar with the research reports below. Those who didn't attend the training are encouraged to access the resources as part of continued professional development while remote learning is strongly encouraged and ongoing in these challenging times.

'*Look at me, teens, sexting and risks*' available [HERE](#) explores the issue of sexting among young people and the associated risks.

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'Headstart' is an online resilience tool available to download [HERE](#). This provides a practical way for professionals to assess young people's online behaviour and help them make decisions about whether that behaviour represents a risk of harm.

Group Support



The SPT have begun making changes to support the transition to regional working as part of the new tender. Information on group support sessions is being communicated to individual

areas. Feedback from Safeguarders in the North is being sought to develop a system which works for all, particularly given the geographical challenges – see below.

North Region: Safeguarders' Meeting

All Safeguarders working in Tayside, Grampian and the Highlands and are invited to an online meeting from 7pm-9pm on Thursday 4th February to bring the North Team together for the first time. Laura and Lesley (Support Managers - North) intend to use this meeting to understand Safeguarders needs and wants from a regular meeting where local issues can be discussed, relationships can be built and best practice can be shared.

This meeting will be an opportunity to:

- introduce Safeguarders to one another
- understand the proposed changes to the Children's Hearings System
- learn about and influence the work the North Team and Safeguarders Panel Team will be undertaking throughout 2021
- tell us Safeguarders' needs and wants from a regular 'North Forum'
- discuss and shape group support sessions

The vast geography of the north has always proved problematic for bringing Safeguarders together en

masse. It is hoped that by designing an online forum, far more of our community will be able to come together.

If you would like to attend and have not yet responded, please let Laura know as soon as possible on Laura.Conachan@children1st.org.uk

Safeguarder Mentoring: Message from Eileen Paterson, Mentor Co-ordinator

Thank you to all of you who submitted applications to become a mentor or mentee. There are still a few spaces available for the first training session so if you were too busy to complete an application over the festive period or you would like to know more about what is involved, please submit an application before 8th February or contact me on 07958 281823 / eileen.paterson@children1st.org.uk. You can access the [Mentoring Handbook](#) for more information. The fact that you do not have lengthy experience as a Safeguarder is not a bar to becoming a Mentor; what are important are the skills and knowledge that you have developed throughout your life. The introductory training session will be conducted online by Scottish Mentoring Network on 17th February 2021 and thereafter you will be asked to complete an online *Mentoring Knowledge and Understanding course* within 4 weeks of the introductory session. We are really looking forward to offering mentoring support from Spring.

Resignations

All staff at the SPT would like to say a warm Thank You to Safeguarders Margaret Burt and Lorraine Lockhart, who have recently resigned from the national panel. Margaret and Lorraine have both dedicated a significant amount of time to the panel in recent years. We wish them both the best of luck for the future.





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Safeguarder Appointments

For the latest statistics on Safeguarder appointments throughout Scotland, please [click here](#).

A Message from the SPT

All SPT staff are very mindful of the challenges and uncertainties that Covid-19 continues to present. We want to remind all Safeguarders to *be kind to yourselves* in these difficult times, contact your Support Manager if you have any questions or queries and remember that the option of 'time out' is available for those who are not in a position to take on allocations.

Support and guidance is always available via our 'duty' system by contacting safeguarderspanel@children1st.org.uk. The SPT are also mindful that the nature of appointments has the potential to cause significant upset to anyone involved. If there are circumstances where you feel your emotional well-being is at risk, our individual counselling service may be appropriate and available to you. Please contact your Support Manager or a Service Manager for further information.

Research, Policy & Practice

Sheriff Appeal Court Decision re Seeking the Views of Young Children

A recent case from the Sheriff appeal court (in family law proceedings) has highlighted the importance and requirement to seek the views of young children. The Sheriff appeal court found that the Sheriff's original position was wrong in deciding that the child was too young to express views and it would be difficult to ascertain what those views were. Safeguarders are encouraged to [read the decision](#) which includes information about the changes coming into force in the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 Act re taking the views of the child.

SCRA & Face Coverings

SCRA have updated their policy making face coverings mandatory in Children's Hearings unless medically exempt. Safeguarders can visit the [SCRA website](#) for more information.

Privacy and Participation in the Children's Hearings System

SCRA has published a policy briefing exploring 'Young people and parents' views on privacy and how this affects their participation in the Children's Hearings System'. SCRA commissioned Who Cares? Scotland to carry out this research which also explored the relationship between advocacy, privacy and confidentiality and solutions to help those involved in the hearing system be heard in decision making. A number of recommendations were made including;

- Ensuring children, young people and parents know who will be in attendance and what their roles are.
- Ensuring children, young people, their parents and carers are fully aware of the process and the possible outcomes of the Children's Hearing in a way that they are able to easily understand.
- Ensuring the methods by which a child, young person, parent or carer provides their views in advance of a Hearing, are ones they are comfortable with and are of their choosing.

The full report is available to read [HERE](#).

CHS Updated Panel Member Practice & Procedure Manual (PPM)

The Practice and Procedure Manual (PPM) for Panel Members has been updated to include new information on the national advocacy service, recent case law around non-disclosure of address and expands existing sections on requesting independent reports and deferrals.

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Safeguarders may find many of the chapters relevant to your practice, such as the legal tests which Panel Members must apply in their decision-making and information relating to Aftercare and Throughcare or the Whole System Approach for children displaying offending behaviour. The updated version can be found on the [CHS website](#).

Panel Member Recruitment - Now Open!

The pandemic has increased the number of Panel Members needed for children's hearings while reducing the number of volunteers available. To ensure children and young people continue to be protected, Children's Hearings Scotland (CHS) are now recruiting for 700 new Panel Members across Scotland. Training will take place online in the spring and successful Panel Members will earn a Level 7 SQA qualification.



While it is not possible to be both a Safeguarder and a Panel Member, please encourage friends, family and your networks to consider becoming Panel Members. Applicants must be over 18 years old. Recruitment closes at midnight on 15th February. For more information, please visit www.chscotland.gov.uk

Children on Remand

As of 20th November 2020, 67% of children in a prison setting in Scotland were on remand, which means they have either not been tried or sentenced. During Covid-19, children on remand have continued to experience extended periods without face to face contact with their families, social workers, or lawyers, and long periods in their cells with nothing to do. The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice have produced [a joint blog](#) with Bruce Adamson (Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland) to raise awareness of this issue and the need to consider alternatives to fulfil our international human rights obligations.

Scotland Specific Monitoring and Reporting of Children's Rights

As part of the review of the UK's progress towards fulfilling Children's Rights, Together; the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights have published [a report](#) which draws on evidence highlighting 30 key issues for children in Scotland. This includes barriers in accessing justice and missed/ tokenistic efforts to engage children in decision making as well as highlighting areas where clear improvement is needed.

Following on from the above, Safeguarders are encouraged to access the [Lundy model of participation](#) to support their consideration of factors that matter for children and young people including space, voice, influence and audience.

'The Year of Childhood' 2021

Children's Parliament has launched the **Year of Childhood 2021** to celebrate the forthcoming incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots law and the organisation's 25th birthday. You can read more [here](#) about the Year of Childhood and what this involves.



Book Recommendations

'*The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse*' by Charlie Mackesy. A book of hope for uncertain times.

'*Grief in Children: A Handbook for Adults*' by Atle Dyregrov. A book to support children in difficult times.





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Children 1st news

New Year – New You

Registration is now open for anyone wishing to take part in the Virtual Kiltwalk or Edinburgh Marathon Festival in 2021. If you are interested in running, jogging or just want to have fun and do something different with friends or family, details are provided below on how to get involved.

Virtual Kiltwalk 2021 Participate in this socially distanced challenge wherever you are in Scotland by walking, jogging, cycling or even jumping on a trampoline between 23rd – 25th April 2021. More information is available [HERE](#).



10k, 5k and junior races. Sign up on the [Edinburgh Marathon Festival website](#) for a free charity place and pledge to raise the minimum sponsorship for Children 1st!

With so many events cancelled in 2020, these events are a perfect opportunity to show your support and raise funds for essential work with children and families.

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Edinburgh Marathon Festival An unforgettable running experience and a major event in the Scottish sporting calendar, this event is now in its 18th year and will take place on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th May 2021. There really is something for everyone, with 9 races on offer over two days including the marathon, half marathon, team relay,

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



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Children 1st Registered Office, 83 Whitehouse Loan Edinburgh EH9 1AT
Registered Scottish Charity No. SCD16092

