

**Key updates June-August 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 know you are all extremely busy at the moment. I just wanted to give you an update on the work of the Committee and information on other key areas and publications you might find useful.

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 range of work around Looked after Children is being carried in liaison with Coram BAAF and other partners.
- The RCPCH Peer review in Child Protection guidance is being updated.
- Implementing the expert witness in the family court action plan.
- A position statement on Access to Healthcare for Migrant and Undocumented Children has been developed and will be published soon.
- We are developing practice guidance on child modern slavery and human trafficking.
- Exploring options for undertaking audits against the Child Protection Service Delivery Standards.
- Involvement in work led by RCPCH & Us around a leaflet to support young people when accessing health appointments.
- A working group will be reviewing the RCPCH mandatory reporting position statement.
- There is ongoing work on a number of publications, see section below for more details.

### **Committee vacancies**

The Child Protection Standing Committee is inviting applications for England regional representatives from East of England, Midlands, North East and Yorkshire, North West and the South West. These representatives will provide a link between their regional network and the committee and have the opportunity to be involved in project work. More information about the roles and how to apply can be found [here](#). Applications open till **9.30am Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**.

### **Named Professionals Network**

A network has been set up for named safeguarding health professionals. This isn't an RCPCH network but is available for any named safeguarding health professional across the country. For more information contact [atefa.hossain@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:atefa.hossain@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

### **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](#).

Most RCPCH members can access the portal. Options for access by non-members and organisations can be found [here](#). To find out more about subscribing for a team or organisation, please contact [child.protection@rcpch.ac.uk](mailto:child.protection@rcpch.ac.uk)

### **Access to Healthcare for Migrant and Undocumented Children Position Statement**

This [position statement](#) published in August 2021 outlines the harmful impact of charging for NHS services on migrant children and their families and sets out our key messages for health professionals and policy recommendations.

### **Practice Guidance on Child Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**

RCPCH are currently developing practice guidance to support paediatricians in their role in prevention, intervention and survivor aftercare for children and young people who are victims of modern slavery and human trafficking which will be published in Autumn 2021.

### **The Physical Signs of Child Sexual Abuse (Purple Book)**

Funding has been secured to update the [purple book](#). The review and update process will begin in the Autumn.

### **Health Appointments – advice for young people**

RCPCH is working with young people and partners from other Medical Royal Colleges and sector organisations to develop a youth leaflet to support them when accessing health appointments. The leaflet will include having a safe space to discuss health questions or concerns, having discussions with clinicians before sharing images or videos and requesting face to face appointments where needed. If you'd like to get involved, please contact [us@rcpch.ac.uk](mailto:us@rcpch.ac.uk)

### **Child Protection Service Delivery Standards – self-assessment audit tool**

We are looking to develop a self-assessment audit tool for the [Child Protection Service Delivery Standards](#) for use by local services to download and use as part of their local governance mechanisms.

### **The Case for Change – interim report**

The Child Protection Standing Committee are responding to the call for feedback from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care on their recently published interim report [The Case for Change](#).

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

The Child Protection Evidence reviews on Bites, Neglect, ENT and Burns are currently being updated. Updating of the Oral/Dental reviews will begin later this year. 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**

A full range of virtual and eLearning Safeguarding courses can be found on our [website](#).

This includes the ALSG courses (provided in partnership with RCPCH):

- [Child Protection in Practice](#) (CPIP) (SGC Level 3) a modular, online programme for specialty trainees in paediatrics (ST4-ST7).
- [Child Protection: Recognition and Response](#) (CPRR) (SGC Level 3) blended learning comprising of online modules and a one-day face to face course for specialty trainees in paediatrics (ST4-ST7).

## **Stay in touch**

The Child Protection Standing Committee meets three times a year and these summaries of our work 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).