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COVID-19 – General

[Stricter measures to decrease spread of COVID-19](#)

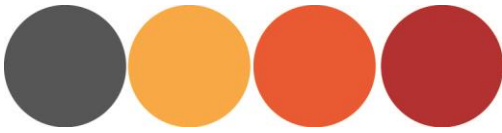
The First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has given a statement to the Scottish Parliament on further measures to decrease the spread and bring COVID-19 back under control. These stricter measures include working from home if able to do so, a ban on visiting other household with exceptions only for those living alone or alone with children, couples in non-cohabiting relationships, and for informal childcare. There is also a 10pm curfew for hospitality settings in line with the UK Government's announcement.

[Alert level moves up, and new restrictions](#)

The Joint Biosecurity Centre has recommended that the COVID-19 alert level should move from level 3 (COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation) to level 4 (COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation, transmission is high or rising exponentially). The Prime Minister also made a statement [setting out new restrictions](#) such as home working for those can, a curfew of 10pm for hospitality settings such as pubs, and required face coverings for retail staff, taxis and hospitality settings.

[Delivering care at home and housing support](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a report on how care at home and housing support services have adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic in Scotland. The report notes the commitment from care at home and housing support staff who, despite the fears about their own health, worked hard and worked flexibly to ensure there was capacity to meet people's needs and keep people safe.



COVID-19 - General

[Progress and learning from first phase of pandemic](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health & Social Care has published a report setting out the progress and learning from the first phase of the pandemic in informing advice and recommendations to government and social care. The report also sets out the action that will need be taken to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the sector, both for those who rely on care and support, and the social care workforce.

Child Protection

[Ten years of the Scottish Guardianship Service](#)

Aberlour Children's Charity is highlighting stories from ten years of the Scottish Guardianship Service, run by Aberlour in partnership with the Scottish Refugee Council. A short animation illustrates some of the struggles faced by asylum-seeking and trafficked children and young people, and how the Scottish Guardianship Service supports them through all the unknowns.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Call for further financial support for childminders](#)

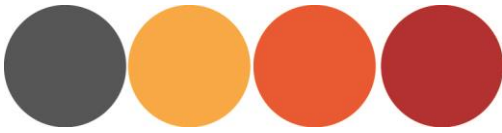
Almost half of all professional childminding businesses in Scotland are reportedly on the edge of financial viability and require further financial support from Scottish Government, the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) is warning. The SCMA has published an overview of a survey to childminders which reportedly shows that 46% of childminding businesses which responded, do not believe they will still be financially viable in six months' time without financial support or an increase in business.

[Workforce survey](#)

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) and Education Policy Institute (EPI) have published the results of their workforce survey of early years settings in England, Scotland and Wales. The survey reportedly shows that 71% of early years staff have been furloughed between March and August, and 18% of early years staff are due to remain on furlough between August and October.

[Campaign to support outdoor education sector](#)

Children 1st is highlighting a campaign to support the outdoor education sector in Scotland, following reports that the sector will not receive Government funding to assist it through the pandemic. As well as encouraging families to join the campaign, Children 1st have written directly to Deputy First Minister John Swinney to warn that "leaving the sector to collapse would be a devastating blow for children and young people's mental health" and asking him to urgently review his decision.



Education

[Attendance in education and early years \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's Department for Education has published a summary of attendance in education settings since Monday 23 March and early years settings since Thursday 16 April 2020. The statistics show that an estimated 619,000 children attended early years settings on 17 September, which represents approximately 47% of children who usually attend childcare in term time.

Human Rights

[Blogs answering questions on incorporation of children's rights](#)

Together Scotland has gathered a series of blogs from academics, practitioners and children's organisations to answer questions related to incorporation and the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill. Questions addressed include: Does incorporation matter? What will incorporation mean for children and young people? What will incorporation do for youth workers?

Justice

[Youth justice practice guidance](#)

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) has published updated youth justice guidance for practitioners and managers who work with children and young people who offend or who are at risk of offending. It is also useful for academics, educators and anyone else with an interest in youth and criminal justice.

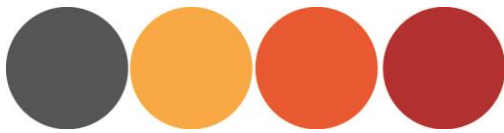
[Updated fact sheets on the Children's Hearings System](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has updated their fact sheets on the Children's Hearings System on a range of subjects such as the Role of the Reporter, Child Protection, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, High Risk Young Offenders, Deprivation and very young children referred.

Other Health and Social Care

[Overview of joint inspections of services for children and young people](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published 'Joint inspections of services for children and young people in need of care and protection: Review of findings from the inspection programme 2018-2020', an overview report of their joint inspections of services for children and young people in need of care and protection in community planning partnerships across eight areas in Scotland – in partnership with Education Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland.



[CCPS Annual Review](#)

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) has published its Annual Review. Setting out its aims, objectives, memberships, key achievements and future plans.

Respite and Short Breaks

[Update on guidance to support remobilisation](#)

The Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and the Minister for Children and Young People have issued a letter providing an update on guidance to support the remobilisation of stand-alone residential respite/short break facilities for both children and adults. Services providing stand-alone residential respite for children should follow Health Protection Scotland guidance [COVID-19: Information and Guidance for Social, Community and Residential Care Settings](#).

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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