



## COVID-19 - General

### [Care Inspectorate report to the Scottish Parliament on inspections](#)

The Care Inspectorate has laid before the Scottish Parliament a report of inspections it has carried out in care services in the past two weeks. This report covers inspections we have completed since those detailed in our previous report to parliament on 30 September 2020.

### [Impact of restrictions on children's rights assessed](#)

A Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been carried out on the latest COVID-19 restrictions in Scotland. The Scottish Government said the Assessment sets out efforts to mitigate the wider harms of restrictions on children. The Assessment considered a number of children's rights including the right to play, right to social interaction and engagement with peers and rights to leisure and play and freedom of association.

### [Concern over poverty levels following latest COVID-19 restrictions](#)

A former homelessness advisor to the UK Government, Dame Louise Casey, has warned the UK could face "a period of destitution" with many families falling into poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dame Louise said the UK Government's expanded Job Support Scheme, which will support two thirds of wages for staff forced to stop working due to COVID-19 restrictions, did "not go far enough". She said a "cross-government, cross-society" response was needed.

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## **Child Protection**

### [New Scotland-wide research and recommendations on child trafficking published](#)

Scotland-wide research exploring the experiences of child trafficking in Scotland has been published by the Scottish Government. The study, carried out by the University of Stirling, aimed to provide an overview of how many children and young people had been identified as victims of human trafficking, to establish their geographic and demographic routes into Scotland and their experiences of professional responses. Among the recommendations in the report is a call for a single agency to be established to monitor child trafficking in Scotland.

### [First newsletter on new joint investigative interviewing project](#)

The first in a series of newsletters on the new approach to joint investigative interviewing of children in Scotland has been published by COSLA and Police Scotland. The Scottish Child Interview Model is being piloted in Lanarkshire and North Strathclyde.

## **Early Learning and Childcare**

### [Event to discuss race, racism and early years practice](#)

Early Years Scotland is holding a live online event to talk about early years practice in relation to race, racism and political correctness. Let's Talk About Race – a Critical Conversation will be presented by Khadija Mohammed of University of West of Scotland. She will present on the meaning and understanding of key terms and concepts, and their relevance for early years practice and educators. The event takes place on 27 October.

### [Findings from survey of childcare providers on impact of reopening guidance](#)

The Scottish Government has published a summary of findings from a survey on the potential impact of reopening early learning and childcare (ELC) services. Over 650 childcare providers responded to the survey. Responses from private and third sector day care of children providers suggest 78% of respondents are delivering funded ELC. Around 83% of respondents were running at over 70% occupancy levels (based on registered capacity). The responses from childminding settings indicated that 40% of childminders who responded to the survey were delivering funded ELC hours. Forty nine per cent of childminders responding to the survey expected no change, or an increase, in overall capacity.

## **Looked After and Accommodated Children**

### [LGBT Youth Scotland Care Commission concludes work](#)

CELCIS has highlighted a new awareness film by the LGBT Youth Scotland Care Commission. Commission member Charlie Mackenzie has written about his experiences on the group and what it has achieved since it was established in



autumn 2018. The Commission is a group of care experienced LGBT people aged 13-25, brought together to share their experiences of the Scottish care system. The group has gone on to deliver training to Young Inspection Volunteers at the Care Inspectorate, carried out a survey of other LGBT care experienced people and presented the findings of this research. The Commission has concluded its work.

### [Research overview on looked after young people and mental health](#)

Iriss has produced an overview of evidence relating to care experienced children and young people's mental health. A brief summary of how the COVID-19 pandemic and approaches to dealing with it have affected care experienced young people is also included.

## **Mental Health**

### [Self-harm key characteristic in detention of 16-17 year olds, according to MWC](#)

A report by the Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) has found self-harm was a key characteristic in the detention of young people aged 16 and 17 for mental health care and treatment in Scotland. The report analysed all detention forms for 16 and 17 year olds over a five year period from 2014-15 to 2018-19. This amounted to 608 detentions under the Mental Health Act, relating to 402 young people. Over the five-year period, 60% of detained patients displayed self-harming behaviours (suicidality or deliberate self-harm). This was higher in those detained on emergency detention certificates compared to short term detention certificates.

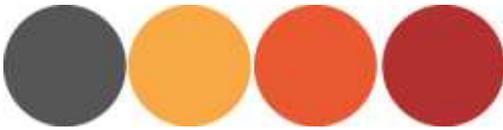
## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [COSLA signs up to outdoor play and learning commitment](#)

COSLA has signed Scotland's Outdoor Play and Learning Coalition Position Statement, Nursery World reports. The statement is a commitment to making play and learning outdoors an everyday activity for all children in Scotland. COSLA joins the Scottish Government, among a range of bodies, as signatories of the statement.

### [Charities highlight impact of austerity on support for vulnerable families](#)

A report on the impact of austerity on support for vulnerable children and families has been published by NSPCC Scotland and Barnardo's Scotland. Challenges from the Frontline – Revisited suggests that between 2013 and 2019, families have faced complex difficulties and greater needs amid a landscape of financial challenges for local authorities and public bodies. The research suggests family support services have been closing or offered on a far more limited basis than was the case in 2013.



## 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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