

**Key updates March - May 2021:** please share this briefing of updates with any relevant colleagues working across safeguarding and child protection.

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all well. I'm sure that you are all extremely busy now that we are in the recovery phase of the latest wave of the pandemic. I just wanted to give you an update on the work RCPCH and the Child Protection Standing Committee are doing to support vulnerable children.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact the Health Policy team via [health.policy@rcpch.ac.uk](mailto:health.policy@rcpch.ac.uk).

Best wishes

*Alison*

Alison Steele, RCPCH Officer for Child Protection.

### **Work of the RCPCH Child Protection Standing Committee**

Below is a summary of some of the pieces of work that are currently being discussed and undertaken by the Committee:

- A decision has been made to have RCPCH member representatives with expertise in child protection on the Committee from each NHSE region, posts will be advertised.
- A range of work around Looked after Children is being carried in liaison with Coram BAAF and other partners.
- The RCPCH Peer review in Safeguarding guidance is being updated.
- Implementing the expert witness in the family court action plan.
- Following the publication of 'Rights to access healthcare for migrant and/or undocumented children, we are developing a position statement on charging for NHS healthcare
- Exploring the options for undertaking an audit against the Child Protection Service Delivery Standards.
- There is ongoing work on a number of publications, see section below for more details.
- Supporting work being carried out by RCPCH & Us to develop a checklist for young people and families around having a safe virtual health appointment.
- A working group will be reviewing the RCPCH mandatory reporting position statement.

### **RCPCH Conference 2021**

The [RCPCH conference](#) is taking place online from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June. Places can be booked [here](#).

The Child Protection Special Interest Group have a joint session with the Paediatric Mental Health Association at 15.30 – 18.00 on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Talks and research presentations will focus on the impact of COVID-19 on safeguarding and on mental health.

### **Recent and Upcoming publications**

#### **Child Protection Portal**

A range of our publications and other child protection resources including the Child Protection Companion can be found on the RCPCH [Child Protection Portal](#).

#### **Perplexing Presentations (PP) / FII guidance**

This [updated guidance](#), published in March, aims to support paediatricians when involved with PP or FII. It provides procedures for safeguarding children who present with PP or FII and best practice advice in the medical management of these cases to minimise harm to children. While

written primarily for paediatricians, it is also of relevance to social care workers, GPs and other health care specialists.

### **Guidance around remote peer review in sexual abuse cases**

Guidance around the process for remote peer review in sexual abuse cases has been developed and included in the updated [FFLM/RCPCH peer review in sexual offences guidance](#).

All FFLM publications are available to access [here](#).

### **Capability framework for forensic medical examination services**

There is work taking place led by Skills for Health in association with RCPCH, FFLM, RCN and others to develop a national capabilities framework for Forensic Examiners in England, undertaking paediatric forensic examinations. Please register your interests to be part of the consultation [here](#).

### **Latest updates to the Child Protection Evidence reviews:**

The Child Protection Evidence reviews on Bites, Neglect, ENT and Burns are currently being updated. These reviews are part of the [Child Protection Evidence systematic review series](#) available on the RCPCH [Child Protection Portal](#).

### **Updates to the Child Protection Companion**

The following chapters of the Child Protection Companion are being updated:

- Ch7 Consent, confidentiality and information sharing
- Ch9 Recognition of physical abuse
  - Bruises
  - Fractures
  - Abusive head trauma
  - Retinal findings in child abuse
- Ch 14 Vulnerable groups of children
  - Looked after children
  - FGM
- Ch17 Photo-documentation

The [Child Protection Companion](#) can be accessed via the RCPCH [Child Protection Portal](#).

### **Education**

Below is a list of some of the current RCPCH safeguarding virtual courses. For a full range of virtual and eLearning courses, please visit our [website](#).

#### **Virtual courses for 2021**

[Child Protection in Scotland](#) - From Examination to Court 7 June 2021 - two days

[Child sexual assault and the forensic examination](#) (Level 3+, 4 and 5) 24/06/2021 - two days

We are also planning two further courses for the future:

- Supporting new named and designated paediatricians (Level 4 and 5)
- Fabricated and Induced Illness - an update on the new guidance.

To register an interest for these two courses please contact [suma.surendranath@rcpch.ac.uk](mailto:suma.surendranath@rcpch.ac.uk)

### **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 Child Protection Portal. An email linking to these summaries is sent to all those who have updated their contact preferences on the RCPCH website to receive updates about child protection.

For further information please contact: [health.policy@rcpch.ac.uk](mailto:health.policy@rcpch.ac.uk).