

Key updates: please circulate this briefing of updates to any relevant colleagues working across safeguarding and child protection.

Stay in touch

The Child Protection Standing Committee meets three times a year and these [summaries of our minutes](#) are made available on the RCPCH website. Recently, we have started to send these summaries out to all who have updated their contact preferences on the RCPCH website to receive updates about child protection.¹ If you wish to learn more about what we are doing, please ensure that you have done this to receive our update three times per year.

Recent publications

Vulnerable children and families workforce report: This report focuses on lead roles concerning safeguarding, the child death service, looked after children (LAC) and special educational needs and disability (SEND). It is part of a series using RCPCH 2017 census data to highlight key areas of the paediatric workforce and is the first time the College have published spotlight policy narrative on this staff group.

Safeguarding children and young people: roles and competencies for paediatricians

All paediatricians have a responsibility to safeguard children and young people. To better support our members to do this, we have developed a new [safeguarding competencies framework](#) specifically for paediatricians and trainees. This is essential reading for all RCPCH members.

Establishing a correct diagnosis of Ehlers Danlos Syndrome hypermobility type (hEDS)

We've developed a [position statement](#) to clarify the current criteria in making a diagnosis of hEDS in children and adolescents. The statement provides advice for paediatric health professionals in relation to provision of appropriate rehabilitation. The statement has been supported by specialty groups.

Child Protection Evidence - latest review published

The updated systematic review on [Bruising](#) has been published on the RCPCH website. Two new studies describing characteristics of unintentional bruising were included in this update. The following systematic reviews are currently being updated:

- Fractures
- Neglect
- Retinal findings

These reviews are part of the Child Protection Evidence systematic review series available on the [RCPCH website](#).

The Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine have updated the following publications:

- Recommendations for the Collection of Forensic Specimens from Complainants and Suspects. <https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/06-Aug-Rec-Collection-Samples.pdf>

¹ https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/saml_login?destination=/account/my-interests [child protection] and https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/saml_login?destination=/account/contact-preferences [college updates]

- Recommendations for the collection of forensic specimens from complainants and suspects – the evidence. https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Evidence-RecSpecimens_Jul19.pdf
- Recommendations – Peer Review in Sexual Offences including Child Sexual Abuse cases and the implications for the disclosure of Unused Material in criminal investigations and prosecutions. https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/PeerReview_SexualOffences_Jun19.pdf

Being Me project update

Following on from the [Being Me project](#) and the RCPCH Annual Conference 2019, a massive positive to share is that the wonderful resources created by the LAC Young People (available [here](#)) are being downloaded and used to support Doctors/healthcare professionals in communicating with children and young people across the UK.



Upcoming publications

Perplexing Presentations / FII guidance update: a draft of the update to the 2009 guidance was sent out for consultation over the summer. The publication was delayed because of the volume of responses that required consideration. This subject has attracted a lot of media attention, and a well-considered media plan is underway to launch the document in Spring 2020.

Good Practice service delivery standards for the management of children referred for child protection medical assessments: CPSIG have been leading the development of these joint CPSIG-RCPCH standards. These are expected to be published in April 2020.

Work of the RCPCH Child Protection Standing Committee

Membership

We have two new members who have recently joined the Child Protection Standing Committee. Jo Gifford who will be leading on the committee's CSA work and Najette Ayadi O'Donnell who is the new trainee representative.

New Assistant Officer for Child Protection

Emilia Wawrzkowicz has been appointed as Assistant Officer for Child Protection (Publications). Principally, this Assistant Officer will be responsible for overseeing the RCPCH's child protection publications work, including chairing the RCPCH Subcommittee for Child Protection Systematic Reviews and Publications, and reporting in to the Child Protection Standing Committee.

RCPCH Policy Team

Alison Firth who was the Policy Lead for the child protection and health improvement programmes of work has stepped into a new role as project manager for the Paediatrics 2040 project. Olivia Lam has recently joined the Health Policy Team to take over these programmes of work joining us from a policy and campaigns role at Breast Cancer Now, and previously the Foundation for Social Improvement.

Working groups

Expert witnesses: RCPCH are part of a working group with the Family Court looking at the difficulties they are experiencing in finding expert witnesses, particularly in paediatrics. A draft report has been developed and sent out for consultation with publication due in Spring.

For further information, or a full copy of the minutes from the latest meeting (October 2019) please contact: health.policy@rcpch.ac.uk

Events

RCPCH annual conference 2020: the next annual conference is taking place from 28-30 April in [Liverpool](#). We will be running the popular Child Protection Symposium session on 30 April from 11.15-15.00.

Volunteering Opportunity



RCPCH Ambassadors: opportunity now open!

Use your clinical experience, communication skills and interest in health policy to make a real impact - [become an RCPCH Ambassador](#). You'll engage with health leaders in your area to improve services for children, young people and the workforce that serves them.

Education

We run a number of safeguarding courses across the UK. For the full range of face-to-face and e-Learning courses available, [please visit our website](#).

We would like to particularly bring to your attention the [Exploitation of children and young people](#) and [Emotional abuse and emotional neglect](#) eLearning programmes. These have been developed for a multi-agency audience including paediatricians, trainees, nurses, social workers and teachers.

Face to face courses for 2020 include:

[Excellence in Statement and Report Writing \(Safeguarding Level 3\)](#)

22 April 2020, Edinburgh, Scotland