

# Keeping Children Safe Newsletter

Autumn Issue 12

## Welcome to our Autumn issue!

With the first school term over already and only 9 weeks or so until Christmas (did we actually say that?!) we thought it was time to issue our 12<sup>th</sup> update bulletin. We welcome your feedback and contributions, simply contact us on: [info@calachildcare.co.uk](mailto:info@calachildcare.co.uk) for the attention of KCS.

### Keeping Children Safe Reference Group

The Keeping Children Safe Reference Group whose members represent a variety of third sector organisations involved with children, young people and families in Highland met with education colleagues from Highland Council on 24<sup>th</sup> August and agreed an action plan to help build on existing communication and partnership working to help keep children safe.

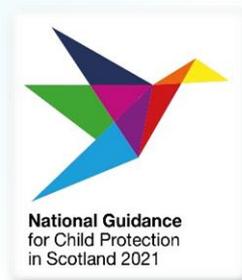


Speaking of learning – a huge thank you to the **811** people in **Highland** who are helping to keep children safe by taking time to access Child Protection related training between June and September.

### Launch of the updated 'National Child Protection Guidance, Scotland'

Following actions from consultation on the draft, this comprehensive guidance published on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, is designed to be used regularly as a reference tool to help protect and safeguard children and young people in Scotland. Set out in 4 helpful sections - we plan to provide a feature focus on extracts from key sections in coming KCS bulletins.

In light of the new guidance, the HCPC in partnership with CALA are in the process of developing a new, comprehensive e-module '**Understanding Child Protection**', linked directly to the guidance. The new module will replace the current '**Introduction to Child Protection**' module as level one child protection training for all those working/volunteering with and for children and families in any capacity in Highland. We anticipate the module to be launched in November – look out for our promotion on social media!



### Child Protection Guidance & Tool Kit for Community Groups and Third Sector Organisations in Highland including Safeguarding

A reminder that it's good practice for all Community Groups to have a nominated Child Protection Lead who is selected by the Group and vetted appropriately. Volunteers should always know who their nominated child protection lead is and how to contact them.

Groups should have a Child Protection Policy in place which is proportionate and appropriate. Where groups receive funding or use premises from High Life Highland and/or Highland Council or plan to host a public event, this is mandatory.

[CLICK HERE](#) for further information and sample policy.

## Staying safe online

Children in your life beginning to think about their list for Santa already? Let's help 'Santa' be well informed on any digital items on those 'wish lists' by accessing the range of internet safety information and resources on the highland schools hub digital information and safety web pages including 60 second video updates and online safety guides for parents on Netflix and Disney+ [Highland Digital School Hub - Online Safety \(google.com\)](#)



The NSPCC have a really useful Christmas section to help you be aware and keep your family safe whilst using internet connected devices. Examples of these include: toys with voice or image recognition, such as Hello Barbie™ and Furby Connect, robots, drones and other mechanical toys, controlled via an app, such as Dash and Dot.

Click on the links below for further information:  
[Internet connected devices | NSPCC](#)

Check out the useful range of support and resources to use with children from aged 4 upwards here:

[Thinkuknow - home](#)

## Care Inspectorate – 'SIMOA'



The Care Inspectorate have launched a campaign and resources for those working in Early Learning and Childcare. Published on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 they introduced 'SIMOA' (Safe, Inspect, Monitor, Observe, Act) the elephant to all ELC settings to support practitioners to be alert to how and why children could leave a childcare setting without a responsible adult. The poster and art work can be used to support discussions with children and families to help them to be aware of how to be safe and secure in a setting. With new children attending ELC and new staff teams forming it's a good time to be reminded of the importance of being vigilant at all times and the need for strong/effective teamwork to help raise awareness and act responsibly to safeguard, protect and support children's wellbeing. [Click here to access the resources.](#)

**Safe** - Be alert to all potential risks in your setting.

**Inspect** - Look around and inspect the environment to make sure a child can't leave an area without staff or their parent/carer.

**Monitor** - Regularly check that all children are accounted for particularly when they are outside, on outings or using transport.

**Observe** - Observe children and think about their feelings and emotional security – use these observations to support children to feel loved and secure.

**Act** - Assess and take action to keep children safe.

If you would like to share this message with staff and parents in your setting you can download the Care Inspectorates posters and graphics from [The Hub](#)

The Care Inspectorate have also issued a reminder that All SERVICES should notify them of any incidents, so that they can engage with services to reduce and prevent occurrences of children being in unsafe situations and share the learning and keep children safe.



For those of you working with our youngest children, consulting them in meaningful ways can be challenging! Whatever your role in the lives of very young children, our newest tool kit '**Consulting with Our Youngest Children**' will provide ways to help you listen to children and develop their ability to share their thoughts, ideas and opinions and concerns.

[Click here to access the toolkit](#)

We'd love to hear your feedback on the toolkit. Please contact us on [info@calachildcare.co.uk](mailto:info@calachildcare.co.uk)

Our featured KCS third sector member organizations

## Thriving Families – improving the lives of families in the highlands



“ Our goal is to become the ‘go to’ charity known for improving the lives of families living in the Highlands; by giving you confidence, empowering you to know your rights, know what questions to ask and have your voices heard. ”

Thriving Families, a charity supported by Highland Council, provide an independent information, advice and support service for families with children (up to age 25) with additional support needs, and the professionals working with them. Previously known as CHIP+ their website offers a range of helpful information, contacts and resources from family packs to a variety of podcasts Click on the links below to find out more:

[Podcasts](#) | [Resources](#) | [Thriving Families](#)

## Safe, Strong and Free – reducing vulnerabilities for young children

Safe Strong and Free (SSF) – a highland charity supported by Highland council is a Primary Abuse Prevention Programme which aims to reduce the vulnerability of young children to abuse and assault in Highland.

[Check out their new website](#) for information on the range of interactive workshops and support materials offered to children in early learning and childcare and primary school settings to help teach children strategies to use to help them stay safe if they encounter bullying, an approach from a stranger or an unwanted/inappropriate approach from an adult they know.



### Highland Child Protection Committee

[www.hcpc.scot](http://www.hcpc.scot) has lots of information, links and resources for children and families, professionals and wider community.

If you are worried that a child or young person may be at risk of harm please visit the Help and Advice page for contact numbers.

Out with normal office hours you can contact **Emergency Out of Hours Service** on 08457 697284 or the Police on 101.



### MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

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# 5 Key Questions

If you work with or for children and families, should you have a concern about a child and are seeking further advice or will refer to Social Work, it's really useful to remember these 5 key questions to ensure you have the right information.

- What is getting in the way of this child's well-being?
- Do I have all the information I need to help this child?
- What can I do now to help this child?
- What can my agency do to help this child?
- What additional help, if any, may be needed from other agencies?