

**By promoting health and well-being
we aim to strengthen, safeguard and protect vulnerable people.**

A very warm welcome to our winter edition.

I would like to start by welcoming Pat Togher, our new Assistant Chief Officer (Public Protection and Complex Needs). Pat began his career in Addiction Services before moving to Children's Services in the North East Locality where he was ultimately Head of Children's Services. Pat was unanimously appointed as Vice Chair to both Adult and Child Protection Committees.



Pat Togher



Julie McCorrison



Colin Anderson
Chair of Glasgow City Adult and
Child Protection Committees

We also extend a warm welcome to our new Senior Learning and Development Officer, Julie McCorrison. Julie has a background in youth work and supporting adults with learning disabilities. From 2012, she worked with children and families who experienced domestic abuse, firstly as an advocacy worker and latterly as Lead Advocate.

We can look forward to an article on Learning and Support for Public Protection Services in our next edition.

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For copies of all our newsletters go to the [Glasgow Adult Support & Protection Committee](#) and / or [Glasgow Child Protection Committee Websites](#).

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In this edition you will read about our extremely successful and well attended child neglect summit where participants were left in no doubt that child poverty and inequality is a major contributing factor to child neglect and abuse.

We heard that recent research showed children in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in Scotland are nearly 20 times more likely to be 'looked after' or on the Child Protection Register than children in the least deprived neighbourhoods.

We also heard how Glasgow's approach to transforming children's services resulted in a significant refocusing of resources on early years and family support services.

You can read an article written by colleagues from Parent Network Scotland demonstrating how we work in partnership with the third sector to help develop parents' confidence, knowledge and skills.

Domestic Violence is noted as a significant issue in 38% of all cases registered so far in 2019 and this is reflected in the article prepared by colleagues from ASSIST.

I am also excited to report that our Adult Protection Committee is now an Adult Support and Protection Committee. This is not just a simple name change but reflects a refocus on support services and how we propose to address major structural issues such as homelessness, drug deaths, poverty, plus severe and enduring mental health issues. Towards the end of the newsletter there is an article on suicide prevention.

Membership of the committee has been enhanced to reflect this change in focus but we are still working to find better representation for older people who may require support and protection.

Colleagues from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have become a mainstay of both Adult and Child Protection Committees and in this edition they talk about the First Through the Door Project which is a partnership initiative with Glasgow City Transformation Team.

Finally a big thank you to everyone involved in preparing this newsletter and please remember, if you have any topics or projects you would like us to cover, please get in touch with our team at SW_GlasgowCPC@sw.glasgow.gov.uk.

Child Protection Committee: Neglect Summit



Child Neglect Summit September 2019

The Child Protection Committee hosted a Neglect Summit on 5th September 2019. Over 200 representatives from statutory and third sector agencies across the city were in attendance with a view to increasing their understanding of neglect and its impact upon children and young people. The event was significantly oversubscribed, indicating the priority neglect has in the city's professionals' work with children and their families. This was the second summit of the year, and was organised due to the level of interest in and success of the first in March.

The variety of speakers was considered to be a real strength of the event with presentations from Professor Kate Morris of University of Sheffield giving consideration to poverty as a child protection concern, and Associate Professor Marc Kozlowski of Napier University speaking about neglect, attachment and personality development. Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership was represented by Assistant Chief Officer Mike Burns who placed neglect in the context of Glasgow's children, giving a clear explanation of the work being done to support families to tackle neglect, and Service Manager Cathy Coll who provided a very sensitive input on learning from a recent Significant Case Review where neglect was found to be a significant factor. The keynote speakers were joined by representatives from education and the third sector presenting some of the excellent work being undertaken in the city to support vulnerable families and foster inclusion in schools. Participants described the speakers as inspirational, thought provoking and energising, and fed back that they considered the day a very worthwhile use of their time.

Karen Frew, Lead Officer for the committee advised "We were delighted with the level of enthusiasm for the summit from a wide range of professionals across the city, and we hope that those who attended will share the learning in their agencies and teams. The speakers did an excellent job of engaging the audience in various aspects of the work to support and protect vulnerable children and their families."

The presentations from the summit can be found on the Child Protection Committee's website www.glasgowchildprotection.org.uk



Parent Network Scotland

Parent Network Scotland (PNS) is a Glasgow based national charity which has been offering evidence-based support and training for families for over 25 years. PNS believe parents matter because children matter and our model delivers holistically, looking at the family as a whole offering and courses to support changes within families to make life more nurturing, enjoyable and fulfilling for the whole family unit.

Where risks have emerged for children, we deliver targeted support through developing parents' confidence, knowledge and skills. At every step of our model we ensure that children are at the centre, recognising that any positive experiences felt by the parents will be felt by the children in those families going forward.

Our early intervention model concentrates on the delivery of courses to parents from high risk groups therefore reducing negative impacts and challenging issues arising within families. Our model builds pathways to success which:

- ▶ Strengthens communication and positive relationships
- ▶ Reducing the impact of poverty by building new skills and qualifications
- ▶ Building formal and informal connections
- ▶ Reducing adverse childhood experiences
- ▶ Raising life expectations whilst improving life chances

Our courses are developed to help understand the links from behaviour to feelings and needs. We know that once parents understand their own behaviour, feelings and needs it is easier for them to make sense of their children's.

We also deliver a Trauma Recovery Toolkit, again looking at past behaviours that are impacting on current parenting behaviour and supporting parents to make the changes they need to make in a way that's is supportive, encouraging and at their own pace.

Our practitioner Introduction to a Trauma Based Approach also looks at how we as practitioners can support families who are struggling in a way that is respectful and useful.

For information on our practitioner programme contact rachaelb@pns.org.uk.

First Through the Door

As a member of the Adult Support and Protection Committee, Scottish Fire and Rescue play an important role in Public Protection, this short article provides an insight into just some of the work they undertake in Partnership.

What is your current job role?

My name is Samantha Hendry. I'm a Graduate Project Officer within the Transformation Team at Glasgow City Council. I work closely on projects that support the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership's (GCPP) Action Plan. Working in the Transformation Team, we often interact with a wide number of partners and as a result gain a good understanding of the services offered to citizens. Through some of the partnership working I'm involved with, I have been on secondment to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service's (SFRS) Community Action Team, since June 2019.



Graduate Project Officer: Samantha Hendry

What sort of work are you involved in with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service?

Some of the activities I have been involved with included:

- ▶ Positively contributed to the review of the current SFRS Casualty Reduction Plan for the city including making suggestions for closer partnership working
- ▶ Supporting the Road Safety Education delivered by SFRS Community Action Team to S5 pupils
- ▶ Supporting the Bonfire Safety presentation delivered by SFRS Community Action Team to S1 pupils across the City
- ▶ Attending multiple Home Fire Safety Visits with the Community Action Team, there has been a number of occasions where this has resulted in the opportunity to increase partnership working

Can you tell us about a time you have increased partnership working?

During a Home Fire Safety Visit, 2 members of the Community Action Team and myself conducted a visit to a new tenant within their property. Through the SFRS questionnaire, it became apparent there was a young child in the home, who would be entitled to free nursery provision that was not currently being accessed. With the tenants permission to pass on a referral to GCC Education Services, the child was offered a childminding place at a SCMA approved childminder.

It also became apparent that there were some household goods the tenant was still trying to gather for the property. Through my knowledge of projects I have worked on previously, I advised the tenant they could be eligible for Scottish Welfare Fund and to speak to their Housing Officer regarding this. I then followed this up with the Housing Officer to ensure the application was made on the tenant's behalf.

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What is next for you?

I will continue to support the ongoing partnership working with the Community Action Team. I hope this continues to provide a greater shared awareness of all partnership services and improved outcomes for Glasgow citizens.

Suicide Prevention

Last year in Scotland 784 suicides were registered (581 males and 203 females), In Glasgow there were 99 deaths by suicide in 2018. Suicide is among the top 20 leading causes of death globally for people of all ages. Every life lost represents someone's partner, child, parent, friend or colleague. For each suicide approximately 135 people suffer intense grief or are otherwise affected.

Suicide is tragic but it is preventable. Taking a minute to reach out to someone in your community - a family member, friend, colleague or even a stranger that you think is at risk of suicide - could change the course of someone's life.

For guidance on how to reach out and assist someone at risk of suicide the International Association for Suicide Prevention has prepared the ['Take a minute'](#) fact sheet.

New mental health and suicide prevention resources, including a series of powerful animations, are also available on the [Health Scotland website](#).

If you are struggling or you are worried about someone, please seek help from your GP or call **NHS 24** on **111** (out with GP surgery times).

Free, confidential emotional support is also available by calling:

Breathing Space on **0800 83 85 87**

Samaritans on **116 123** or by email jo@samaritans.org

Or call **999** in the case of a medical emergency.

Suicide Prevention is everyone's business and anyone can help intervene and save a life.

Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018: ASSIST

The introduction of the new [Domestic Abuse \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#) on April 1st this year has already made a difference to the families we work with. At ASSIST, we are able to tell clients that the law now recognises what they have been experiencing as criminal behaviour and takes this seriously, even if their case is not being prosecuted under the new legislation. This validation is invaluable for the work that domestic abuse organisations undertake with victims towards recovery.

The new Act also promotes the idea that children are victims of domestic abuse in their own right, rather than just witnesses, moving away from the damaging assumption that if a child is not hurt and was not present, they remain unaffected.



Image provided by ASSIST

The new aggravator specifies the ways in which a child may be adversely affected, without the need for the child to have any awareness or understanding of the behaviours. The requirement for Non Harassment Orders to be mandatorily considered for any children residing with the victim or the perpetrator is another significant step towards this understanding. The risks associated with living in a toxic environment of coercive control have long been established – the new legislation better serves families and wider society to help recognise and respond to those risks.

If you know or suspect that an Adult or a Child is being harmed then you need to report your concerns.

Don't assume that someone else has already reported it. The person being harmed or neglected may not be able to report it themselves. Remember, the person who did this may be doing it to others too.

**Phone Social Care Direct: 0141 287 0555
textphone: 18001 0141 287 0555
Outwith Office hours phone: 0300 343 1505**

**Police Scotland: 101 - non emergency, 999 - in an emergency
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration: 0131 244 2100
ChildLine: 0800 1111**