

[COVID-19 – General](#)[Child Protection](#)[Early Learning and  
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Care](#)**COVID-19 - General**[Global study on impact of lockdown measures on children's play](#)

A global study of the impact of COVID-related measures on the play and mobility of children has been published by the International Play Association. Highlighted by Play Scotland, the study is designed to provide baseline information, to make international comparisons, and to gather emerging good practice on how these measures, and their adverse impact on children's health and wellbeing, can be mitigated.

[Weekly COVID report from Public Health Scotland](#)

Public Health Scotland has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. As of Sunday 23 August, there had been 19,877 confirmed cases, which equates to 363.8 confirmed cases per 100,000 population. 5,970 hospital admissions and 535 admissions to intensive care have been recorded.

[Increased capacity for testing](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed plans to establish 11 walk-through testing centres in Scotland. The clinically-approved and risk-assessed model means people can access COVID-19 testing in semi-permanent centres, both indoor and outdoor, just days after a site has been agreed. People will be able to book appointments through NHS Inform. The first site will be based in St Andrews and will be up and running before winter.



### [Community in Action project to look at lessons learned](#)

The ALLIANCE has outlined plans to look at the learning from [case studies](#) it has published on third sector responses to COVID-19. The Community in Action initiative will look at actions taken during the crisis, organisations' vision for the future and the challenges that will be faced in realising these visions.

### **Child Protection**

#### [Bill introducing contact centre regulation passed by MSPs](#)

A Bill that will introduce regulation of contact centres, among a range of measures, has been passed by MSPs. The [Children \(Scotland\) Bill](#) includes a range of provisions aimed at encouraging the views of younger children and protecting vulnerable witnesses in court cases about children, as well as introducing the regulation of contact centres. Amendments agreed at Stage 3 ensure that solicitors can only make referrals to regulated contact centres and that contact centres fulfil Equality Act duties to make reasonable adjustments to enable disabled access

#### [Guidance for reopening of child contact centres](#)

Guidance to help child contact centres safely reopen their premises and resume face-to-face services has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance is not an instruction to any centre to reopen and provides key principles for consideration rather than a checklist approach.

#### [Call for evidence on proposed child abuse redress legislation](#)

A parliamentary committee has launched a call for evidence on proposed legislation to introduce a system of financial payments to survivors of historical child abuse in care in Scotland. Introduced on 13 August 2020, the [Redress for Survivors \(Historical Child Abuse in Care\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) sets up a new independent public body, Redress Scotland, to make decisions about payments. The scheme replaces an interim scheme called the advance payment scheme, while the Bill allows organisations involved with residential care of children in the past to pay financial contributions to the scheme. In return, survivors who accept a redress payment will have to agree not to take legal action against these organisations or the Scottish Government. The closing date for responses is 2 October.

#### [Charity publishes annual child protection report, with a focus on adolescents](#)

The NSPCC has published its annual How safe are our children? report. The report compiles and analyses child protection data from across the UK, and this year focuses on abuse perpetrated against adolescents. The report this year also includes an overview of emerging data on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the safety of children and young people in the UK. The report found that rates of police recorded physical, sexual and online abuse offences against, rates of those in



care, and rates of those subject to child protection measures, are all higher for adolescents than younger children.

## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### Updated reopening guidance for ELC services

Updated guidance on reopening early learning and childcare (ELC) services has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance places previous guidance published in June and is designed to support a safe reopening of settings, and ongoing delivery of ELC, during phase 3 of the Scottish Government's Route Map and in line with the Strategic Framework for reopening schools and ELC provision. As well as guidance for [ELC providers](#), bespoke guidance is available for [fully outdoor services](#), [school aged childcare](#) and [childminding services](#).

### [Scottish Government writes to childcare providers on access to testing](#)

Nursery staff can now be tested for COVID-19 on demand if they are concerned they have been at risk from infection, even if they show no symptoms, the Scottish Government has confirmed. A note to providers addresses the circumstances where testing is essential as well as situations where staff who are concerned that they may have been exposed to COVID -19 may consider accessing testing. At the present time access to this testing route is not available for childminders.

### [Findings from Phase 2 of ELC expansion study published](#)

A report outlining findings from the second phase of the Scottish Study of Early Learning and Childcare has been published by the Scottish Government. Carried out by the Scottish Centre for Social Research, the study sets out the findings from surveys and observations (conducted by Care Inspectorate staff) from a sample of four and five year olds as they leave ELC to begin Primary 1. The results from Phase 2 will act as a baseline for assessing the impact of expanded ELC provision on children at the end of their pre-school year through comparison with data collected in later phases of the evaluation. It is acknowledged in the report that timescales for the expansion have now changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### [Activity packs aimed at building life skills in 3 to 5s](#)

A series of activity packs aimed at building a range of life skills such as kindness, creativity and resilience has been launched by Barnardo's. The Super Seekers packs are designed to help children aged three to five years old develop life skills through fun and imaginative play. Children become Super Seekers by defeating Baron von Bore-them, earning badges and certificates as they go.

### [Invest in workforce to improve life chances of most disadvantaged, Sutton Trust says](#)

Urgent action is needed to improve the training, pay and conditions of the UK early years workforce to support all children's learning and development, according to the Sutton Trust. A report by the Trust and the Centre for Research in Early Childhood



has highlighted the importance of access to high-quality early years teaching and in relation to children's language, physical, social and emotional development. This is particularly crucial for disadvantaged children, according to the report, which calls for a significant shift in investment in early years staff.

#### [Risk of outbreaks was 'very low' in educational settings when reopened, PHE study suggests \(England\)](#)

The risk of COVID-19 outbreaks among educational and early years settings during the summer 'mini-term' was "very low", according to a study by Public Health England. The authors detected 67 individual cases and 30 outbreaks among students and staff after educational settings reopened in June 2020 until they closed for the summer holidays in mid-July. The study suggests that outbreaks were more likely to involve staff members, "highlighting a need to improve education and infection control measures for this group".

### **Education**

#### [Updated face mask guidance for schools](#)

The Scottish Government has updated its guidance on preparations for the new school term to include the use of face coverings in schools and on school transport. Face coverings will be recommended for use by pupils and adults in secondary school communal areas and by children aged five and over on school transport.

### **Justice**

#### [CYCJ to be known as the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice](#)

From August 2020, the CYCJ will be known as the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (remaining CYCJ for short). CYCJ has been known as the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice since 2013 but has chosen a new title to better reflect the Centre's ethos and focus on children and young people's lives and experiences.

#### [CYCJ responds to consultation on sentencing guidelines](#)

The CYCJ has published its response to the Scottish Sentencing Council's consultation on guidelines for sentencing young people. The CYCJ welcomes recognition that the brain is still developing until mid-late 20's and the clarity that a custodial sentence should only be imposed when no other sentence is appropriate. Among a range of suggestions, the CYCJ calls for further consideration of restorative justice and the impact of factors such as care experiences as part of the process.

### **Learning Disabilities**

#### [Study examines mortality rates of children and young people with learning disabilities](#)

A study into the mortality rates of children and young people with learning disabilities in Scotland has been published by the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory.



The study found that: death in childhood 12 times higher for people with learning disabilities; girls and young women with learning disabilities are at higher risk than males; adults with learning disabilities are twice as likely to die from preventable illness; common causes of death are from nervous diseases (33%), followed by congenital (22%) and metabolic conditions (8%) and respiratory diseases (8%).

## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

### [Who Cares? Scotland launches Advice and Support Line for care experienced](#)

A new Advice and Support Line for care experienced people of any age has been launched by Who Cares? Scotland. The Line, open 12 noon to 4pm from Monday to Friday, offers: advice and signposting; collaboration and link up with professionals and services as required; active, compassionate and non-judgemental listening.

### [CELCIS publishes Scottish-focused analysis of kinship care survey](#)

An analysis of a comprehensive survey of kinship carers in Scotland has been launched by the Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS). The report provides a Scottish analysis of a UK-wide survey undertaken by the Family Rights Group (FRG) to help develop an in-depth understanding of the current experiences of kinship carers and the children they are raising.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Peter Macleod and Kevin Mitchell give evidence to Parliament](#)

The Care Inspectorate's Chief Executive Peter Macleod and Executive Director of Scrutiny and Assurance, Kevin Mitchell, gave evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee as part of pre-budget scrutiny for 2021-22. Questions on the Care Inspectorate's statutory role, both in general terms and during COVID, were raised and Peter Macleod acknowledged the tragedy of the outbreak in Scotland and particularly its impact on the care sector. He said this must remain a focal point for the Care Inspectorate and would drive the organisation forward, actively learning lessons from the crisis. A range of topics were raised in questioning, including:

- the process involving clinical judgement and assessment by Health and Social Care Partnerships before patients were discharged to care homes
- the self-evaluation process, including questions on how families were involved, and how services received feedback
- improving the health and social care landscape and the sustainability of the sector
- our role in joint inspections and expertise within the organisation to provide advice on business related matter
- the respective roles of improvement and enforcement, and our involvement in both setting and moderating standards.



In relation to COVID-19, our response was set out in answers to the Committee's questions including how we changed contact levels and scrutiny models, the implementation of Red, Amber, Green notifications, and use of virtual technology to ensure we could continue examination of care settings.

#### [SSSC publishes annual workforce data report](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council has published its latest annual workforce data report. The 2019 report shows that there are 206,400 people in the workforce, a rise of 0.8% since 2018 and approximately 7.8% of all Scottish employment, or one in 13 jobs. The increase has been driven mainly by increases to the day care of children sub-sector and with public provision. The three largest sub-sectors are housing support/care at home, care homes for adults and day care of children; together these account for almost 78% of the workforce. The median age of the workforce is highest in the public sector (47) and lowest in the private sector (41). Early years workers in the private sector have the lowest median age (28). The percentage of men working in the sector is 15%, although it is around double or greater that proportion in criminal justice and residential children's services.

#### [Jeane Freeman to stand down as MSP](#)

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has announced she will not seek re-election to Holyrood in 2021, the BBC reports. Ms Freeman has served as an MSP since 2016, representing Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley. In that time, she has held the post of Social Security Minister and is currently the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.

#### [Accounts Commission tells Moray Council it must urgently improve services](#)

Moray Council must urgently improve its services, according to a Best Value report published by the Accounts Commission. The report notes a significant decline in services since a previous report in 2015, particularly in education, and calls for "decisive leadership" to make the required changes.

#### [Teenage pregnancies at lowest level since 1994, according to new statistics](#)

Teenage pregnancies in Scotland are at the lowest level since 1994, according to the latest statistics published by the Scottish Government. In 2018, there were 29.6 teenage pregnancies per 1,000 women, down from 30.2 in 2017 and 54.7 in 1994. The gap in teenage pregnancy rates between the most and least deprived areas has also reduced, with the rate for those living in the most deprived areas decreasing from 87.4 per 1,000 women in 2009 to 56.8 in 2018, and the rate for those in the least deprived areas dropping from 21.9 to 12.2 respectively.

#### [Latest homelessness figures published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the annual update on homelessness statistics, covering 2019/20. There were





- 36,855 applications for homelessness assistance during the period; an increase of 84 on the previous year
- 31,333 households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness; an increase of 1,097 (4%)
- 11,665 households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2020, an increase of 676 (6%), including 7,280 children, an increase of 485 (7%)
- 500 breaches of the unsuitable accommodation order, compared to 645 in 2018/19 - 375 of these were in Edinburgh.

### **Disclaimer**

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning children and young people.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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