



[COVID-19 - General](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Disability](#)

[Early Learning and  
Childcare](#)

[Looked After and  
Accommodated Children](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Play](#)

[Other Health and Social  
Care](#)

## COVID-19 – General

### [Restrictions introduced across West of Scotland](#)

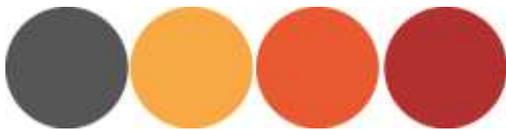
Additional restrictions have been announced for Glasgow, East Renfrewshire and West Dunbartonshire for an initial two-week period following an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. The Scottish Government has stipulated that indoor gatherings should not take place in these areas and only essential indoor visits to hospitals and care homes are to take place. Extended households and people providing care may continue to meet indoors with enhanced hygiene measures. Schools and nurseries will remain open.

### [Clarity over non-COVID ailments in school pupils](#)

Education Secretary John Swinney has requested that Directors of Education and Head Teachers share more information on coronavirus to parents and carers after concerns were raised about children with non-COVID ailments. National Clinical Director Jason Leitch has [written to parents](#) about when children need to be tested for COVID-19.

### [Upset stomach should be added to COVID symptoms in children, researchers say](#)

Gastrointestinal issues such as diarrhoea and vomiting should be included among the symptoms included for COVID-19 testing among children, according to a study by Queen's University Belfast. The study is assessing the number of children who have had COVID-19, the



symptomatology of infection and if those children have antibodies that may be able to fight off infection. Half of the children who had their antibodies measured in the study reported no symptoms, while gastrointestinal symptoms were more common than cough or changes in the children's sense of smell or taste, leading the study to suggest "that we may want to consider refining the testing criteria for children".

## **Child Protection**

### [Joint inspection report on services for children and young people in Midlothian](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published the findings of a joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection in Midlothian. The report was prepared in partnership with Education Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and HMICS, setting out strengths and priority areas for improvement.

### [Revised children's social work statistics for Scotland for 2018 to 2019](#)

The Scottish Government has published revised children's social work statistics for 2018-19. As of 31 July 2019, 16,310 children in Scotland were looked after or were on the child protection register, while 84 young people were in secure care.

## **Disability**

### [New benefit to help with heating costs](#)

The Scottish Parliament has approved plans to introduce a new Child Winter Heating Assistance, the first disability benefit to be introduced using the Scottish Government's new social security powers. Families with children in receipt of the highest rate care of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Child will receive an extra £200 to help with their heating costs.

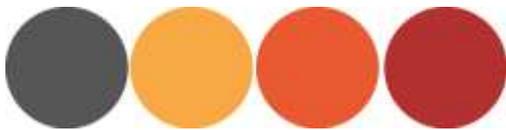
## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### [Latest ELC COVID-19 Update published](#)

The Scottish Government has published its latest COVID-19 update for the early learning and childcare (ELC) sector. The update provides information on a range of developments, including updates on easing of lockdown, COVID symptoms, testing, and the Transitional Support Fund for childcare providers.

### [Applications open for childcare Transitional Support Fund](#)

Applications are now open for funding to help childcare providers meet the extra costs of complying with public health guidance in the context of the pandemic. The Transitional Support Fund is designed to help pay for things like increased cleaning, new or additional equipment, better outdoor spaces or adaptations. Grants will be available to all private and voluntary or not-for-profit registered day care of children providers, not just those delivering funded early learning and childcare.



### [SOSCN publishes results of workforce and recruitment/retention surveys](#)

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) has published the results of its annual workforce survey, as well as its first recruitment and retention survey. Both surveys were carried out towards the end of 2019 and provide an insight into some of the issues the sector is facing in relation to the workforce and recruitment.

### [SCMA highlights Steps to Re-Opening guidance](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has highlighted its Steps to Re-Opening guidance to support childminders in re-opening and risk assessment. The guidance focuses on three steps: Familiarise yourself with the latest childminding guidance; Undertake a COVID-19 Risk Assessment; Notify the Care Inspectorate.

### **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

#### [CELCIS briefing on importance of understanding data](#)

A briefing on the importance of understanding data has been published by the Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS). The briefing discusses "how headline statistics can be stark and emotive tools in illustrating the experiences faced by children, young people and adults with care experience and proposes that this makes understanding the context of statistics important to ensure that they are fully understood and used in an ethical and responsible way".

#### [Latest education outcomes for looked after children published](#)

The Scottish Government has published education outcome statistics for looked after children for 2018-19. During the year, 81% of looked after school leavers were in a positive destination three months after leaving school. The figure for all school leavers was 95%. However, nine months after leaving school, only 71% of looked after leavers were in a positive destination, compared to 93% of leavers overall.

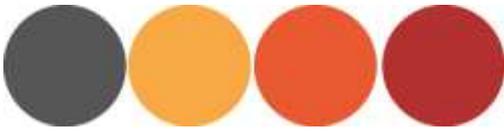
#### [Foster carers win appeal granting employment rights](#)

Foster carers from Glasgow have won an appeal granting them a number of employment rights, the BBC reports. Jimmy and Christine Johnstone claimed to have suffered an unlawful loss of income after not having a child placed with them, having been foster carers for six years. They argued that they should be treated like direct employees of Glasgow City Council with security over their income. Reacting, Glasgow City Council said the ruling only applied to a specialist form of foster care.

### **Mental Health**

#### [Interim report from Independent Forensic Mental Health Review](#)

An interim report setting out evidence gathered by the Independent Forensic Mental Health Review has been published. The report sets out issues raised by respondents



under two themes: capacity and variation across the system. The report includes reference to a lack of access to general or forensic mental health services for children and young people in conflict with the law, and the unmet needs of young people in secure care.

#### [Mental Welfare Commission publishes report on eating disorder care and support](#)

A new report looking at care, treatment and support for people with an eating disorder has been published by the Mental Welfare Commission. The report includes a mapping exercise showing significant variation in the organisation of services across the country. Key findings include inequalities of service across the country, a often a lack of support or delays in accessing services (particularly in the community), and concerns about the focus on BMI as a criteria for referral.

#### [Perinatal mental health funding announced](#)

A number of organisations providing counselling and peer and parental support have been awarded Scottish Government funding to help with the delivery of perinatal and infant mental health services. The Perinatal and Infant Mental Health fund will provide annual funding of up to £1 million to help third sector organisations including CrossReach, Action for Children and Maternal Mental Health Scotland.

#### [Charity publishes annual report on UK childhood wellbeing](#)

The Children's Society has published its latest annual Good Childhood Report. The charity reports on the wellbeing of children in the UK, seeking to understand the experiences of children who have low well-being and what enhances and hinders children's happiness. Key findings include that there has been a continued decrease in average happiness with life among 10-15 year olds in the UK; 15-year olds in the UK are among the saddest and least satisfied with their lives in Europe; and the COVID-19 pandemic has affected children's happiness due to lack of choice in life.

#### [Latest quarterly CAMHS waiting time figures published](#)

Quarterly waiting times for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have been published by Public Health Scotland. For the quarter ending 30 June, 3,561 children and young people started treatment, a 13.6% decrease from the previous quarter. There was also a decrease in the number of children and young people seen within 18 weeks (59.3%).

#### [Pass the Parcel campaign launched by charity](#)

People are being encouraged to 'Pass the Parcel' as part of a campaign launched by mental health charity See Me. The campaign urges people to send a parcel to someone they care about, or someone they think might be struggling, to show them that it is good to talk about mental health and not something that people should feel ashamed or embarrassed to speak about.



## Play

### [Guidance for safe running of indoor organised activities for children](#)

Guidance for the safe running of indoor organised activities for children and young people has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance is for unregulated activities and services provided indoors for children and young people, including babies and toddlers, that are voluntary, third sector, parent or peer led, or unregulated providers delivering a service or activity directly to children under 18.

### [Analysis on impact of play curtailment due to COVID-19](#)

An analysis and update on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children via curtailment of play has been published by the UK Children's Play Policy Forum. The Forum, of which Play Scotland is a member, makes a number of conclusions and raises concern at the risks to children from outdoor play deprivation.

### [Outdoor play service to support families](#)

A new outdoor learning service has been launched by Barnardo's in partnership with the Field Studies Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project offers children and families the chance to take part in outdoor play and "develop stronger connections with nature and local heritage sites including parks, gardens, urban green spaces, forests, woodlands, rivers/waterways, seas and beaches".

## Other Health and Social Care

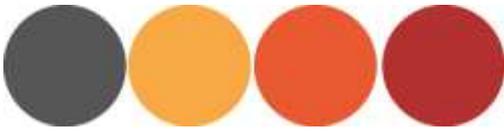
### [Scottish Government publishes Programme for Scotland 2020 - 2021](#)

The Scottish Government has published its Programme for Scotland, setting out its plans for the coming parliamentary year. The Scottish Government plans to:

- incorporate the UNCRC into Scots law by the end of this parliament
- deliver increased early learning and childcare and, by the end of 2020, set a new target date for the expansion of ELC to 1,140 hours for all three and four year olds, and vulnerable two year olds, across all local authorities
- develop and deliver a framework for school age childcare
- continue to support and facilitate the restructuring of the care system, in line with the Independent Care Review
- consult on and publish revised national child protection guidance and develop a new approach to reviewing significant protection cases by April 2021.

### [Bill to incorporate UNCRC into Scots law introduced to Parliament](#)

A Bill to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into law in Scotland has been introduced to Parliament by the Scottish Government. The Bill specifies that:



- public authorities must not act in a way that's incompatible with UNCRC requirements
- courts will have powers to decide if legislation is compatible with UNCRC requirements
- the Scottish Government can change laws to make sure they are compatible with UNCRC requirements
- the Children and Young People's Commissioner in Scotland would have power to take legal action if children's rights under the UNCRC are breached
- the Scottish Government must publish a Children's Rights Scheme to show how they are meeting UNCRC requirements, explain their future plans for children's rights and review how the Scheme is working every year
- listed authorities in the Bill, including the Care Inspectorate, must report every three years on what they have done to meet UNCRC requirements.

### **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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