



The Hidden costs of Covid-19: Protecting our most vulnerable children **Thursday 25th Jun, 12.00 – 1.30pm**

Pressure is mounting on the Scottish Government to increase the amount of time which children will spend in a school setting from August, with the focus of much of the debate being around the impact which the proposed “blended learning” approach will have on academic attainment. In our haste to get back to some semblance of “normality” in the classroom, do we risk losing sight of the need to consider the overall wellbeing of vulnerable children? Those children who are simply not visible and where educational attainment is not the sole, or even the most pressing concern?

With the NSPCC reporting an increase in calls to their protection lines and the worryingly low number of children accessing the school hubs made available to vulnerable children and those of key workers during lock-down, it is vital that when pupils do return to school, all professionals are equipped with the knowledge and procedures to cope with the likelihood of a rise in abuse or neglect disclosures and to be able to identify and support those most in need of additional care.

AGENDA

Children behind closed doors: current concerns and future expectations

Tam Baillie, Vice-Chair, Child Protection Committees Scotland and ex-Commissioner for Children & Young People, Scotland

- The current child protection situation in Scotland as we know it
- International evidence on the impact of pandemics on children
- Increased school time and the benefits for children

The impact of Covid-19 on children: promoting recovery after lockdown

Joanne Smith, Policy Officer, NSPCC Scotland

- Give an overview of the issues children have been discussing with Childline during the pandemic
- Highlight particular safeguarding issues which have emerged over the past few months
- Consider key issues to consider for children as lockdown begins to ease



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Returning to school after lockdown; an abuse prevention perspective

Stuart Allardyce, Director, Stop It Now! Scotland

- Why COVID Lockdown has been a time of elevated risk of harm to children, including online child sexual abuse and exploitation.
- How should this fact inform what staff in education do in relation to identification and responding to child protection concerns when schools return
- What can schools do to promote the prevention of child sexual abuse in the first place

These issues amongst others will be discussed at our event on Thursday and we hope you will be able to join us. Follow link for booking –

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/109796773104>



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