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COVID-19 – General

[Care Inspectorate provides additional information to Committee](#)

Additional information has been sent to the Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee by the Care Inspectorate following an evidence session in August. The Committee had contacted the organisation seeking further detail in a number of areas including the body's legislative requirements and powers, fees and funding, intelligence-led scrutiny, improvement activity and the impact of the pandemic.

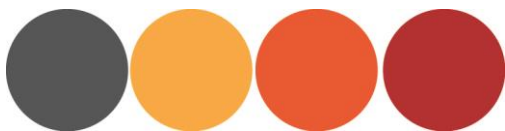
[New COVID-19 notifications process](#)

The Care Inspectorate has changed some of its COVID-19 notifications to make them easier to use. Four specific notifications have been created so services can inform the Care Inspectorate when there are suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 and when these end. The four new notifications are specifically:

- 1) Suspected cases of COVID-19
- 2) End of suspected outbreak of COVID-19
- 3) Confirmed cases of COVID-19 notification
- 4) End of confirmed COVID-19 outbreak notification

[Weekly COVID-19 statistics](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. There had been 27,798 confirmed cases while 735,937 people had tested negative. In the week ending 27 September, there were 94 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and 11 patients were treated in intensive care. 989 people aged 2-17 tested positive.



Disabilities

[Disabled Children and Young People \(Transitions to Adulthood\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

A Member's Bill introduced by Johann Lamont (Labour) to improve opportunities for disabled children and young people by providing more support to help them transition to adulthood.

The Bill would require:

- the Scottish Government to have a strategy explaining how they are going to improve opportunities for disabled children and young people
- a Scottish Government minister to be in charge of improving opportunities for disabled children and young people moving into adulthood
- local authorities to have plans for each disabled child and young person as they move into adulthood

Early Learning and Childcare

[Advice on Recognition of Prior Learning for working in ELC](#)

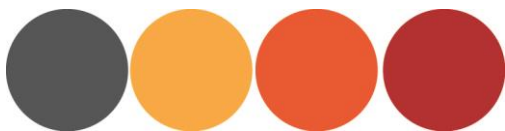
The Scottish Government has published information on the Recognition of Prior Learning tool, which allows people who want to join the Early Learning and Childcare sector to make the best of experience and training even if they have no formal qualifications or work experience in the field. Hosted by the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, the tool can be used for guidance and signposting on learning options. The Scottish Government has shared details on the RPL process, from contacting a local training provider to the final assessment.

[Analysis on reopening of childcare](#)

The Scottish Government has published an assessment of the reopening of childcare as part of the recovery process from COVID-19. The document covers: the provision of critical childcare and the re-opening of registered childcare (ELC, school age childcare, childminders and fully outdoor settings). The assessment collates in one place the Government's understanding of the impact of the steps taken at a national level, and to inform any future decision making for similar events at a local or national level.

[Concerns over funded ELC in private settings in North Lanarkshire](#)

Nursery World reports on concerns from parents in North Lanarkshire about access to funded childcare places in private and voluntary nurseries. Parents and ELC providers have questioned the local authority's commitment to the Scottish Government's Funding Follows the Child policy after parents were unable to secure places in the non-council nurseries of their choice. North Lanarkshire Council has denied the allegations and said 86 per cent of applicants have been offered a place with their first choice provider this year.



[Concern over future of unregulated play and parent groups](#)

Early Years Scotland has raised concerns about updated guidance on organised activities for children, announced by the Scottish Government last week. EYS said the restrictions could pose a threat to the viability of many unregulated playgroups and parent & toddler groups. They have raised the concerns with Minister for Children and Young People and are currently in discussions to find suitable solutions to the problem.

[Latest survey on ELC providers and COVID-19](#)

Nursery World reports on the latest survey by the Early Years Alliance on the impact of the pandemic. The survey follows two previous surveys carried out by the Alliance during lockdown (in April and May) and looks at a range of issues, including how the pandemic has impacted occupancy levels and finances, challenges accessing Covid-19 tests for staff and children, variations in council approaches to autumn term funding, and provider forecasts for the months to come.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Statistics on looked after children](#)

Looked After Children trend data up to the reporting year 2018-19 at local authority level has been released by the Scottish Government. It provides a tool to compare and benchmark statistics across local authority areas and with national figures for a range of indicators.

[Care experienced young people at risk of digital isolation](#)

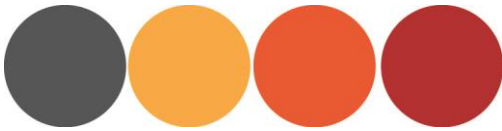
Children and Young People Now reports on concerns from charities and youth organisations, highlighting the barriers facing care leavers in England during COVID-19. In a letter, organisations including Catch22, National House Project, Barnardo's, The Children's Society, Family Rights Group, Children's Rights Alliance England, Esmée Fairbairn, Coram Voice, Care Leaver's Covenant as well apprenticeship provider WhiteHat have come together to call on the government to:

- Extend and improve uptake of the government scheme that provides digital devices and internet for all care leavers so that they are not left digitally isolated in the short term.
- Ensure every care leaver in England has a digital device and internet access for at least 12 months when they first live independently
- Recommend that all local offers for care leavers include the right to a digital device and internet access

Mental Health

[Campaign highlights impact of grief on generation of children](#)

Barnardo's has raised concerns about the impact of bereavement and loss on an entire generation of children following the pandemic. The charity has launched a new



TV advert for its Believe in Me campaign, highlighting the importance of support services for children and young people who have experienced bereavement, loss or grief. Before COVID-19, statistics showed 1 in 29 5-16 year olds had been bereaved of a parent or sibling. Although data is not yet available to show how much this number has increased due to the pandemic, as of 1 September, 41,504 people had died within 28 days of being tested positive for COVID-19, meaning many more children and young people will be experiencing bereavement.

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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