



South Lanarkshire Public Protection Bulletin COVID-19 Edition 3

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to our third Public Protection Bulletin which provides updates, press releases and web links related to the coronavirus emergency.

As we all know this continues to be an extremely fluid and high-risk situation and some of you will be receiving information from other sources so please feel free to use the bulletin for distribution as appropriate.

Many thanks to all of you working to keep our most vulnerable adults, young people and children safe in South Lanarkshire.

Stay safe

Safaa Baxter, Independent Chair

South Lanarkshire Adult Support and Child Protection Committees

Key Resources

1. Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safe and Ethical Social Work Practice

The Scottish Government has published guidance for managers and field social workers in adult, justice and children's services, and mental health officers, regarding home visits and other face-to-face direct contact with service users.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-social-worker-guidance-on-safe-contact/>

2. Social Care Institute for Excellence – COVID-19: Supporting Autistic People and People with Learning Disabilities

Guides are available for families and professionals supporting autistic adults and adults with learning disabilities during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. [SCIE Covid-19](#)

3. Care Inspectorate 'Near Me' Video Consultation with Care Homes

The Care Inspectorate are using 'Near Me' video consultations with care homes. This enables the inspectors to call services and see inside as they cannot physically visit with shielding arrangements currently in place due to the risk of COVID-19. The Care Inspectorate are currently in the process of calling all care homes to help them use Near Me. Find out more at www.nearme.scot.

4. Guidance for Unpaid Carers Providing Personal Care

The Scottish Government has published guidance for unpaid carers on the use of PPE, to help prevent the spread of the virus whilst supporting others with personal care, such as washing or dressing. [Guidance for unpaid carers providing personal care](#)

5. Guidance on Allocations for the Housing Sector

The Scottish Government published allocations advice to the housing sector to support local authorities, social landlords and private rented sector landlords meet duties and legal requirements during the pandemic. The priority is to ensure empty properties are brought into use, within national Covid-19 guidance, to ensure that safe and secure accommodation is available to those in need of emergency housing.

Further details can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#).

6. Mental Welfare Commission Advice Note

The following advice note is for practitioners who are using the Mental Health Act and Adults with Incapacity Act when caring for patients. If you have any questions or comments you can email the Mental Welfare commission at enquiries@mwscot.org.uk

[MWC Advice Note](#) (after clicking the link, scroll down page to see the Advice Note)

7. Advice for Unpaid Carers on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Scottish Government has issued further advice for unpaid carers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, to ensure they are protecting their own health, and the health of those they look after.

A helpline - 0800 111 4000 – is available for people who are at higher risk and needing help to access local support. Further information on the helpline, who it is for, and other sources of support is available [here](#).

8. Blind Veterans UK (COVID-19)

Please note the link below to the Blind Veterans UK website which offers guidance with regards to helping blind or partially sighted people with shopping during COVID 19 lockdown or self-isolation.

<https://www.blindveterans.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/coronavirus-covid-19-assisting-a-blind-or-partially-sighted-person-with-shopping/>

9. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Whilst the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has temporarily suspended Home Fire Safety Visits to reduce the spread of the disease, there is helpful information and advice on their website to ensure people remain safe within their home.

<https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/covid-19/safety-advice.aspx>

10. Covid-19 Fraud Watch Summary

You can view a Covid-19 Fraud watch summary from the Fraud Advisory Panel on the [Care Inspectorate website](#).

11. Child Protection National Guidance

SLCPC is working with the Scottish Government to ensure we are meeting the requirement of the [Covid-19 Supplementary National Child Protection Guidance](#).

12. Eyes Open Campaign- Protecting Children

We are also supporting a national campaign aimed at the public, who are being asked to consider potentially vulnerable children and young people who may be at risk of harm, abuse or neglect in our communities. During the Covid-19 crisis, the Committee are urging everyone to keep their eyes and ears open for children who may be at risk during this time as part of a national [Eyes Open Campaign - Protecting Children \(COVID-19\)](#)

13. Child Protection Website for Scotland

A brand new Child Protection Website for Scotland was launched this week by CPC Scotland and offers excellent information about identifying and responding to concerns about a child or young person. It also gives information directly to children and a young people about how to get help. It can be viewed at www.childprotection.scot/

14. Online Child Sexual Abuse Campaign

Police Scotland launched its [Online Child Sexual Abuse Campaign](#) this month. We ask you make colleagues and service users aware of all campaigns listed and of how to get support.

15. Free online Seminars

A series of **free online seminars on EU citizens'** rights is being organised by the Citizens Rights Project, which works with EU citizens across Scotland. The webinars will focus mainly on the 'Settled Status' scheme under which EU citizens currently in the UK can get a permanent right to stay in the country. The series of five webinars will run from 29 April until mid-May and will feature a range of legal and other experts. Each webinar will run for an hour, with time for Q & A. Places for this webinar should be booked on [Eventbrite](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the project team at info@citizensrightsproject.org

16. Gender-Based Violence During Lockdown

The *stay at home* messaging which is a large part of our fight against COVID-19 will pose a challenge in particular for women at risk of gender-based violence (GBV) including domestic abuse. 1 in 4 women may experience domestic abuse and this may increase during the COVID-19 pandemic. The opportunity for this crime to take place increases and the opportunity for women to seek help or remove themselves from an abuse situation may be limited.

Face to face consultations have reduced, nevertheless staff across Health and Social Care are well placed to identify and support women and girls at risk of GBV. Staff in Health and Social Care may, however, have less experience of identifying abuse during phone consultations.

This resource aims to provide some guidance on making telephone consultations safe and provide an opportunity to make sure women are safe at home.

http://intranet.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/news/article/643/Gender-based_violence_during_lockdown

17. Safelives

Safelives have put together some information and resources for people living with domestic abuse, and the professionals supporting them during this difficult time.

<https://safelives.org.uk/news-views/domestic-abuse-and-covid-19>

18. Domestic Abuse Support During COVID-19

COVID-19 and support for people experiencing Domestic abuse. Here you will find blogs and information on support available during the pandemic, updates about our services, changes to the justice system and more.

<https://www.scottishwomensrightscentre.org.uk/blogs/covid-19coronavirus-info/>

19. Child Contact and Coronavirus: Answers to common questions

<https://www.scottishwomensrightscentre.org.uk/news/covid-19coronavirus-info/child-contact-during-coronaviruscovid-19/>

If you are worried about an adult, child or young person, please don't hesitate to contact South Lanarkshire Social Work Resources on 0303 123 1008 or call the Police on 101. Working together we can keep adults, children and young people safe in South Lanarkshire.

