



[COVID-19 - General](#)

[Carers](#)

[Child Protection](#)

[Early Learning and
Childcare](#)

[Education](#)

[Human Rights](#)

[Looked After and
Accommodated Children](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health and Social
Care](#)

[Other](#)

COVID-19 - General

[Restrictions to be extended](#)

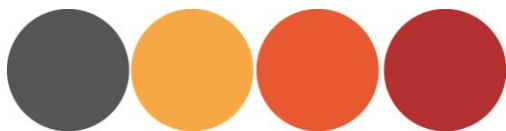
The Scottish Government has announced that short term COVID-19 restrictions due to last until 2 October will now be extended until Monday 2 November, when Scotland is due to move to a five-tier system of virus alert level.

[Infographics on children and young people](#)

The Scottish Government's COVID-19 Education Recovery Group has published infographics providing a weekly snapshot of current COVID-related data in relation to children and young people, and their associated workforce, such as the number of tests and positive cases reported, and the attendance and absence of both children and staff in childcare and school settings.

[Weekly COVID-19 statistics](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. By Sunday 18 October, 28,620 individuals have been recorded in the contact tracing software, leading to 88,327 unique contacts being traced. There have been 47,708 confirmed cases, with 6,324 in the latest week. In the week ending 18 October, there were 521 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and 46 patients were treated in intensive care. 417 people aged 2-17 have tested positive.



[New walk-through testing sites](#)

The UK Government has highlighted the opening of new walk-through testing sites in Dundee, and in [West Edinburgh](#). The Dundee site is the first self-cleaning facility in Scotland. This involves decontaminating each testing cubicle with dry mist between each use - helping to speed up the cleaning process and increase the testing capacity.

[Lockdown guidance for people with sensory loss](#)

The ALLIANCE has been working with the Scottish Government and partner organisations to produce guidance and information to support people living with sensory loss during COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The [guidance](#) outlines key advice on how necessary measures can be safely observed for people living with sensory loss, and how to support people to access vital services such as shopping, travel and medical appointments safely.

[Second report into Coronavirus and Scotland](#)

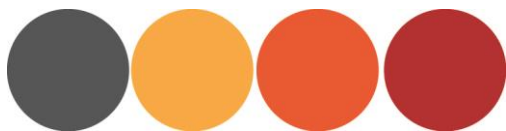
The UK Government's Scottish Affairs Committee has published its second report into Coronavirus and Scotland. The report forms part of the committee's ongoing inquiry into the challenges facing Scotland as a result of the pandemic and covers topics such as intergovernmental working; health; the economy; immigration; logistics; and exports across fishing, food and drink and oil and gas.

[CQC requests weekly testing for inspectors](#)

Carehome.co.uk reports on a statement by the Care Quality Commission which suggests the agency has been denied weekly COVID-19 tests for its inspectors. The statement said: "The Department of Health and Social Care has advised us that CQC inspectors do not meet the criteria for regular weekly asymptomatic testing, as inspectors are not required to undertake 'hands on' close personal contact with people." The CQC confirmed all staff engaging with inspection and registration visits must undertake risk assessment prior to the visit and use PPE, undergo training on its use, and complete infection prevention and control training.

[UK pandemic preparedness](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health & Social Care has published a policy paper on the UK's pandemic preparedness, particularly with regards to a potential influenza outbreak. It also covers how exercises carried out as part of its pandemic preparedness informed the UK's COVID-19 response.



Carers

[Young Carer Grant and eligibility](#)

The Scottish Government is encouraging young carers to check if they are eligibility for further awards under the Young Carer Grant. The Young Carer Grant is a £305.10 payment available on an annual basis for 16, 17 and 18 year olds who spend an average of 16 hours a week caring for someone who receives a disability benefit. Those who have already had a payment are able to apply again if a year has passed since they received their money.

Child Protection

[Consultation on revised national guidance for child protection](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on a revised version of the National Guidance for Child Protection to ensure it is consistent with the legislative and policy framework and current practice developments. The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland describes the responsibilities and expectations of everyone who works with children, young people and their families in Scotland. It sets out how agencies should work together with children, young people, parents, families and communities to protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The National Guidance should underpin local multi-agency child protection procedures, guidance and training. The consultation closes on 17 January 2021.

[Keeping children safe in community activities and other out-of-school settings \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's Department for Education has published information for providers, parents and carers on keeping children safe in community activities, after-school clubs, tuition, sports training and other out-of-school settings.

Early Learning and Childcare

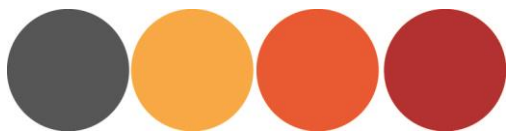
[Free e-learning places to be available again next year](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has announced that places for its members on the #ThinkSTEM: Exploring Maths and Numeracy through Science e-learning course free of charge, will be available again next year, as the limited number of funded spaces have all been allocated.

Education

[Additional support for learning action plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published an action plan setting out actions to address the findings of the independently chaired review of implementation of additional support for learning. Measures include directly involving children, young people and



their families in decisions around ASL, changing the way in which the achievements and successes of children and young people with additional support needs are recognised and enhanced support for teachers and school staff.

[Funding support for residential outdoor education centres](#)

The Scottish Government has announced funding of £2million for residential outdoor education centres to help mitigate financial challenges facing the sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Alongside the new fund, the Scottish Government will produce a package of communication and support materials to local authorities and schools in order to publicise the opportunities for outdoor learning experiences in their area.

Human Rights

[Children to give views on new legislation](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee will hear from children in virtual calls hosted by children's rights organisations, to discuss their opinions on the new legislations to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The comments will form part of the evidence to the committee in its scrutiny of the legislation. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill legally obliges public authorities – including Scottish Ministers – to respect children's rights, placing them under a duty not to act incompatibly with the UN Convention, while Ministers will also be required to make a Children's Rights Scheme to set out how they will comply with the duty.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

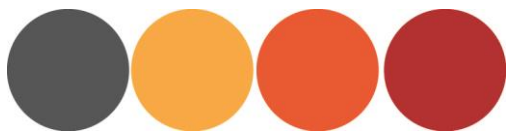
[Engagement for The Promise](#)

The Promise, the team established to further the work and findings of the Independent Care Review, has published an engagement document #KeepThePromise. This document aims to help partners and stakeholders consider how they can best support implementation of the Promise for Scotland's infants, children, young people and families. The document also looks at the priorities based on what the Care Review heard and how the team are taking forward the engagement period with organisations.

Mental Health

[Local action to improve mental health care for children and young people \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published an update work they carried out in 2018 looking at the quality of mental health services for children and young people, as well as the access to these services. This update sets out the findings of a 2019 independent follow-up self-assessment questionnaire, to find out the extent to which health and wellbeing board areas in England had progressed with implementing the local recommendations made in the 2018 report.



Other Health and Social Care

[National review of eating disorder services](#)

The Scottish Government has published the terms of reference for the national review of eating disorder services. The review aims to provide a full picture of the current system of support that is available for those with an eating disorder, and their families and carers. Initial findings will be presented to the government by early 2021, with a final version of the report due to be published before the Scottish Parliament elections in May.

[Committee report backs more funding for social care \(England\)](#)

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has published a report titled Social Care: Funding and Workforce following its inquiry into the sector in England. The report calls for immediate increased investment in social care to “resolve the crisis in funding, exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic”. The report also backs the introduction of a lifetime cap to protect against high care costs, as originally proposed by the Dilnot Commission, and endorses further consideration of free personal care.

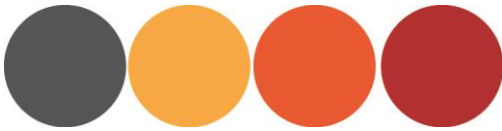
Other

[CYCJ Director announces resignation](#)

Claire Lightowler has announced she will step down as director of the Children & Young People’s Centre for Justice (CYCJ) in April 2021. CYCJ has recently announced a new name, a five year strategy and has a clear plan for how youth justice in Scotland can be improved in its ‘Rights Respecting? Scotland’s approach to children in conflict with the law’ report. Ms Lightowler has come to the conclusion that CYCJ is in a strong position, and now is an opportune and positive time to hand over leadership as the next phase of development as the Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice begins.

[Appointment of Chief Executive for NES](#)

Karen Reid has been appointed as the new chief executive for NHS Education for Scotland (NES), with effect from 1 February 2021. She is currently the chief executive of Perth & Kinross Council and the SOLACE portfolio holder for education, and is a former chief executive of the Care Inspectorate.

**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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.